



Technical Appendix to SCAN Policies Database Fact Sheets on Definitions of Child Maltreatment, Reporting, Screening, and Investigations

OPRE Report 2022-168

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July 2022

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Overview

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 has published information collected and verified from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for state definitions and policies for calendar year 2019. The data, codebook, and additional information are available through the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://scanpoliciesdatabase.com>) and the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/datasets/dataset-details.cfm?ID=245>). To explore state variation in policies, the SCAN project team produced four fact sheets that are on the SCAN website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). Each fact sheet focused on policies related to one of the following topics: definitions of child abuse and neglect, reporting child maltreatment, screening reports of child maltreatment, and investigations of child maltreatment reports.

In this technical appendix, we provide tables of the findings underlying the four fact sheets. Each chapter aligns with a separate fact sheet, and each finding is listed with the states contributing to it. Findings are written in full sentences and on separate lines to make it easier for readers to share specific findings and the states associated with them. We have bolded key distinguishing terms in each finding and list them in the same order as the fact sheet to help readers locate statements from the fact sheets within these tables. Table 1 provides an external link to each fact sheet on the SCAN website and internal links to corresponding chapters and tables within this technical appendix. The full SCAN Policies Database and an interactive tool to explore data for specific states is available at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/explore-data>.

Table 1. Links to fact sheets, chapters, and tables

Fact sheet	Chapter	Tables
“How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?”	Chapter 1. Findings on Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect	1.1. Types of maltreatment in states’ definitions of child abuse and neglect 1.2. States’ exemptions from their definitions of child maltreatment 1.3. Conditions of state safe haven laws under which parents can relinquish newborns 1.4. Ages of children specified in states’ definitions of child maltreatment 1.5. State inclusion of perpetrators in their definitions of child maltreatment 1.6. Types of perpetrators included in state definitions of child maltreatment
“How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?”	Chapter 2. Findings on Reporting	2.1. Centralization of states’ systems for receiving reports of suspected child abuse and neglect 2.2. Tribes’ involvement in accepting reports of suspected child abuse and neglect involving American Indian or Alaska Native children 2.3. States’ reporting standards for making a report for child maltreatment 2.4. Types of information requested by states at the time of a child maltreatment report 2.5. Professions included by states as mandated reporters 2.6. States’ child maltreatment reporting training requirements for mandated reporters 2.7. Criminal, civil, and professional penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect 2.8. Adults who can receive penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect 2.9. Criminal, civil, and professional penalties for making false reports of child maltreatment
“How Do Policies for Screening Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?”	Chapter 3. Findings on Screening	3.1. Centralization of states’ systems for screening reports of suspected child abuse and neglect 3.2. Types of information requested by states to screen reports of child maltreatment 3.3. States’ decision processes to screen reports of child maltreatment 3.4. Required activities in states’ processes to screen reports of child maltreatment 3.5. Roles and qualifications of staff who can screen reports of child maltreatment 3.6. Tribes’ involvement in screening reports of suspected child abuse or neglect involving American Indian or Alaska Native children
“How Do Laws and Policies for Investigating Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?”	Chapter 4. Findings on Investigations	4.1. Required activities in states’ processes to investigate reports of child maltreatment 4.2. Roles and qualifications of staff who can investigate reports of child maltreatment 4.3. Levels of evidence for substantiation of child maltreatment

Chapter 1. Findings on Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect

This chapter focuses on findings presented in the fact sheet “How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). This included findings on state definitions of types of maltreatment, risk of harm, type of harm, exceptions, perpetrators, and child age. Additional information on state statutes for definitions is available at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/definitions>.

Table 1.1. Types of maltreatment in states’ definitions of child abuse and neglect

Finding	States
100% of states include physical abuse in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include sexual abuse or sexual exposure in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include emotional maltreatment in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include human trafficking or sexual exploitation in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include neglect in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include medical neglect in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include abandonment in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include inadequate supervision or failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
98% of states include inadequate shelter in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
98% of states include inadequate clothing in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
96% of states include malnourishment in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
96% of states include corporal punishment or severe discipline in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
94% of states include abusive head trauma or shaken baby syndrome in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
92% of states include drug or alcohol misuse in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
90% of states include failure to thrive in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
90% of states include failure to protect in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
88% of states include exposure to a drug lab or location where illegal substances are made in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
87% of states include injurious environment in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
83% of states include prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
81% of states include exposure to domestic violence in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
81% of states include causing or permitting a child to be exposed to or take an illegal substance in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
73% of states include educational neglect in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

Finding	States
50% of states include institutional abuse or neglect in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming
46% of states include female genital mutilation in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
42% of states include factitious disorder by proxy in their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 1.2. States' exemptions from their definitions of child maltreatment

Finding	States
100% of states exempt the relinquishment of newborns in accordance with state safe haven laws from their definition of child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
79% of states exempt the use of religious or spiritual forms of medical treatment from their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
79% of states exempt physical discipline that is considered reasonable and does not cause bodily injury from their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
58% of states exempt financial inability to provide for a child from their definition of child abuse and neglect.	Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
50% of states exempt substance-exposed newborns from their definition of child abuse and neglect when newborns test positive for substances given their parent's medical treatment.	Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet "How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 1.3. Conditions of state safe haven laws under which parents can relinquish newborns

Finding	States
85% of state safe haven laws specify that the maximum age of the child is 31 days or less as a condition under which parents can relinquish newborns.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
13% of state safe haven laws specify that the maximum age of the child is between 45 and 90 days as a condition under which parents can relinquish newborns.	Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas
90% of state safe haven laws specify that the child must be left by a parent or parent’s representative as a condition under which parents can relinquish newborns.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
65% of state safe haven laws specify that the child is left with no intent of the parent to return as a condition under which parents can relinquish newborns.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
65% of state safe haven laws specify that the child is left unharmed as a condition under which parents can relinquish newborns.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 1.4. Ages of children specified in states' definitions of child maltreatment

Finding	States
All states specified the age of children as younger than 18 as part of their definition of child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
38% of states had additional conditions for those younger than 18 as part of their definition of child maltreatment.	Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming
29% of states' definitions of child maltreatment included conditions for youth older than 18 as part of their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah
15% of states included youth up to age 21 if the child is in the care of the child welfare agency as part of their definition of child maltreatment.	Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Utah

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on pages 3–4 of the fact sheet “How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 1.5. State inclusion of perpetrators in their definitions of child maltreatment

Finding	States
98% of states defined perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
58% of states defined perpetrators differently based on the type of maltreatment.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
40% of states did not define perpetrators differently based on the type of maltreatment.	Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet “How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 1.6. Types of perpetrators included in state definitions of child maltreatment

Finding	States
96% of states include parents as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
94% of states include guardians as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
94% of states include persons responsible for or in authority of the child as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
87% of states include caregivers or other care providers as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
63% of states include household members as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
52% of states include family members of the parent's significant other as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
33% of states include any adult as perpetrators in their definition of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet "How Do Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Chapter 2. Findings on Reporting

This chapter focuses on findings presented in the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?”

(<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). This encompasses findings on states’ reporting laws and policies, including use of centralized reporting, reporting standards, mandated reporting, and false reporting.

Table 2.1. Centralization of states’ systems for receiving reports of suspected child abuse and neglect

Finding	States
71% of states receive all reports through a centralized statewide hotline .	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia
23% of states receive some reports through local reporting hotlines in some or all counties .	Alabama, California, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states receive some reports through other channels, including local law enforcement .	Colorado, South Dakota, Virginia

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.2. Tribes’ involvement in accepting reports of suspected child abuse and neglect involving American Indian or Alaska Native children

Finding	States
In 23% of states, tribes directly accept reports that involve American Indian or Alaska Native children.	Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming
In 6% of states, tribes collaborate with public child welfare agencies when accepting reports involving American Indian or Alaska Native children.	Alabama, California, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.3. States' reporting standards for making a report for child maltreatment

Finding	States
In all states, the standard for making a report for child maltreatment is that the reporter has reasonable cause , meaning trustworthy information or perception, to believe a child was abused or neglected.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
65% of states also use a narrower reporting standard that the reporter has knowledge of child abuse or neglect .	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet "How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.4. Types of information requested by states at the time of a child maltreatment report

Finding	States
100% of states request information to identify the child , including name, date of birth, age, or demographics, at the time of a child maltreatment report.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states request the child or family's location and contact information at the time of a child maltreatment report.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states request information on the type of suspected maltreatment at the time of a child maltreatment report.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
92% of states request information on the alleged perpetrator , including contact information and relationship to alleged victim, at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
88% of states request the reporter's identifying information and other information, including contact information, at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
83% of states request a parent, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker’s identifying information and other information, including contact information, at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
81% of states request a family or household member’s identifying information and other information, including contact information, at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
79% of states request the date of suspected maltreatment at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
62% of states request information known about prior maltreatment of the child or siblings at the time of a child maltreatment report.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
46% of states request other information at the time of a child maltreatment report, such as the alleged perpetrator’s knowledge of the report and safety concerns for investigators.	Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.5. Professions included by states as mandated reporters

Finding	States
33% of states have universal mandated reporting , meaning all adults are required to report child maltreatment.	Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
100% of states include school teachers as mandated reporters.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include medical or dental professionals as mandated reporters.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states include mental health providers, counselors, or other social services professionals as mandated reporters.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
98% of states include police or other law enforcement as mandated reporters.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
96% of states include child care staff as mandated reporters.	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
83% of states include foster parents as mandated reporters.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
83% of states include emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel as mandated reporters.	Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
79% of states include substance use disorder treatment providers as mandated reporters.	Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
77% of states include religious clergy as mandated reporters.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
75% of states include before- or after-school program staff as mandated reporters.	Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
75% of states include bus drivers as mandated reporters.	Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
71% of states include camp staff as mandated reporters.	Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
69% of states include athletic coaches or sports staff as mandated reporters.	Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
63% of states include Guardians ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates as mandated reporters.	Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
56% of states include other court personnel as mandated reporters.	Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
56% of states include shelter staff as mandated reporters.	Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
52% of states include volunteers as mandated reporters.	Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

Finding	States
50% of states include district attorneys or other attorneys as mandated reporters.	Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
48% of states include individuals who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images as mandated reporters.	Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming
44% of states include judges as mandated reporters.	Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming
96% of states include other professions not in the above categories, such as coroners and domestic violence or sexual assault victim advocates, as mandated reporters.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.6. States' child maltreatment reporting training requirements for mandated reporters

Finding	States
38% of states require child maltreatment reporting training for all or some mandated reporters .	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
37% of states require mandated reporting training for teachers .	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin
19% of states require mandated reporting training for school bus drivers or other transportation staff .	Alaska, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin
15% of states require mandated reporting training for mental health or social services professionals .	Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania
13% of states require mandated reporting training for medical or dental professionals .	Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania
13% of states require mandated reporting training for before- or after-school program staff .	California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Pennsylvania
12% of states require mandated reporting training for police or law enforcement .	Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet "How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.7. Criminal, civil, and professional penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect

Finding	States
100% of states have laws or policies that stipulate penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
92% of states have criminal penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
27% of states have civil penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect.	Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, Wyoming
13% of states have professional penalties , such as having professional licensure suspended or revoked, for failure to report child abuse and neglect.	Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, New York, Texas, Wisconsin

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.8. Adults who can receive penalties for failure to report child abuse and neglect

Finding	States
58% of states have penalties for all mandated reporters who fail to report child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
33% of states have penalties for all adults who fail to report child maltreatment.	Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
10% of states have penalties for some mandated reporters who fail to report child maltreatment.	Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Vermont
All states with universal mandated reporting specify penalties for failure to report.	Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
87% of states without universal mandated reporting specify penalties for all mandated reporters for failure to report child abuse and neglect.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 2.9. Criminal, civil, and professional penalties for making false reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
All states provide immunity from penalties for reporters who act in good faith when making reports of suspected child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
79% of states specify penalties for making false reports of child maltreatment.	Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
67% of states have criminal penalties for false reporting of child maltreatment.	Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
31% of states have civil penalties for false reporting of child maltreatment.	Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah
6% of states have professional penalties for false reporting of child maltreatment.	Illinois, Maine, New York

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Chapter 3. Findings on Screening

This chapter focuses on findings presented in the fact sheet “How Do Policies for Screening Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?”

(<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). This encompassed findings on states’ screening policies, including use of centralized screening, information required to screen reports, decision processes for screening, and required screening activities.

Table 3.1. Centralization of states’ systems for screening reports of suspected child abuse and neglect

Finding	States
69% of states have centralized screening or one statewide screening unit.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia
23% of states have decentralized screening in which each county has its own screening unit.	Alabama, California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
8% of states have decentralized screening in which some but not all counties have their own screening unit, or counties have their own screening units during certain times of the day.	Massachusetts, Nevada, North Carolina, Washington

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Policies for Screening Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 3.2. Types of information requested by states to screen reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
90% of states require information on the type and severity of suspected child maltreatment to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
71% of states require the address, contact information, or other information to locate the child to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
67% of states require other information , such as information to locate the child's parent or caretaker, to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
65% of states require the child's name, age, race, or other identifying information to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
56% of states require information on the alleged perpetrator's identity, relationship to child, and any information to locate the alleged perpetrator to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
38% of states require information on the date of suspected maltreatment to screen in a report for a response from the child welfare agency.	Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet "How Do Policies for Screening Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 3.3. States' decision processes to screen reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
94% of states have screening decision processes that are consistent statewide .	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states have screening decision processes that vary locally .	Alabama, Minnesota, Ohio
92% of states use supervisory review for screening reports.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
63% of states require supervisory review for screening all cases .	Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
29% of states require supervisory review for some cases .	Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Virginia
13% of states use a team-based decision process for screening.	Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Ohio
4% of states require a team-based decision process for screening all cases .	Minnesota, Ohio
10% of states require a team-based decision process for screening some cases .	Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Massachusetts, Montana
29% of states use individual staff , such as screeners, to make screening decisions independently or with the use of criteria or a tool for screening decision support.	Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin
21% of states require individual staff, such as screeners, to make screening decisions independently or with the use of criteria or a tool for all cases .	Arkansas, California, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Utah, Virginia

Finding	States
8% of states require individual staff, such as screeners, to make screening decisions independently or with the use of criteria or a tool for some cases .	Connecticut, North Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 3.4. Required activities in states' processes to screen reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
98% of states have required activities as part of their screening process.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
92% of states have required activities for screening reports of child maltreatment that are consistent statewide .	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states have required screening activities that vary locally .	Minnesota, Ohio, Texas
87% of states require a review of agency records to identify prior involvement with child protective services.	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
81% of states require a review of agency records to identify prior involvement with child protective services for all cases .	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states require a review of agency records to identify prior involvement with child protective services for some cases .	Kansas, Mississippi, Vermont
73% of states require a safety or risk assessment as part of the screening process.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
69% of states require a safety or risk assessment as part of the screening process for all cases .	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states require a safety or risk assessment as part of the screening process for some cases .	Colorado, Mississippi, Nevada
50% of states require another activity or other information as part of screening reports of child maltreatment, such as a review of criminal history.	Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 3.5. Roles and qualifications of staff who can screen reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
79% of states specify that staff from specialized units or staff roles , such as intake workers and hotline staff, can conduct screening.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
54% of states specify that caseworkers, social workers, or other frontline staff can conduct screening.	Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
52% of states specify that supervisors or case managers can conduct screening.	Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
6% of states specify that other staff can conduct screening.	Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee
81% of states require that staff who conduct screening have a bachelor's degree .	Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
25% of states require that staff who conduct screening have a master's degree .	Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington
10% of states require that staff who conduct screening have an associate's degree .	Kansas, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota
65% of states require training for screening as a qualification for staff who conduct screening.	Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
42% of states require experience as a qualification for staff who conduct screening.	Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet "How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?" (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 3.6. Tribes’ involvement in screening reports of suspected child abuse or neglect involving American Indian or Alaska Native children

Finding	States
In 15% of states, tribes conduct screening for reports that involve American Indian or Alaska Native children.	Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming
In 19% of states, tribes collaborate with public child welfare agencies when screening reports involving American Indian or Alaska Native children.	Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 4 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Chapter 4. Findings on Investigations

This chapter focuses on findings presented in the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Investigating Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). This included findings on states’ laws and policies for investigating reports of child maltreatment, such as required activities, staff, and level of evidence required to substantiate or confirm that child maltreatment occurred.

Table 4.1. Required activities in states’ processes to investigate reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
100% of states have required activities as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states require an interview or observation of the child identified as the child maltreatment victim in the report as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states require an interview of the child’s parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in the child’s home as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
100% of states require a risk or safety assessment as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	All states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico
94% of states require an interview or observation of other children living in the child victim’s home as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
92% of states require a review of agency records of the child or parent’s prior involvement with child protective services as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
90% of states require an interview or in-person visit with the alleged perpetrator as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Finding	States
88% of states require a visit to the child's home as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
88% of states require an interview with the person who made the child maltreatment report or others who might provide information about the alleged maltreatment as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
83% of states require a check of child welfare agency records or a central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations of the alleged perpetrator or other adults in the home as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
75% of states require an evaluation of the home environment or a home study as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
71% of states require a medical evaluation be obtained as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
69% of states require other activities , such as coordination with a law enforcement agency or other child welfare agencies, as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
63% of states require a check of criminal records of the alleged perpetrator or other adults in the home as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin
42% of states require a mental health evaluation for the child or caregiver as part of an investigation of child maltreatment.	Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia

Findings on Investigations

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Investigating Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 4.2. Roles and qualifications of staff who can investigate reports of child maltreatment

Finding	States
88% of states specify that caseworkers, social workers, or other frontline staff can conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
69% of states specify that law enforcement can conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
65% of states specify that staff from specialized units or staff roles , such as intake workers and hotline staff, can conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin
42% of states specify that supervisors or case managers can conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin
31% of states specify that other staff , such as medical examiners, can conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia
88% of states require that staff who conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports have a bachelor's degree .	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
27% of states require that staff who conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports have a master's degree .	Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington
69% of states require prior training as a qualification for staff who conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
50% of states require prior experience as a qualification for staff who conduct investigations of child maltreatment reports.	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: States could choose multiple staff roles and other requirements for staff qualifications. These findings are presented on page 2 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Investigating Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>).

Table 4.3. Levels of evidence for substantiation of child maltreatment

Finding	States
98% of states have laws specifying that substantiated child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties.	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
17% of states require credible or substantial evidence to substantiate a child maltreatment report.	District of Columbia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania
17% of states require probable cause to substantiate a child maltreatment report.	Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Vermont
63% of states require a preponderance of evidence to substantiate a child maltreatment report.	Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
2% of states did not provide information on the level of evidence required to substantiate a child maltreatment report.	North Dakota

Source: SCAN Policies Database.

Note: These findings are presented on page 3 of the fact sheet “How Do Laws and Policies for Investigating Reports of Child Maltreatment Vary Across States?” (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/fact-sheets>). In general, preponderance requires a determination based on weighing all evidence to find whether an allegation is “more likely than not.” Probable cause could allow an investigator to consider only evidence for the allegation in determining whether an allegation is likely. A credible or substantial evidence standard is similar to probable cause in that an investigator could consider only whether there is adequate credible evidence in favor of an allegation.



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