

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review 2024

CHOSEN. Stop Predators

Year Published/Revised: 2023

Publisher: Hope International

Website: Chosen – The True Story of America’s Trafficked Teens - Shared Hope International Store

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: 21-minute video with supporting handouts.

Format and Features: Includes 21-min. video, discussion guide, educators and leaders guides, preparation ideas for school counselors, take action ideas, trafficking terms.

Materials Provide Support for online or in-person learning: Yes.

Available in Multiple Languages: No

Evidence-based/informed: Not evident

National Standards Alignment: No

Consistent with WA Health Education Standards? Yes

Consistent with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law? No

Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act? N/A

Inclusive Materials/Strategies: No

Bias-Free Materials: Yes



Primary Subject Areas and Topics Covered:

- Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction, and Pregnancy (Pregnancy for Grade 6+)
- Growth and Development/Puberty
- Self-Identity (gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Prevention (general):
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - STD Prevention
 - Health Care and Prevention Resources
- Healthy Relationships (general):
 - Affirmative Consent
 - Bystander Training
 - Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Communication Skills for Healthy Relationships
 - The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships
 - Understanding the influences of family, peers, community, and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 352

This material stands out in its focus on victims/survivors, on recognizing grooming/recruiting tactics, and media safety. The video uses real stories of people who were being recruited and trafficked in Washington State—the local context and narration by past victims were very powerful. The video emphasizes how young people can be vulnerable even if they don't show stereotypical "risks" like abusive homes or missing school. The material includes additional resources for teachers, caregivers, and youth—most noteworthy is their free site for teens <https://youthonline.sharedhope.org/>—that fill in key information listed in the content criteria. Material felt fairly bias-free. The responsibility is heavily placed on young people to prevent trafficking by "protecting themselves" from "being stalked" and from exploitation—this is somewhat balanced by also sharing information for caregivers to recognize signs and information on WA programs that combat trafficking. You can "buy" the material for free online, materials are copyrighted.

Reviewer 354

Selected Standard 1 (concepts related to health promotion) but want to indicate I think it barely addresses that standard. Very little actual health promotion is discussed, but it does address the listed item of 'laws and concerns related to sending or posting sexually explicit pictures'. I found the video to be just okay. It does not overly rely on scare

tactics, but it does present some things that should be nuanced as concretely scary and harmful. It lacks providing youth with alternatives for 'safer' ways to meet new friends, engage in social media, etc. It tells the story of two young women who survived but does not address sexual exploitation of male identified youth. I wonder if the portrayal of the white girl who is on camera and anonymous Black girl could reinforce racial stereotypes. There is missed opportunity to discuss communities who are at greater risk due to racism, homophobia, and transphobia. The materials aren't explicitly stating the intended audience, but it gives an impression it's for "nice" girls in the suburbs. While parts of it places the burden of "prevention" mostly on potential victims, some focus on bystander action is there but could use much more discussion. Some of the questions in the provided discussion guide are concerning, some feel like they are for content that was not discussed and some of the facilitator answers are a little unrealistic and fear based (i.e. one of the responses is "Don't go anywhere alone").

Reviewer 356

This video and the accompanying supplemental materials do have some strengths. It provides a basic overview of sex trafficking and through several personal anecdotes provides information on signs to look out for and how to avoid being exploited or trafficked.

While one of the supplemental materials that go with the video states it is not intended to scare people, overall the video took a fairly fear-based approach.

There are also no distinctions made between sex work and sex trafficking. There are lots of stereotypes that are reinforced through gendered and non-inclusive language. The police officer stated it "could be any girl" and "girls from good homes, who do all the right things" could still be victims of trafficking. This perpetuates stereotypes and stigma and implies that young people who are not from "good homes" deserve to be trafficked and the only victims we should care about are "good girls."

While I think the creators of this video had good intentions and wanted to get important information out to young people, I would not show this video to young people due to the perpetuation of stereotypes and helping perpetuate some stigmas around trafficking and exploitation rather than breaking them down.

Additionally, during the section about technology and tracking it stated something along the lines of only accepting friend requests from people you don't know if your parent or guardian thinks it is a good idea. This is harmful because the unfortunate reality is that sometimes it is a young person's parent or guardian who is the one

trafficking or exploiting them so instructing young people to solely trust and rely on their parents and guardians is not always the right strategy.

Reviewer 362

Generally this is a fine Trafficking awareness and prevention product, it does have a heavy feeling to it that might be tough to view for some students. This video features rhetoric that is very focused on preventing trafficking for girls specifically, though they could also expand it to include queer/trans youth and boys, as all genders get targeted. The animation in the last third of the video is engaging and provides an overview of a rather large piece of the prevention strategy. Mentioning the demographics of the commonly targeted or chosen youth, perpetrators, and buyers would all be helpful information for youth. As well, more information about the impact of trafficking on youth long term, and information on local resources would need to be talked about. These are some of the things that if you were to use this product you would need to bring up after/during viewing this product. The additional materials linked and included were engaging and current. Only a few links included require teachers to sign up for external accounts to access content. Most were easy to access and navigate. The discussion and activity materials were easy to use and present to small groups or mid sized classes. This curriculum is about sex trafficking prevention so there is not any talk of safer sex or STI/HIV prevention as that content is beyond the scope of this product.

Reviewer 364

This video has a lot of good information including resources and specific examples of what the grooming process might entail. I thought the additional video about online safety was very informative and did a good job of connecting general online safety to the topic of exploitation/trafficking.

This video represented trafficking as being a purely "girls are victims / men are pimps" issue. While statistically, boys are exploited at lower rates it is still irresponsible to leave male victims out of the conversation completely. While I did appreciate that the girls in the video (Brianna and Lacey) represented two different backgrounds, I found some of the b-roll footage to be subtly reinforcing of stereotypes (i.e. even as Brianna, a white girl from a middle class background, was talking about her experience being exploited by a white college-aged man, the b-roll footage showed Black men and women walking down the street implying a pimp/prostituted woman relationship). The video also focused largely on the audience protecting their friends from exploitation and seemed to blame Lacey's friends for not speaking up (compared to Evan, who did speak up), without acknowledging the challenges of a young white man going to the police about a young white woman working at a strip club versus Lacey's friends (who may or may

not be BIPOC youth) going to the police about a Black girl 'working' at a strip club. Overall, the video contained some important information related to grooming and the importance of bystander intervention, however the absence of an equitable or inclusive lens may lead to a misunderstanding about what trafficking looks like in different populations.

Med/Sci Reviewer 368

Not loving the smiling face of blonde host while discussing topic of trafficking - appreciate the terminology of "pimp" and "trafficker". Take away of "why they don't just go home..? - They don't see a safe way out". Appropriate messaging - along with privacy setting recap in resources (not meeting anyone that you do not know in person). Resources - recommend going more with "Be Free" text 233733, over cyberline(outdated). Cannot see much for the 1-800-the lost (little outdated).

Med/Sci Reviewer 369

Not a lot to review in terms of scientific accuracy, the presenters did not feel accessible

OSPI Comments

This title was found not inclusive of all protected classes and to reinforce some stereotypes related to sex trafficking, race, and gender. It does not meet requirements for comprehensive sexual health education related to inclusive instruction. It could be used to meet new sex trafficking education requirements if modified to address stereotypes and lack of inclusivity.