

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review 2024

Human Trafficking Edition

Year Published/Revised: 2023

Publisher: A21

Website: www.a21.org

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: 4 Lessons per grade

Format and Features: Digital and hard copy, some videos and student handouts

Materials Provide Support for online or in-person learning: Not evident

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? Yes

Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act? N/A

Inclusive Materials/Strategies: Yes

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

The curriculum is thorough and can fit into different courses like English or Social Justice. It has a large collection of free online guides plus paid training packages and other prevention resources on A21's website. The scope is broader than what's recommended in the content criteria but covers several key topics.

My review is for the 7–12 grade levels combined as I believe that would be the best way to implement the curriculum to avoid misleading or incomplete information. Its main pillars and vocabulary "spiral" throughout grades, but it does not seem helpful to use it at only one grade level. Crucial concepts are not offered until the high school level (e.g., bystander skills, healthy relationships, trauma, gender-based violence, community-level factors). That said, it may be more difficult and timelier to implement across multiple grades.

Other notes:

- Uses passive voice to describe violence/trafficking, and, at times, overstates personal responsibility to protect oneself from "being trafficked". Esp. certain scenarios and in the earlier units (grades 7–9). This language can influence victim-blaming narratives.
- Until grade 12, there is not enough instruction regarding how to find support and local resources to help students in case of need.
- Not all scenarios felt bias-free (e.g., self-efficacy) and some scenarios/videos seem to slip into

scare tactics (e.g., substance use).

Promising:

- Introduces social norms, challenges some misconceptions and stereotypes (some units do better than others). May need to broaden these conversations and also focus more on strength-based and proactive language.
- Covers grooming, dating violence, online forms of exploitation, community engagement, and beyond (human rights, history of slavery to modern-day).
- It does not require facilitator training—but prior training seems useful (as well as competence in trauma-informed approach) due to the nature of the topics & scenarios.

Reviewer 354

Really impressive materials. Lessons contain thorough learning objectives and lots of facilitation guidance. Provides robust educator guides, student guides, resource lists. Curriculum design include opportunities for students to work independently and in groups, reflect, and apply knowledge and skills.

The content is also really great, approaches trafficking without utilizing fear tactics. Presents the topic with a more global approach, addressing human rights, slavery, as well as sex and labor trafficking. These topics are all paired with content on protective factors, resilience, and self-efficacy. Grades 7-12 each have their own robust lessons and provide additional focus on a range of topics including sexual exploitation of children, healthy relationships, boundaries, substance abuse, digital safety, coercion, teen dating violence, etc.

May be the most in-depth and well-rounded resource for trafficking I have come across.

Reviewer 355

This curriculum takes a comprehensive approach to human trafficking with lessons about human rights, self-efficacy, self advocacy, boundary setting, healthy relationships, and social media/internet safety. For each grade, the curriculum is broken down by lessons on rights and responsibilities, character development, relationship boundaries, and digital safety. The curriculum for each grade comes with a robust student guide, educator guide, and additional supplemental materials and resources that are generally high quality. The curriculum is age appropriate for each grade, and does aim to be trauma informed. The worksheets and videos discuss topics that may be triggering for students, especially those who are survivors, so ensuring that there is additional support for students when utilizing this curriculum is recommended. This curriculum is worksheet heavy, which is the primary drawback. Additionally, this curriculum does not discuss disability in relation to sexual violence and sexual exploitation, which feels like an important topic to include.

Reviewer 364

This material is age-appropriate and does a good job of building upon concepts with each grade level. The materials and directions are easy to understand, accurate, and encourage critical thought. Having the curriculum built around "four pillars" makes for really consistent lesson plans that connect directly across ages/grades. The biggest challenge with this material is much of it is workbook/worksheet-based with some discussion, which may make it difficult for some depending on learning styles, comfort with written English, etc.

Med/Sci Reviewer 368

I appreciate how the curriculum builds upon itself developmentally over the years.

Med/Sci Reviewer 372

This is an up-to-date, trauma-informed curriculum on human trafficking that is based on current research, data, and best practice.

OSPI Comment

This program can be delivered only by publisher-trained educators. Contact publisher for more information.