

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' response and 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 | PA |
| b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 42 |
| c. Census region code | Northeast |
| d. State verified coding of information | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| g. Inadequate shelter | Yes |
| h. Malnourishment, inadequate food | Yes |
| i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care | Yes |
| j. Failure-to-thrive | No |
| k. Educational neglect | No |
| 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 | No |
| 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 | Yes |
| y. Institutional abuse/neglect | No |
| z. Other definition (specify) | No |
| 2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse | Not applicable |
| b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect | Not applicable |
| c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect | Not applicable |

Table II.A (continued)

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 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 |
| 6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes - For certain maltreatment types, such as physical abuse and sexual abuse, 'creating a likelihood' may be sufficient cause for an allegation to be levied |
| 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 | No |
| 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) | Yes - Individual 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking |

Table II.A (continued)

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment | Yes |
| 10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type | For trafficking, any person 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking can be a perpetrator; For failing to protect, only specific individuals can be considered a perpetrator; (1) parent/spouse or former spouse of parent, (2) paramour or former paramour of parent, (3) person 18 years or older responsible for the child's welfare, or (4) person 18 years or older residing in the same home |
| 11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment | Under age 18 |
| 13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment | No |

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 | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| e. Religious observance, parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment | Yes |
| f. Other exemption (specify) | Yes - Use of force for supervision, control and safety purposes; Rights of parents; Participation in events that involve physical contact with child; Child-on-child contact; Defensive force |
| 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 - 28 days old or younger |
| d. No intent to return | No |
| e. Child must be left unharmed | Yes |
| 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 | Yes, some mandated reporters |
| 6. Penalties for failure to report | Yes, some 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 | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| 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 | Yes |
| g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker | No |
| h. Identifying and other information of family/household members | Yes |
| i. Information on prior maltreatment | Yes |
| j. Other (specify) | No |
| 12. Anonymity of reporter | |
| a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous | No |

Table III.A (continued)

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| 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 | 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

| | 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 | Yes | Yes |
| b. School staff – teachers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| d. Before/after school program staff | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| e. Child care staff | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| g. Athletic coaches or staff | Yes | No | Yes |
| h. Medical or dental professionals | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers | Yes | Yes | No |
| j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| k. Police or other law enforcement | Yes | No | Yes |
| l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel | Yes | No | Yes |
| m. Judges | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| n. District attorneys or other attorneys | Yes | No | Yes |
| o. Guardian ad litem or Court-appointed special advocates | Yes | Yes | No |
| p. Other court personnel | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| q. Shelter staff | Yes | Yes | No |
| r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| s. Religious clergy | Yes | No | Yes |
| t. Volunteers | Yes | No | No |

Table III.B (continued)

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|--|--|---|
| u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify) | Yes - Medical examiner or coroner; An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment | Yes - Medical examiner or coroner; An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment | Yes - Medical examiner or coroner; Employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment |

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 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).

²Responses 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). Responses 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 | 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 | 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. Other (specify) | No |
| 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 | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| c. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| 5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening | | | |
| a. Structured Decision Making | No | — | — |
| b. Other (specify) | Yes - Pennsylvania Safety Assessment and Management Process | — | — |
| 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 - PA Dept of Human Services requires the following training, which is provided by the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center: Foundations of Pennsylvania Child Welfare Practice: Building Competence, Confidence, and Compassion |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | Yes - 2 years of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 and 2 years of college level course work which includes 12 college credits in sociology, social welfare, psychology, gerontology, criminal justice, or other related social sciences |
| f. Other (specify) | Yes - Bachelor's degree with at least 12 related credits, or any equivalent combination of experience and training that includes 12 college credits in sociology, social welfare, psychology, gerontology, criminal justice, or other related social sciences and 1 year of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 or similar position performing paraprofessional case management functions |
| 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) | Yes |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | No |
| c. Staff in specialized investigations unit | Yes |
| d. Law enforcement | Yes |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Qualifications of investigator | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | No |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for conducting investigations (specify) | Yes - PA Child Protection Services training |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | No |
| 4. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed) | |
| a. Preponderance of evidence | No |
| b. Credible or substantial evidence | Yes |
| c. Probable or reasonable cause | No |
| 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 | Yes | Required for all | 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 | 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 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 | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| j. Medical evaluation | Yes | Required for some | Physical abuse; When investigating a report of suspected serious mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation or serious physical neglect |
| k. Mental health evaluation | Yes | Required for some | Any case deemed to have potentially/visibly caused mental health or emotional harm to the child |
| 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) | Yes - Interview with day care provider or school personnel | Required for all | 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 <u>not</u> 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 | Yes |
| 5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care | |
| a. Age 21 | Yes |
| b. Other (specify) | No |
| 6. Foster care case management staff | |
| a. State/county public agency staff | Yes |
| b. Contracted provider staff | Yes |
| c. Tribal agency staff | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 7. Qualifications of foster care case managers | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | No |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for case management (specify) | No |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | Yes |

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 | 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

To be considered a perpetrator of child abuse/neglect, a caregiver or household member must be age 14 or older.

Health care providers are required to give notice (may not constitute as a child abuse/neglect report) if a child younger than age 1 has been determined, based on standards of professional practice, to have been born affected by:

1. Substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure
2. A fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Reporting

The following types of professionals are considered mandated reporters only in certain cases:

3. District attorneys or other attorneys: only if working with or for an agency that is responsible for care, supervision or guidance of children
4. Homeless shelter staff: whether or not they are considered mandated reporters is dependent on the nature of the shelter and if it is child focused (parent/child program, unaccompanied minor program, etc.)

The following mandated reporters are only required to have training in certain cases:

5. Camp counselors, camp directors or administrators: training required only if camp is licensed,
6. Medical professionals: training required for those who specialize in/work with children,
7. Guardian ad litem/court-appointed special advocates: training required if under the supervision of an institution, agency, or facility regulated by the Department
8. Dates are required in reporting, to some degree. While not required in statute or regulation, dates are requested, and centralized intake caseworkers are required to ask.

Screening

Some, but not all, counties have staff in specialized screening units to conduct screening, but this varies by county.

Investigations

Some, but not all, counties have a special investigations unit.

Child welfare response

In-home services are provided for unsubstantiated cases if the county agency concludes that the child is in danger of future child abuse.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

- Child Protective Services, 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 63 (2019). Retrieved October 28, 2019, from <https://casetext.com/statute/pennsylvania-statutes/consolidated-statutes/title-23-pacs-domestic-relations/part-vii-abuse-of-family/chapter-63-child-protective-services>
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2006). *Safety assessment and planning process*. Retrieved November 1, 2019, from <http://swantoolkit.org/wp-content/uploads/Safety-Assessment-and-Planning-Process-DHS-Bulletin.pdf>
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2008). *Frequency and tracking of caseworker visits to children in federally defined foster care*.
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