Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.The project team is led by Mathematica in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies, to create a database of those definitions and policies (the SCAN Policies Database) that can be used for analysis. The database is a resource for researchers, analysts, and others who are interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment.

Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This information represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between May 2019 and July 2020. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2019.The scope of topics in the SCAN Policies Database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' responseand context are also included.

The content in the database is organized into six domains. The state profiles, codebook, data collection protocol, and data file are also organized by these domains. In the protocol, each question is named with a prefix that identifies its associated domain. The six domains are listed below, with the identifying protocol number prefix.

Domain	Question prefix
Definitions	D
Reporting	R
Screening	S
Investigation	I
Child welfare response	W
Child welfare system context	C

State Profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile serves as a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. Each profile is organized by topical domains, which contain a set of tables that depict the state's information for each variable within that domain.

This information was gathered through a document collection, review, and coding process conducted by the SCAN Policies Database team. Input from states on data collection was obtained through a confirmation and verification process. More information about the SCAN Policies Database data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol which are accessible from the Data Use Resources page https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources.

The state profile presents responses for each variable with "yes," "no," "unknown," or other response as appropriate. The response of "unknown" was used for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with the state. In some cases, "logical skip" was used when a question was not applicable to a particular state given a related response on a preceding question.

Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources; and notes about specific topics. This data user's guide also has two appendices. Appendix A provides a glossary of key terms. Appendix B summarizes the decisions made on the scope and variables to include in the SCAN Policies Database after a data quality assessment.

- **Codebook:** The codebook provides information about each variable in the data set, including variable names, labels, definitions, protocol number, variable type, and frequencies. The codebook has two appendices. Appendix A contains supplemental notes that are important for accurately interpreting and using the data. Appendix B is a comprehensive list of all state statutes and policy documentation sources used to collect data for the SCAN Policies Database for each state, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' statutes and policies as part of the data review and coding process. Appendix A provides a glossary of key terms.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources) or from National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/).

More Information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com. General inquiries can be submitted to SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com.

State Identifying Information

Table I.A. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	ID
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	16
c. Census region code	West
d. State verified coding of information	No
e. State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
f. State definitions and policies for calendar year	2019

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table II.A. State's definition of child maltreatment

	Response
1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Physical abuse	Yes
b. Excessive corporal punishment	Yes
c. Sexual abuse	Yes
d. Emotional maltreatment	Yes
e. Neglect	Yes
f. Inadequate clothing	Yes
g. Inadequate shelter	Yes
h. Malnourishment, inadequate food	Yes
i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care	Yes
j. Failure-to-thrive	Yes
k. Educational neglect	Yes
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug Lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	Yes
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	Yes
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	No
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	Yes
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	Yes
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	Yes - Placed for care or adoption in violation of law; Homeless
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Not applicable
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes malnourishment, inadequate clothing/shelter, medical neglect, parental responsibilities neglect, violation of adoption law, and educational neglect

Table II.A (*continued*)

	Response
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Abandonment includes failure to protect
3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment	No
5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition	Yes
b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition	Yes
c. Harmful environment, conditions	No
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No
6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment	No
7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	No
8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Any adult	Logical Skip
b. Parent	Logical Skip
c. Guardian	Logical Skip
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Logical Skip
e. Family member/parent paramour	Logical Skip
f. Household member	Logical Skip
g. Person responsible for child	Logical Skip
h. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Logical Skip
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	Not applicable
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18 with variability under 18
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	Yes - Domestic violence in the presence of a child applies to children under 16

Table II.B. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

		Response: Yes/No/Unknown
1.	**Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment**	
a.	Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child	No
b.	Discipline, physical discipline as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child	Yes
c.	Safe haven exemption, newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven laws	Yes
d.	Infant testing positive drugs – medical, newborn with positive test for controlled substance as a result of parent's medical treatment	Yes
e.	Religious observance, parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	Yes
f.	Other exemption (specify)	No
2.	**Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment**	
a.	Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations	Yes
b.	Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	Yes
c.	Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 30 days old or younger
d.	No intent to return	Yes
e.	Child must be left unharmed	No
f.	Other (specify)	No

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table III.A. Reporting policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized reporting	Yes
2. How reporting is decentralized	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
b. Some counties or regions have own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
4. Universal mandated reporting	No
5. Required training for mandated reporters	No
6. Penalties for failure to report	Yes, all mandated reporters
7. Specific penalties for failure to report	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
8. Penalties for false reporting	Yes
9. Specific penalties for false reporting	
a. Criminal charges	No
b. Civil charges	Yes
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect	Yes
11. Information requested at the time of report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Identifying and other information of reporter	No
g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker	Yes
h. Identifying and other information of family/household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	No
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Safety factors
12. Anonymity of reporter	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	Yes

Table III.A (*continued*)

	Response
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	No
c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous	No
d. Unknown	No
13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases	
a. Tribes are not involved	Yes
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency accept reports (specify tribes)	No
d. Unknown	No

Table III.B. Types of mandated reporters

1. Types of mandated reporters	Response Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Response Training required[1]	Response Subject to penalties for failure to report[2]
a. Foster parents	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
b. School staff – teachers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
d. Before/after school program staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
e. Child care staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
m. Judges	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardian ad litems or Court-appointed special advocates	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
s. Religious clergy	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Coroners; Social workers	Logical Skip	Yes - Coroners; Social workers

[1]Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table III.A.5). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table III.A.4) and all mandated reporters require training (Table III.A.5).

Table III.B (*continued*)

[2]Responses in this column can equal logical skip with the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table III.A.6). Reponses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table III.A.4) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table III.A.6)

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table IV.A. Screening policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized screening	Yes
2. How screening is decentralized	
a. Each county or region has its own screening unit	Logical Skip
b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units	Logical Skip
c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
3. Information required to screen in report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	No
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Location of abuse; Duration of abuse; Safety factors
g. Unknown	No

Table IV.B. Screening Decision Process and Activities

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Decision processes used during screening			
a. Supervisory review	Yes	Required for all	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	No	Logical Skip	—
d. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—
2. Variability of decision process used for screening			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—
3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening	Yes		
4. Activities/information required as part of screening			
a. Safety or risk assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Interviews with the child, parent or caregiver, and collateral contacts; Completion of a home visit to determine whether the environment poses a threat of harm	Required for all	Not applicable
5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured Decision Making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Standardized comprehensive safety assessment	—	—
6. Consistency of screening activities/information			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

Table IV.C. Screeners

	Response
1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports	
a. Case workers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
2. Qualifications of screener	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	Yes - 24 days of Division of Family and Community Services Academy training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Major in social work
g. Unknown	No
3. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases	
a. Tribes are not involved	Yes
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
d. Unknown	No

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table V.A. Investigations policies

	Response
1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties	Yes
2. Investigator for reports	
a. Case workers (frontline staff)	No
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Child advocacy center staff and a representative of the prosecuting attorney's office
3. Qualifications of investigator	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - 24 days of Division of Family and Community Services Academy training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Major in social work
g. Unknown	No
4. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)	
a. Preponderance of evidence	No
b. Credible or substantial evidence	No
c. Probable or reasonable cause	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No

Table V.B. Required activities/information for investigation

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process	Yes		
2. Specific activities or information required for investigation			
a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Visit to child's home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
c. Interview or observation of child victim	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Physical abuse; Sexual abuse
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
n. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table VI.A. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1. Differential/alternative response	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes—implemented statewide	No
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	Logical Skip
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	Logical Skip
c. Unknown	Logical Skip
3. Types of maltreatment not eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	Logical Skip
b. Substance-exposed infants	Logical Skip
c. Physical abuse	Logical Skip
d. Sexual abuse	Logical Skip
e. Neglect	Logical Skip
f. Abandoned infants	Logical Skip
g. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	
a. No	Logical Skip
b. Yes	Logical Skip
c. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
d. Unknown	Logical Skip
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No risk	Logical Skip
b. Low risk	Logical Skip
c. Moderate risk	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No immediate safety concerns	Logical Skip
b. No prior reports of child abuse or neglect	Logical Skip
c. Other (specify)	Logical Skip

Table VI.A (*continued*)

	Response
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	
a. At time of screening to screen-out to differential response	Logical Skip
b. After a report is screened-in	Logical Skip
c. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response	
a. No	Logical Skip
b. Yes—for all cases	Logical Skip
c. Yes—when families express interest	Logical Skip
d. Yes—when there is a determination of risk	Logical Skip
e. Yes—other (specify)	Logical Skip

Table VI.B. In-home services and foster care

	Response
1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families	
a. No	No
b. Yes—implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
2. In-home services provided post reunification	
a. No	No
b. Yes—implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
3. Tribal involvement in foster care for tribal cases	
a. Tribes do not provide foster care	Yes
b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes)	No
c. Unknown	No
4. Foster care extension for those older than 18 years	No
5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care	
a. Age 21	Logical Skip
b. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
6. Foster care case management staff	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	No
d. Unknown	No
7. Qualifications of foster care case managers	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	Yes - 24 days of Division of Family and Community Services Academy training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Major in social work
g. Unknown	No

Table VI.C. Permanency

	Response
1. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
2. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
3. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
4. Subsidized adoption	Yes

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table VII.A. Child welfare system context

	Response
1. State or county-administered child welfare system	
a. State-administered	Yes
b. County-administered	No
c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties)	No
d. Unknown	No
2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring	No

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

For drug and alcohol misuse, Child & Family Services will respond only to referrals involving substance abuse where the use of drugs or alcohol seriously affects the caregiver's ability to supervise, protect, or care for their child(ren).

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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