

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2021: Colorado

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, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project 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 that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

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. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user’s guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 2021 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between July 2021 and January 2022. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2021. The scope of topics in the 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’ response and context are also included.

The content in the SCAN Policies 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 begins with a letter prefix identifying the domain for each variable. The six domains with the identifying protocol number prefix are listed below.

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 is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. It is organized by six domains, with each section containing a set of tables that depict the state's information for all variables within that domain.

The state profile presents data for each variable with “yes,” “no,” “unknown,” or other response as appropriate. The response of “unknown” appears for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with that state. In some cases, “logical skip” appears 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. The data user's guide includes appendices with information on corrections to the SCAN Policies Database 2019 and a summary of changes to the data between 2019 and 2021 that reflect changes to state laws and policies during that time period. There is one data user's guide that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **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 includes several appendices, including a list of all sources used to review and code data. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **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. There are separate data collection protocols for each round of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from the 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. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	CO
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	08
c. Census region code	West
d. State verified coding of information	Yes
e. State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
f. State definitions and policies for calendar year	2021
g. Data version	2021v1

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table II. 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	No
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	Yes
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	Yes
z. Other definition (specify)	Yes - Third-party abuse and/or neglect

Table II (continued)

	Response
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Abuse includes physical abuse, malnutrition, failure to thrive, subdural hematoma (shaken baby syndrome), sexual abuse, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, inadequate medical care, parental responsibilities, emotional abuse, presence near or access to controlled substance (including methamphetamine), prenatal exposure to controlled substance, human trafficking of a minor for involuntary or sexual servitude, failure to protect, punishment, and genital mutilation
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes physical abuse, malnutrition, failure to thrive, subdural hematoma (shaken baby syndrome), sexual abuse, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, inadequate medical care, parental responsibilities, emotional abuse, presence near or access to controlled substance (including methamphetamine), prenatal exposure to controlled substance, human trafficking of a minor for involuntary or sexual servitude, failure to protect, punishment, and genital mutilation
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Abuse or 'child abuse or neglect' includes physical abuse, malnutrition, failure to thrive, subdural hematoma (shaken baby syndrome), sexual abuse, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, inadequate medical care, parental responsibilities, emotional abuse, presence near or access to controlled substance (including methamphetamine), prenatal exposure to controlled substance, human trafficking of a minor for involuntary or sexual servitude, failure to protect, punishment, and genital mutilation
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	Yes
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No

Table II (continued)

	Response
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	Yes
8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Any adult	Yes
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member/parent/paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	For institutional abuse, the perpetrators are specific to any public or private facility in the state that provides childcare out of the home, supervision, or maintenance; For third-party abuse and/or neglect, the perpetrator is any person who is not a parent, stepparent, guardian, legal custodian, spousal equivalent, or any other person not included in the definition of intrafamilial abuse or institutional abuse
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18 with variability over 18
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	Yes - Institutional abuse applies to persons under 21 years of age

Table III. 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 for 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)	Yes - For exemption to involuntary servitude, those investigating reports of child abuse shall take into account accepted childrearing practices of the culture in which the child participates including, but not limited to, accepted work-related practices of agricultural communities; Genital mutilation is exempted if it is necessary to preserve the health of the child on whom it is performed, or it is performed on a child who is in labor or who has just given birth when there is a medical need. In both instances, it must be performed by a person licensed to practice medicine.
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 - 72 hours old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
e. Child must be left unharmed	No
f. Other (specify)	No

Table IV. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases

	Response: Yes/No/Unknown
1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment	
a. Not specified/not defined	No
b. Injury from abuse or neglect caused death	Yes
c. Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death	Yes
d. Death of child was in child welfare custody/foster care	No
e. Other (specify)	No
f. Unknown	No
2. State conducts case reviews with a child fatality review team or a similar review process for fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect	
a. No case review or review process	No
b. Reviews are required of all or some cases	Yes
c. Reviews can be conducted but are not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment	
a. Not specified/not defined	No
b. General reference to a serious or critical condition/injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk of death	Yes
c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment/intervention (specify)	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect	
a. No case review or review process	No
b. Reviews are required of all or some cases	Yes
c. Reviews can be conducted but are not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table V. Reporting policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized reporting	Other - Reports of known or suspected child abuse or neglect are made to the county department, the local law enforcement agency, or through the child abuse reporting hotline system; There is a statewide hotline system that routes calls to appropriate county department. Some counties or regions also have their own reporting hotline.
2. How reporting is decentralized	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
b. Some counties or regions have their 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	Yes
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
8. Penalties for false reporting	Yes
9. Specific penalties for false reporting	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
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

Table V (continued)

	Response
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Identifying and other information of reporter	Yes
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	Yes
j. Other (specify)	Yes - The nature of any other environmental hazards in the home which may impact child(ren)/youth or worker safety; The name and contact information of any individuals who may have information about the referral, and/or the identity and contact information of collateral agencies and individuals involved with the family; Date and time referral was received; Family strengths and supports, and/or other protective factors or actions taken
12. Anonymity of reporter	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	No
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	Yes
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	No
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency to accept reports (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes accept reports and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	Yes - The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute
e. Unknown	No
14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment	
a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be reported for child maltreatment, but they could be reported if they meet certain criteria	Yes
b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment	No
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No

Table V (continued)

	Response
15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes	No
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No

Table VI. Types of mandated reporters

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required ¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report ²
a. Foster parents	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
d. Before- /after-school program staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
g. Athletic coaches or staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
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	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
m. Judges	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
p. Other court personnel	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	No	No	No
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	Yes	No	No

Table VI (continued)

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required ¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report ²
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Christian science practitioner; Social worker or worker in any facility or agency that is licensed or certified; Veterinarian; Victim's advocate; Officers and agents of the state bureau of animal protection and animal control officers; The child protection ombudsman; Educator providing services through a federal special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children	Logical Skip	Yes - Christian science practitioner; Social worker or worker in any facility or agency that is licensed or certified; Veterinarian; Victim's advocate; Officers and agents of the state bureau of animal protection and animal control officers; The child protection ombudsman; Educator providing services through a federal special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children

¹Responses 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 V.5). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and all mandated reporters require training (Table V.5).

²Responses 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 mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6).

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table VII. Screening policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized screening	No
2. How screening is decentralized	
a. Each county or region has its own screening unit	Yes
b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units	No
c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units	No
d. Other (specify)	No
3. Information required to screen in report	
a. Identifying information of child	No
b. Location/contact information of child and family	No
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	No
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	No
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - State does not require any information to screen in a report
g. Unknown	No

Table VIII. 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	Yes	Required for some	—
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 some	Counties using differential response use Review, Evaluate and Direct (RED) Team framework to review referrals, determine response times, and determine the appropriate track assignment
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Review child/youth's vulnerability; Report allegation of sex trafficking to local law enforcement agency	Required for all	Not applicable
5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured decision making	Yes	—	—
b. Other (specify)	No	—	—
6. Consistency of screening activities/information			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—

Table VIII (*continued*)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

Table IX. Screeners

	Response
1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports	
a. Caseworkers (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	No
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	Yes - Complete the pre-service hotline training for workers; Complete all required Transfer of Learning exercises with the assistance of a supervisor, or supervisor's designee; Demonstrate competence through pre-and post-tests, trainer observation, and verification by the county department as outlined in the request for certification; To be re-certified as a hotline worker, the staff person must participate in 10 hours of in-service training each state fiscal year
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - High School diploma or equivalent
g. Unknown	No
3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners	
a. Not required	Logical Skip
b. Required	Logical Skip
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
4. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes conduct screening and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	Yes - The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute
e. Unknown	No

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table X. Investigations policies

	Response
1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties	Yes
2. Investigator for reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	No
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	Yes - The county department coordinates all investigations, including assigning persons trained to conduct the investigation; The investigation may include other appropriate agencies (state resources do not specify agencies); Institutional abuse may be investigated by an agency that contracts with the state and has staff trained to conduct investigations, the county departments, or any other entity the state department deems appropriate
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 - To be re-certified as a social caseworker, the staff person must participate in 40 hours of in-service training each state fiscal year, with a minimum of 16 of those hours focused in the area of the social caseworker's primary job responsibilities
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 1 year of professional caseworker, case management, or human services experience in a public or private human services agency, with bachelor's degree; Successful completion of an approved field placement in a county department of human services, with a bachelor's of social work degree; No experience required for a master's degree in social work or a human behavioral science field
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators	
a. Not required	No

Table X (continued)

	Response
b. Required	Yes
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)	
a. Preponderance of evidence	Yes
b. Credible or substantial evidence	No
c. Probable or reasonable cause	No
d. Unknown	No
6. Investigation determination can result in an “inconclusive” finding	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Unknown	No

Table XI. 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	Yes	Required for some	The home conditions are the subject of the assessment; Information obtained in the interview process indicates assessment of the home environment is necessary due to current or impending danger
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	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for some	The home conditions are the subject of the assessment; Information obtained in the interview process indicates assessment of the home environment is necessary due to current or impending danger
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	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for some	Reasonable or documentation of efforts to interview and advise the alleged perpetrator

Table XI (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for some	When child(ren)/youth are unable to be interviewed within the assigned response time; Institutional abuse and/or neglect
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Credibility and source of the report; The nature, extent, and cause of the abuse or neglect; The identity of the person responsible for such abuse or neglect; The names and conditions of any other children living in the same place; The environment and the relationship of any children to the person responsible for the suspected abuse or neglect; Obtain culturally relevant and appropriate resources for the alleged victim child(ren)/ youth and their families; All other data deemed pertinent	Required for all	Not applicable

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table XII. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1 Differential/alternative response	
a. No	No
b. Yes - implemented statewide	No
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	Yes - The executive director of the state department approves any county department of human or social services that chooses to participate in the differential response program. The program is a dual-track response system for referrals that meet the criteria for assignment. The two response options are the High Risk Assessment (HRA) and the Family Assessment Response (FAR). The alternative response track is the FAR. As of 10/2021, 70% of counties in Colorado utilize a differential response system and another 12% are in the process of implementing one.
d. Unknown	No
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	No
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	Yes
c. Unknown	No
3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	Yes
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	No
d. Sexual abuse	Yes
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
g. Other (specify)	Yes - Institutional abuse
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	No
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No risk	No
b. Low risk	Yes
c. Moderate risk	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No

Table XII (continued)

	Response
7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No other cases or conditions	No
b. No immediate safety concerns	Yes
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	
a. At time of screening to screen out to differential response	No
b. After a report is screened in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	No
c. Yes - when families express interest	No
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	Yes - The participating county departments, in administering the program, shall cooperate with local community service organizations in addressing known or suspected incidents of intrafamilial abuse or neglect

Table XIII. In-home services, foster care, and permanency

	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	No
b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes)	Yes - Ute Mount Ute; Southern Ute Indian Tribe
c. Unknown	No
4. Foster care extension for those older than 18	Yes
5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care	
a. Age 21	Yes
b. Other (specify)	No
6. Permanency	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
7. Foster care case management staff	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	Yes
d. Unknown	No
8. Qualifications of foster care case managers	
a. Associate degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	Yes - To be re-certified as a social caseworker, the staff person must participate in 40 hours of in- service training each state fiscal year, with a minimum of 16 of those hours focused in the area of the social caseworker's primary job responsibilities

Table XIII (continued)

	Response
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 1 year of professional caseworker, case management, or human services experience in a public or private human services agency, with bachelor's degree; Successful completion of an approved field placement in a county department of human services, with a bachelor's of social work degree; No experience required for a master's degree in social work or a human behavioral science field
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
9. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	Yes
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No

Table XIV. Agency staff dedicated to equity

	Response
1. Child welfare agency uses staff roles/functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity	
a. No staff or roles	No
b. Uses cultural brokers	No
c. Uses manager, administrator, or office focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or multicultural or tribal affairs	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes
e. Unknown	No
2. Aspects of child welfare process that involve cultural brokers	
a. Screening process	Logical Skip
b. Investigation process	Logical Skip
c. Case management/child welfare response	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
3. Specify other staff roles/job functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity	Each office has an identified person who is trained and available to help others choose the right equity and inclusion strategies to implement
4. Aspects of child welfare process that involve other staff roles/functions used to address disproportionality and/or equity	
a. Screening process	No
b. Investigation process	No
c. Case management/child welfare response	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Equity coaches are not tied to specific case practice processes
e. Unknown	No

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table XV. Child welfare system context

	Response
1. State- or county-administered child welfare system	
a. State administered	No
b. County administered	Yes
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

Drug lab includes a perpetrator having knowledge of or in a position where they reasonably should know another person possesses ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine, or their salts, isomers, or salts of isomers, with the intent to use the product as an immediate precursor in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Prenatal exposure to a controlled substance as a type of maltreatment is defined by children born affected by alcohol or substance exposure, except when taken as prescribed or recommended and monitored by a licensed healthcare provider, and the newborn child's health or welfare is threatened by substance use.

Parents may rely on religious forms of healing, except during life-threatening situations or when the condition will result in serious disability if access to medical care is limited. A child whose parent, guardian, or legal custodian inhibits or interferes with the provision of medical treatment in accordance with a court order is considered to have been neglected or dependent and injured or endangered. The religious observance exemption for classification of child maltreatment does not apply if the child's condition is determined to be life-threatening or could result in serious physical impairment or serious disability without professional medical care. The county department must seek a court order authorizing the provision of the necessary medical care if the parent, guardian, or legal custodian refuses such care.

Reporting

For substance-exposed newborns (SENs), substance abuse is expected to be reported when it meets the definition of child abuse or neglect: "Any case in which a child is born affected by alcohol or substance exposure, except when taken as prescribed or recommended and monitored by a licensed health care provider, and the newborn child's health or welfare is threatened by substance use." There is no documented process for notifications at time of data collection, though the Colorado Plan of Safe Care Rules is scheduled to go into effect in May 2022.

Screening

No information is required when screening in a report, but certain information is requested, including the including:

1. The reporting party's name, address, phone number, reporter type, and relationship to the alleged child victim
2. The alleged victim's name, address, current location, school or child care, age, any developmental delays, physical disabilities, or competency or cultural considerations, and primary language
3. A narrative describing the case, including the time and date, location, witnesses, whether any injury was sustained, and any medical treatment given
4. The alleged perpetrator's name, age, location, address, any developmental delays, physical disabilities, or competency or cultural considerations, and phone number

5. Information on where the incident took place, including the name, address, phone number, and whether the institution has been notified of the allegation
6. Name of the victim's parent or guardian, address, phone number, and whether they have been notified
7. Who has legal custody of the child
8. Date and time of the referral

As part of the screening process, as available and appropriate, the screener will obtain information from collateral sources such as schools, medical personnel, law enforcement agencies, or other care providers.

Investigations

The education and experience qualifications are the minimum requirements for caseworkers.

Child welfare response

Colorado's differential response is a dual-track response system:

1. Family Assessment Response (FAR) is the differential response track established for low- and moderate-risk situations where no finding of abuse or neglect is made. The FAR is used by counties participating in the state's differential response program and is implemented at the county level.
2. High Risk Assessment (HRA) is the differential response track established for high-risk situations where the alleged child victim(s) are identified and a finding of abuse or neglect is made.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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