MISSOURI

Total Score: **2.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK FORCE:</th>
<th>.5 of 1.5 total points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREVENTION EDUCATION:</td>
<td>1.5 of 4.5 total points</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFINITION OF ABUSE:</td>
<td>0 of 1 total points</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAFF TRAINING:</td>
<td>.5 of 1 total points</td>
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**Why did my state receive this rating?** Missouri is in the bottom tier and should actively work to improve statutes to make prevention education viable and accessible for 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.

**MISSOURI BY NUMBERS**

- 420 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 140 human trafficking cases reported.
- 41 cases concerned a minor.
- 114 cases involved females, 23 involved males, <3 involved gender minorities.

**MISSOURI LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

- Terms included in Missouri’s Definition of Abuse: Neither Exploitation nor Trafficking are included
- Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels:
  - Topics: child abuse, child sexual abuse awareness and prevention (not including exploitation or trafficking)
  - Mandated for PK-5th
- Staff Training Requirements: 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.

\(^1\) 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

MISSION: We equip adults to empower youth to eradicate exploitation. For more info visit: http://iempathize.org/educators/the-prevention-priority/