

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 | MD |
| b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 24 |
| c. Census region code | South |
| 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 | No |
| 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 | 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 | 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 | No |
| z. Other definition (specify) | No |
| 2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse | Abuse includes physical injury and sexual abuse; Sexual abuse includes sexual trafficking; Mental injury is a subtype of both abuse and neglect; Female genital mutilation would be accepted as physical abuse, if the parent performed the mutilation |

Table II.A (continued)

| | Response |
|--|---|
| b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect | Neglect includes failure to meet parent responsibilities, malnourishment, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, and medical neglect; Mental injury is a subtype of both abuse and neglect; Female genital mutilation would be accepted as neglect, if the parent allowed it to occur |
| c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect | Not applicable |
| 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 | 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) | Yes - There is no need to identify perpetrator for sex trafficking cases |

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 | Any individual can be a perpetrator of sex trafficking; For neglect, a perpetrator can only be a parent, guardian, or caregiver of the alleged victim |
| 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 | No |
| b. Discipline, physical discipline as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child | Yes |
| c. Safe haven exemption, newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven laws | Yes |
| d. Infant testing positive drugs – medical, newborn with positive test for controlled substance as a result of parent's medical treatment | Yes |
| e. Religious observance, parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment | No |
| f. Other exemption (specify) | Yes - Physical injury of a child by accidental means |
| 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 - 10 days old or younger |
| d. No intent to return | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| 2. How reporting is decentralized | |
| a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline | Yes |
| b. Some counties or regions have own reporting hotline | No |
| c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment | |
| a. Known abuse and neglect | No |
| 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, some mandated reporters |
| 7. Specific penalties for failure to report | |
| a. Criminal charges | No |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| 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 | 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 | Yes |
| h. Identifying and other information of family/household members | Yes |
| i. Information on prior maltreatment | Yes |

Table III.A (continued)

| | Response |
|---|---|
| j. Other (specify) | Yes - Collateral contact; The general condition, emotional and physical state, and proximity to threat of all children; The family's likely level of cooperation or overall receptivity to accepting agency intervention or assistance; Any potential danger to an investigating worker |
| 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) | No |
| c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous | Yes |
| 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 | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| b. School staff – teachers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff | Yes | Logical Skip | No |
| d. Before/after school program staff | Yes | Logical Skip | No |
| e. Child care staff | Yes | Logical Skip | No |
| f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators | Yes | Logical Skip | No |
| g. Athletic coaches or staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| h. Medical or dental professionals | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers | Yes | Logical Skip | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| 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 | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| t. Volunteers | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |

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).

Table III.B (*continued*)

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 | No |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | No |

Table IV.A (continued)

| | Response |
|--------------------|---|
| f. Other (specify) | Yes - Any factors that suggest a child is at immediate risk of harm, including present or impending dangers; Name and contact information of non-offending parents or caretakers; The names and contact information of other people with information regarding the child(ren), family, or alleged maltreatment and of protective adults who may be available; Household composition and demographics (name, age, gender, race, and ethnicity) for all members of the household and their relationship to each other; For family members, any addresses, phone numbers, places of employment, and school or childcare, as applicable; The general condition, emotional and physical state, and proximity to threat of all children; The caretakers' level of functioning, mental and physical health, emotional state, ability to parent, use of alcohol or drugs, and, attitudes toward or perceptions of, the child(ren); The child(ren)'s level of functioning, mental and physical health, emotional state, and behavior, including the effects on the child of child maltreatment, caregiver behavior, and family conditions; The level of family functioning, including the presence of domestic violence; Living arrangements, household activity (including people in and out of the home), and the condition of the residence; Specific caregiver behavior indicative of child maltreatment; Any known prior incidents of abuse or neglect; Whether the maltreatment represents a change for this family and a description of conditions in the home when the family was doing better; The family's likely level of cooperation or overall receptivity to accepting agency intervention or assistance; Any potential danger to an investigating worker; The legal status of the child(ren), e.g., custody orders, exparte orders, criminal proceedings, or interstate compact issues; The reporter's name, relationship to the family, source of information, motivation for making a report at this time, and recommendations regarding the situation; Any possible language or communication barriers, including the need for interpreter services; Specific questions related to domestic violence |
| 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 | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Other (specify) | Yes - Review of sex offender registry and MD Judiciary Case search; Complete Child Abuse/Neglect (CAN) screening and response time assessment; Check history on Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) dashboard | Required for all | Not applicable |
| 5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening | | | |
| a. Structured Decision Making | Logical Skip | — | — |
| b. Other (specify) | Logical Skip | — | — |
| 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 - Screeners must be properly trained on Structured Decision Making (SDM) or, screening practices aligned with Family-Centered Practices, and apply screening policies that allow screeners to obtain the most comprehensive and complete information possible to inform decision making and subsequent agency actions |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| 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 | No |
| d. Law enforcement | Yes |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 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 - The agencies responsible for investigating reported cases of suspected sexual abuse, including the local department, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and the local State's Attorney, shall implement a joint investigation procedure for conducting joint investigations of sexual abuse, which includes ongoing training program for personnel involved in the investigation or prosecution of sexual abuse cases |
| 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 some | For child abuse or neglect in child care facilities, CPS shall conduct interviews with any adult or child who may have witnessed the alleged abuse or neglect |
| e. Risk or safety assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| f. Evaluation of home environment or home study | Yes | Required for some | Allegations involving the child's home environment being unsafe |
| 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 | Only if considered pertinent |
| k. Mental health evaluation | Yes | Required for some | If mental injury is suspected, an assessment by two of the following: (1) a licensed physician, (2) a licensed psychologist, or (3) a licensed social worker |
| l. Interview alleged perpetrator | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| m. Interview reporter or collateral source | Yes | Required for some | When necessary and appropriate |
| n. Other (specify) | Yes - Parental screening for substance use | Required for some | Required only if applicable |

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table VI.A. Differential or alternative response

| | Response |
|--|----------|
| 1. Differential/alternative response | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes—implemented statewide | Yes |
| 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 | 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) | No |
| 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 | Unknown |
| 6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. No risk | No |
| b. Low risk | Yes |
| c. Moderate risk | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| e. Unknown | No |
| 7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| 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 - A reassessment of the report or relevant facts that demonstrate that the case meets the criteria for an Alternative Response and a determination that accepted services would address all issues of risk of abuse or neglect and child safety |
| 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 - If the case does not meet criteria to receive services via in-home services |

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 | No |
| b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes) | Yes - Tribes are not specified |
| 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 | No |
| c. Tribal agency staff | Yes |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 7. Qualifications of foster care case managers | |
| 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) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | No |

Table VI.C. Permanency

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

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table VII.A. Child welfare system context

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 1. State or county-administered child welfare system | |
| a. State-administered | Yes |
| b. County-administered | No |
| c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties) | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring | Yes - L.J. vs. Massinga (only applies to out-of-home placement in Baltimore City) |

Supplemental Notes on State

Reporting

The Department of Human Services does not require training for mandated reporters; however, individual employers and governing bodies may require training on a regular basis. For instance, each local public school system requires staff to be trained yearly.

Screening

The Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange, MD CHESSIE, is the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) for Maryland.

Investigations

A report screened in as an investigative response can be changed to an alternative response if the worker obtains information that meets the criteria for an alternative response after the investigation has begun.

Child welfare response

For cases not eligible for alternative response, the local department must consider whether it has other information leading to a conclusion that an alternative response would not be the most appropriate intervention to meet the needs of the family or to ensure the safety of the children. The supervisor takes into account the following factors in making this determination, although the mere presence of one of the factors does not rule out assignment to alternative response:

1. History of a family's inability or refusal to participate in an alternative response assessment, including those situations where a family refuses the worker access to a child; family refuses to discuss allegations; family refuses to cooperate, and risk and safety are a concern; or family rejects the services necessary to address immediate safety issues for the child
2. Multiple similar reports (within 120 days)
3. Allegations that the individual suspected of abuse or neglect is responsible for domestic violence currently occurring in the home
4. Criminal history bearing on child safety
5. A current expressed threat of serious harm to child
6. A need for law enforcement for worker's/child safety. Involving law enforcement to conduct a joint response or to address environmental threats that are not specific to the child or family does not preclude the department from providing an alternative response
7. A court has ordered an investigation

Child welfare context

Maryland's consent decree only applies to out-of-home placement in one jurisdiction, Baltimore City.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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