RHODE ISLAND

**Total Score: 4.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

| TASK FORCE: | .5 of 1.5 total points | PREVENTION EDUCATION: | 3.5 of 4.5 total points |
| DEFINITION OF ABUSE: | .5 of 1 total points | STAFF TRAINING: | 0 of 1 total points |

**Why did my state receive this rating?** Rhode Island 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.

### RHODE ISLAND BY NUMBERS

- **27** calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- **11** human trafficking cases reported.
- **4** cases concerned a minor.
- **10** cases involved females, <3 involved males.

### RHODE ISLAND LAWS AND PROVISIONS

| Mandated Task Force? | Rhode Island Human Trafficking Task Force |
| Terms included in Rhode Island’s Definition of Abuse: | Exploitation only (Trafficking not included) |
| • Topics: Sexual abuse; sexual exploitation; child abduction; dating abuse/violence |
| • Mandated for K-8 |

| Staff Training Requirements | Neither mandated nor recommended |
EXPLOITATION BY NUMBERS

- Approximately 1.6 million children run away every year in the United States.¹
- Of the nearly 27,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.²
- There were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported in the United States in 2017 and 32% of those cases involved a minor.³
- In 2017, 88% of trafficked children were in the care of social services at the time the exploitation began.⁴

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