

## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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## 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/>).

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## 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](mailto:SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com).

## State Identifying Information

Table I.A. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	VT
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	50
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
<b>1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
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	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	Yes
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	No
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Medical child abuse includes factitious disorder by proxy
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes medical neglect, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, and malnourishment
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable

Table II.A (continued)

	Response
<b>3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
<b>4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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
<b>6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	No
<b>7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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)	Yes - Any other person, whether an adult or a minor
<b>9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type</b>	For sexual abuse, the perpetrator can be a person responsible to care for a child or any other person, whether an adult or a minor
<b>11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Under age 18 with variability under 18
<b>13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment</b>	Yes - Educational neglect applies to children age 6 through grade 6

**Table II.B. Child maltreatment definition exemptions**

	<b>Response: Yes/No/Unknown</b>
<b>1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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)	No
<b>2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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	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
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	Yes
<b>2. How reporting is decentralized</b>	
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
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	No
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
<b>4. Universal mandated reporting</b>	No
<b>5. Required training for mandated reporters</b>	No
<b>6. Penalties for failure to report</b>	Yes, some mandated reporters
<b>7. Specific penalties for failure to report</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>8. Penalties for false reporting</b>	No
<b>9. Specific penalties for false reporting</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Logical Skip
b. Civil charges	Logical Skip
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<b>10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect</b>	Yes
<b>11. Information requested at the time of report</b>	
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	No
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	No
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	No
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes
j. Other (specify)	No
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	
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
<b>13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
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	Yes



**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 <sup>1</sup>	Subject to penalties for failure to report <sup>2</sup>
a. Foster parents	Yes	Logical Skip	No
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	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
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	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	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip

Table III.B (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Social workers; Agency of Human Services employee, contractor, or grantee who has contact with clients	Logical Skip	Yes - Social workers; Agency of Human Services employee, contractor, or grantee who has contact with clients

<sup>1</sup>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).

<sup>2</sup>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). 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
<b>1. Statewide centralized screening</b>	Yes
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	
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
<b>3. Information required to screen in report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	No
b. Location/contact information of child and family	No
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	No
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No

**Table IV.B. Screening Decision Process and Activities**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
<b>1. Decision processes used during screening</b>			
a. Supervisory review	Yes	Required for all	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	No	Logical Skip	—

Table IV.B (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
d. Other (specify)	Yes - There are 2 stages to the screening process. The first screen occurs at the centralized intake level statewide and the second screen occurs in the district office locally. A supervisor makes the initial determination about report acceptance. If not accepted by the supervisor, a second person (Family Services Worker, another supervisor, District Director, Director of Operations, Sr. Policy and Operations Manager, or Policy and Operations Manager) will screen the report to determine if a report is a valid allegation	Required for all	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—

Table IV.B (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>2. Variability of decision process used for screening</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening</b>	Yes		
<b>4. Activities/information required as part of screening</b>			
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 some	If information in the report is insufficient to justify report acceptance or indicates that a family may have had previous child protection involvement, an intake worker will review prior records
c. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured Decision Making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - The type of assessment or procedure is not specified	—	—
<b>6. Consistency of screening activities/information</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

**Table IV.C. Screeners**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports</b>	
a. Case workers (frontline staff)	No
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>2. Qualifications of screener</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	Yes
d. Training for screening (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 1.5 years of human services casework, including at least 6 months with a child or youth services caseload where duties included direct responsibility for client intake, assessment, plan development, monitoring, service procurement, and case closure in a formal human services delivery system
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>3. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases</b>	
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. Unknown	Yes

## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table V.A. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties</b>	Yes
<b>2. Investigator for reports</b>	
a. Case workers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Qualifications of investigator</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	Yes
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 1.5 years of human services casework, including at least 6 months with a child or youth services caseload where duties included direct responsibility for client intake, assessment, plan development, monitoring, service procurement, and case closure in a formal human services delivery system
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>4. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)</b>	
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**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
<b>1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process</b>	Yes		
<b>2. Specific activities or information required for investigation</b>			
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	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	Yes	Required for some	When child has visible trauma
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	When sought out by family services worker

Table V.B (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for some	Perpetrator willing to be interviewed; Perpetrator is a minor and their parents give permission; Perpetrator is not the child's parent or caretaker or not residing in the home, and in both cases, has not been interviewed by the police in the context of a joint investigation; Perpetrator can be located; Perpetrator does not present a significant risk to the safety of the child or protective parent; Perpetrator will not be informed of the allegation due to the wishes of the youth victim and approval by the child safety manager
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for some	If it is in the best interest of the child; If interviewing is unreasonable given the circumstances; If the safety of any individual will not be jeopardized
n. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable

## Domain W: Child welfare response

Table VI.A. Differential or alternative response

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

Table VI.A (continued)

	Response
c. Other (specify)	Yes - There are 5 factors considered when determining whether to respond with an investigation or an assessment response: (1) there is reason to believe that a child's safety will be jeopardized if parental permission cannot be obtained to interview the child, (2) the nature and severity of the abuse and extent of a child's injury, if any (for example, physical abuse and peer-to-peer sexual abuse can be accepted as an assessment instead of an investigation), (3) the alleged perpetrator's prior history of child abuse or neglect, including history of past reports, investigations or assessments, (4) To the extent known by the reporter, the alleged perpetrator's willingness and capability to accept responsibility for the conduct and engage in a plan of services, (5) Any strengths and formal and informal supports and/or resources that are available or exist within the family and community, including resources and supports for people with disabilities if relevant
<b>8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. At time of screening to screen-out to differential response	No
b. After a report is screened-in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response</b>	
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	Yes
e. Yes—other (specify)	No

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

	Response
<b>1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes—implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. In-home services provided post reunification</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes—implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>3. Tribal involvement in foster care for tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes do not provide foster care	Yes
b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes)	No
c. Unknown	No
<b>4. Foster care extension for those older than 18 years</b>	Yes
<b>5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care</b>	
a. Age 21	No
b. Other (specify)	Yes - 22
<b>6. Foster care case management staff</b>	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>7. Qualifications of foster care case managers</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	Yes
d. Training for case management (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 3 years or more of experience in human services work or community resource development for individuals with a bachelor's degree; 1 year or more of experience in human services work or community resource development for individuals with a master's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No

**Table VI.C. Permanency**

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

## Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table VII.A. Child welfare system context

	Response
<b>1. State or county-administered child welfare system</b>	
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
<b>2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring</b>	No

## Supplemental Notes on State

### Definitions

Foster/kinship parents are often referred to as caregivers or caretakers, and they are included in the definition of “person responsible for a child’s welfare.” Any substitute care provider would also be included in this definition.

Vermont defines a child as an individual under the age of majority, which is 18.

### Reporting

If the state needs to seek court involvement through a Child in Need of Care or Supervision petition, the identity of the reporter would become known in the affidavit. Reporters are informed of this during training. A member of the public can refuse to give their name, and therefore remain anonymous.

### Screening

The state screens and accepts reports without knowing each piece of information (fields are marked “unknown,” and more information is collected later):

1. Identity, address, or other contact information of the reporter
2. Name and address of parents or person responsible for the child's care
3. Age of the child
4. Nature and extent of the child's injuries, together with any evidence of previous abuse and neglect of the child or the child's siblings
5. Any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries or reasons for the neglect, as well as in protecting the child and assisting the family

Screeners staff are part of a specialized team or unit called Centralized Intake & Emergency Services (CIES). Screener staff qualifications include a master’s degree without any years of experience. Those without a post-baccalaureate degree need to satisfactorily complete 12 to 18 months experience as a family services worker trainee in the Department for Children and Families.

### Investigations

Other activities that could be part of an investigation, but are not required, are taking photographs of trauma visible on a child who is the subject of a report, seeking consultation with a physician, and, if the physician deems it appropriate, giving the child a radiological examination.

For investigation staff with a master’s degree, experience is not required. For those without a post-baccalaureate degree, satisfactory completion of 12 to 18 months experience as a family services worker trainee in the Department for Children and Families fulfills minimum qualification requirement.



## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Breach of the Peace; Disturbances, Vt. Stat. Ant. § 13-19 (2019).

Child Welfare Services, Vt. Stat. Ann. § 33-49 (2019).

Children and Persons Who Are Incompetent, Vt. Stat. Ann. § 13-25 (2019).

Guardianship, Vt. Stat. Ann. § 14-111 (2019).

Human Trafficking, Vt. Stat. Ann. § 13-60 (2019).

Vermont Department for Children and Families. (n.d.). *CVR 13-172-200*. Retrieved September 16, 2019.

Vermont Department for Children and Families. (n.d.). *Transition age youth*. Retrieved August 19, 2019, from <https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/FSD/Rules/7000.pdf>

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