

TO PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

we must reach them before traffickers do.

NOT A #NUMBER
DEVELOPED BY LOVE146

What Is Not a #Number?

Not a #Number is an interactive five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. The program integrates a holistic view of the issue by focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities. Through open conversations, engaging activities, the use of media, and opportunities for disclosures, participants find ways to move beyond awareness to behavioral change.

Over the course of the curriculum, participants will learn how to recognize recruitment tactics, understand vulnerabilities, and develop skills to safely navigate potential and existing exploitative situations. Participants will also identify healthy support systems, and learn how to access community resources when situations occur that increase their vulnerability or if exploitation is already underway.

Not a #Number includes information to support a whole-school or whole-system response and ways to integrate the curriculum with other prevention efforts being facilitated to improve school, agency, or organizational climate.

Love146 developed Not a #Number in collaboration with experts from the University of New Haven's Department of Education and the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Four years of experience in prevention education, a review of current literature, analysis of best practices in prevention, and input from various disciplines informed the process of development.

Intended Audience

Not a #Number is designed to be inclusive and relevant to a variety of populations, and has been implemented in schools, child welfare and juvenile justice programs, and other community organizations.

The curriculum was developed for youth ages twelve to eighteen. The materials are inclusive of male, female, and youth that identify as LGBTQ, and is designed for applicability across gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Youth with high-risk indicators such as low socioeconomic status, history of abuse and/or neglect, exposure to violence, risky sexual behavior online and offline, and mental health needs will particularly benefit. While youth who have experienced human trafficking and exploitation may benefit from the information provided by Not a #Number, the curriculum is designed for prevention and early identification for vulnerabilities and exploitation. It is not intended to be used as a primary intervention tool.

Evaluating Not a #Number

Not a #Number has been developed by experts in the field of human trafficking and exploitation and is designed to address the evolving tactics to recruit and exploit youth. The curriculum is grounded in empirical literature, and incorporates best practices in the field of prevention education.

In order to continually evaluate the extent to which the materials in this curriculum are meeting their intended goals, curriculum developers worked with experts from the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire to design measurable skill-based learning objectives. Based on these learning objectives, the Crimes Against Children Research Center assisted in developing research-based assessment tools to facilitate immediate and long-term outcome evaluation efforts. These evaluation tools, along with the curriculum, have been pilot tested with experts in the field and a cohort of youth ages 12-18 to assess their readability, applicability, and completeness.

What Makes Not a #Number Different?

Not a #Number is unique in several ways:

- Moves beyond the traditional “information deficit” model, and intentionally supports positive peer influence, attitude and behavior changes, and skill development (e.g. how to resist negative influence).
- Focuses on both human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Considers all genders as potential victims and perpetrators of human trafficking and exploitation, and provides nuanced activities for co-ed, all male, all female, or all LGBTQ groups.
- Is designed for applicability and efficacy across the spectrum of risk (low → moderate → high).
- Addresses a diverse set of traffickers, including individual (e.g. pimp, peer), gang, and family.
- Provides resources for a whole-school or whole-system response.
- Is based on strong program theory, grounded in empirical literature and best practices in the field of prevention education.

