MISSISSIPPI

Total Score: **3.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

<table>
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<th>Task Force?</th>
<th>Prevention Education?</th>
<th>Definition of Abuse?</th>
<th>Staff Training?</th>
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<td>.5 of 1.5 total points</td>
<td>2 of 4.5 total points</td>
<td>1 of 1 total points</td>
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**Why did my state receive this rating?** Mississippi has elements that are friendly to prevention but should take further action to make prevention education viably accessible to youth.

**Who does exploitation and trafficking impact?** Each year millions of children are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, affecting communities small and large. This happens all over the world, including in your own community.

**How does this happen?** Children are most often exploited by an acquaintance (significant other, friend, family member, etc.). They are targeted, groomed, tricked, and manipulated.

**MISSISSIPPI BY NUMBERS**

- 77 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 39 human trafficking cases reported.
- 14 cases concerned a minor.
- 37 cases involved females, 4 involved males.

**MISSISSIPPI LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

- **Mandated Task Force?**
  - Task Force on Human Trafficking

- **Terms included in Mississippi’s Definition of Abuse:**
  - Exploitation and Trafficking

- **Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels**
  - 2015 Mississippi Code Title 37 - EDUCATION Chapter 3 - STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION § 37-3-83
  - Topics: Sexual abuse (not including exploitation or trafficking)
  - Mandated for K-12

- **Staff Training Requirements**
  - Neither mandated nor recommended
EXPLOITATION BY NUMBERS

- Approximately 1.6 million children run away every year in the United States.\(^2\)
- Of the nearly 27,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.\(^3\)
- There were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported in the United States in 2017 and 32% of those cases involved a minor.\(^4\)
- In 2017, 88% of trafficked children were in the care of social services at the time the exploitation began.\(^5\)

WHAT CAN I DO?

Contact your child’s school administrator about adding prevention education at your child’s school.

Contact your local representative to ask them to get involved in prevention education legislation.

Be a mentor to youth in your community.

Sponsor prevention education for schools and other youth-serving organizations. Visit donate.iempathize.org.

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\(^1\) Polaris Project, Human Trafficking Hotline, 2017 State Statistics: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states. Note that not all demographics are captured by every report to the hotline.


\(^3\) National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/cstt

\(^4\) National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states

\(^5\) National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/cstt