**Why did my state receive this rating?** West Virginia 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.

### WEST VIRGINIA BY NUMBERS

- 57 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 16 human trafficking cases reported.
- 16 cases concerned a minor.
- <3 cases involved females, <3 involved males.

### WEST VIRGINIA LAWS AND PROVISIONS

| Mandated Task Force? | West Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms included in West Virginia’s Definition of Abuse:</td>
<td>Exploitation only (Trafficking not included)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels</td>
<td>None identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Training Requirements</td>
<td>Neither mandated nor recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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