Why did my state receive this rating? Virginia 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.

**VIRGINIA BY NUMBERS**

- 502 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 156 human trafficking cases reported.
- 47 cases concerned a minor.
- 133 cases involved females, 20 involved males.

**VIRGINIA LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

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<tr>
<td>Terms included in Virginia's Definition of Abuse:</td>
<td>Exploitation only (Trafficking not included)</td>
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</table>
| Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels | • VA Code § 22.1-207.1:1 (2017)  
• Topics: dating abuse/violence, sexual violence, abuse (not including exploitation or trafficking)  
• Mandated for 6th-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](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states). Note that not all demographics are captured by every report to the hotline.


4 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states)