

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Nebraska

Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies to create a database of those definitions and policies that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 2023 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between June 2023 and July 2024. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2023. The scope of topics in the database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect, as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' response and context are also included.

The content in the SCAN Policies Database is organized into six domains. The state profiles, codebook, data collection protocol, and data file are also organized by these domains. In the protocol, each question begins with a letter prefix identifying the domain for each variable. The six domains with the identifying protocol number prefix are listed below.

Domain	Question prefix
Definitions	D
Reporting	R
Screening	S
Investigation	I
Child welfare response	W
Child welfare system context	C

State profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. Each of the six domains contain a set of tables that depict the state's information for all variables within that domain.

The state profile presents data for each variable with “yes,” “no,” “unknown,” or other response, as appropriate. The response of “unknown” appears for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with that state. In some cases, “logical skip” appears when a question was not applicable to a particular state, given a related response on a preceding question. Some information was not included in the state profile to ensure alignment with Executive Orders or other Presidential Actions.

Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources, and notes about specific topics. The data user's guide includes appendices, including information about changes to the data between 2021 and 2023 that reflect changes to state laws and policies during that time period. There is one data user's guide that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Codebook:** The codebook provides information about each variable in the data set, including variable names, labels, definitions, protocol number, variable type, and frequencies. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **Errata statement:** The errata statement presents corrections applied to previous rounds of data for the SCAN Policies Database. Starting in 2023, there is one errata statement that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' laws and policies as part of the data review and coding process for each round of data collection. There are separate data collection protocols for each round of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from the National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>).

More information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>. General inquiries can be submitted to SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com.

State identifying information

Table I. State Identifying information

	Response
State abbreviation	NE
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	31
Census region code	Midwest
State verified coding of information	Yes
State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
State definitions and policies for calendar year	2023
Data version	2023v1

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table D.I. State's definition of child maltreatment

	Response
1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Physical abuse	Yes
b. Excessive corporal punishment	Yes
c. Sexual abuse	Yes
d. Emotional maltreatment	Yes
e. Neglect	Yes
f. Inadequate clothing	Yes
g. Inadequate shelter	Yes
h. Malnourishment, inadequate food	Yes
i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care	Yes
j. Failure to thrive	Yes
k. Educational neglect	Yes
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	Yes
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	No
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	No
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	Yes
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	Yes
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	Yes - Dependency (no child maltreatment has been identified, however the parent or caregiver is, or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent or caregiver)
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Abuse includes physical abuse, unreasonable use of confinement, cruel punishment, and emotional abuse
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes physical neglect, abandonment, educational neglect, domestic violence, and substance use

Table D.1 (*continued*)

	Response
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Sexual Concerns includes sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; Human trafficking includes sex trafficking and labor trafficking; Dependency (when no child maltreatment has been identified, however the parent or caregiver is, or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent or caregiver)
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 person	No
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	No
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member or parent's paramour	No
f. Household member	No
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	No
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	Not applicable
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 19
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	Yes - Age for child maltreatment is under 19 years old, except for the following: (1) left unattended in a motor vehicle if the child is 6 years and younger and (2) educational neglect has to involve a child at least 6 years of age, but younger than 13 years of age

Table D.II. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

	Response
1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child	Yes
b. Discipline; physical discipline, if 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 and safe surrender laws	Yes
d. Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn with positive test for controlled substance due to parent's medical treatment	Yes
e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	No
f. Other exemption (specify)	No
2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers	Yes
b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	No
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 30 days old or younger
d. No intent to return	No
e. Child must be left unharmed	No
f. Other (specify)	No

Table D.III. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases

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

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized reporting	Yes
2. Decentralized reporting	Logical Skip
3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
4. Universal mandated reporting	Yes
5. Required training for mandated reporters	No
6. Penalties for failure to report	Yes, all adults
7. Specific penalties for failure to report	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
8. Penalties for false reporting	No
9. Specific penalties for false reporting	Logical Skip
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 and contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type and 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 or household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes
j. Other (specify)	No

Table R.I (continued)

	Response
12. Anonymity of reporter	All reporters can remain anonymous
13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to accept reports of Tribal cases	No, Tribes are not involved
14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment	
a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be reported for child maltreatment, but they could be reported if they meet certain criteria	Yes
b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment	No
c. Other (specify)	No
15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)	No

Table R.II. Types of mandated reporters

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required ¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report ²
a. Foster parents	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
d. Before- /after-school program staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	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	Yes
m. Judges	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
p. Other court personnel	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
t. Volunteers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes

Table R.II (*continued*)

	Response	Response	Response
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Any adults	Logical Skip	Yes - All adults

¹ Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table R.II). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and all mandated reporters require training (Table R.II).

² Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I).

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table S.I. Screening policies

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

Table S.II. 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	—	—
3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening	Yes		
4. Activities or information required as part of screening			
a. Safety or risk assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Special Considerations; A mandatory collateral call is required if any special considerations exist	Required for some	When one of the following applies: (1) Younger than age 25 AND one of the following: (a) alleged to have mental health diagnosis, (b) alleged to be using methamphetamine, (c) former state ward, (d) alleged to be involved in a relationship involving domestic violence, or (e) has a criminal history involving violent crimes; (2) has a current open Child Protective Services (CPS) or Adult Protective Services (APS) case; (3) has had three unaccepted reports in the past 6 months; (4) has had a previous termination of parental rights or relinquishment due to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) intervention with a parent not amenable to services

Table S.II (*continued*)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured decision making	Yes	—	—
b. Other (specify)	No	—	—
6. Consistency of screening activities/information			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—

Table S.III. Screeners

	Response
1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	No
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 - New Worker Training, which is a fourteen-week training model that combines instructor-led training that focuses on application through role play and simulation with distance learning and field training
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Supervisors must have experience with 1) performing case management responsibilities in protective services, alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile justice probation, counseling or social services delivery and 2) leading, coordinating, directing, monitoring, and/or supervising others
f. Other (specify)	No
3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners	Yes, required
4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases	No, Tribes are not involved

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

	Response
1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties	Yes
2. Investigator for reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
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 - New Worker Training, which is a fourteen-week training model that combines instructor-led training that focuses on application through role play and simulation with distance learning and field training
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Supervisors must have experience with 1) performing case management responsibilities in protective services, alcohol/drug abuse, juvenile justice probation, counseling or social services delivery and 2) leading, coordinating, directing, monitoring, and/or supervising others
f. Other (specify)	No
4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators	Yes, required
5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)	Preponderance of evidence
6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding	No

Table I.II. Required activities/information for investigation

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Certain activities or 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 some	If a different response is requested by law enforcement, such as if interviews should be conducted by the Child Advocacy Center
d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	Yes	Required for some	If coordinating a joint assessment with law enforcement
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	For any assessment involving medical issues or where the alleged child victim is seen by a doctor or hospital
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for some	Contact the reporter for additional information as necessary

Table I.II (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Gather information from sources other than the family (verbal and written reports from law enforcement, therapists, school personnel, juvenile probation, diversion, and others); Develop a genogram for each family; Contact the appropriate law enforcement agency before initiating an assessment of the child and family to request that a joint investigation and assessment be completed; Request to be accompanied by law enforcement when initiating contact with the family; Provide and review with the family the Under 2 Packet and observe the child's sleeping arrangement utilizing the Nebraska Safe Sleep Environmental Checklist as a guide and discuss with the caregivers about Safe Sleep	Required for some	Gathering information from sources other than the family and developing genograms are required for all cases; Request that a joint investigation and assessment be completed with law enforcement unless Investigative Team protocols have established a different response; Request to be accompanied by law enforcement when initiating contact with the family if the following concerns regarding any household members are identified in the intake or otherwise known to the Department:(1) Manufacturing of a controlled substance, (2) History of use of deadly force or use of a deadly weapon, (3) Fentanyl use/presence in the home; Providing the Under 2 Packet and reviewing sleeping arrangements are required when any child in the home is under the age of 2

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1. Differential/alternative response	Yes--implemented statewide
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible
3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. Cases involving child fatalities and near-fatalities	Yes
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	No
d. Sexual abuse	Yes
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
g. Other (specify)	Yes - Labor or sex trafficking; Neglect that results in serious bodily injury, requires hospitalization of the child, or results in an injury to the child that requires ongoing medical care, behavioral health care, or physical or occupational therapy, including a growth delay, which may be referred to as failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due to parental neglect; Physical abuse to the head or torso or physical abuse that results in bodily injury; Out-of-home child abuse or neglect; Domestic violence involving a caretaker in situations in which the alleged perpetrator has access to the child or caretaker; A child has had contact with methamphetamine or other nonprescribed opioids, including a positive drug screening or test
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	No
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No other cases or conditions	No
b. No immediate safety concerns	Yes
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	Yes
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Any family that does not meet an exclusionary criterion and are determined eligible after a Review, Evaluate and Direct (RED) Team
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	
a. At the time of screening to assign to differential response	No
b. After a report is screened in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No

Table W.I (continued)

	Response
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	Yes
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	Yes - The family will be offered supports and services when available and appropriate

Table W.II. In-home services, foster care, and permanency

	Response
1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families	Yes--implemented statewide
2. In-home services provided post reunification	Yes--implemented statewide
3. Permanency	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
4. Foster care case management staff	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	Yes
5. Qualifications of foster care case managers	
a. Associate degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	Yes - New Worker Training, which is a fourteen-week training model that combines instructor-led training that focuses on application through role play and simulation with distance learning and field training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers	Yes, required

Table W.III. Tribal foster care and Tribes that directly operate Title IV-E programs through an agreement with HHS

	Response
1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases	Yes, Tribes within state provide foster care - The Omaha Tribe; Santee Sioux Nation; Winnebago Tribe
2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	No
3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	Logical Skip
4. Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	Not applicable

Table W.IV. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

	Response
1. Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law	Yes
2. Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law	
a. Identifying a child's Tribal status	Yes
b. Use of active efforts to prevent removal/reunite families	Yes
c. Notification of child's parents and Tribe for child custody proceedings	Yes
d. Actively working to involve a child's parents and Tribe during the custody proceedings	Yes
e. Identifying a foster care or pre-adoptive placement using ICWA preferences provisions	Yes
f. Use of qualified expert witnesses	Yes
3. State law codifying ICWA includes state-recognized Tribes	No

Table W.V. Extended foster care

	Response
1. Foster care extension for youth older than age 18	Other - Nebraska's extended foster care is called the Bridge to Independence Program, which is a voluntary program for youth who aged out of foster care, were discharged into independent living from foster care, or entered into a guardianship or adoption agreement at age 16 or older
2. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care	Up to age 21 (until 21st birthday)
3. Youth must proactively request, provide consent, or opt-in to receive extended foster care	Yes
4. Criteria for youth to remain in extended foster care	
a. There are no criteria to remain in extended foster care	No
b. Enrolled in school	Yes
c. Employed	Yes
d. Participating in workforce development/training program	Yes
e. Comply with independent living/self-sufficiency plan	Yes
f. Receive independent living or other services	Yes
g. Medical condition exemption	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
5. Reentry to extended foster care allowed for youth older than age 18 who aged out or left foster care	Yes
6. Conditions for youth to reenter extended foster care	
a. Youth consent or sign a voluntary placement agreement	Yes
b. Youth develop an independent living plan	No
c. It is in the best interest of the youth	No
d. Other (specify)	No

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

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

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

A parent or caregiver who encourages or allows the child to engage in high-risk behavior or illegal activity such as theft, assault, or substance use is considered a subtype of neglect under improper supervision.

Reporting

Mandated reporters will remain anonymous to the family they are reporting but their information may be shared with the Child and Family Services Specialist during the investigation, law enforcement, the county attorney, or Attorney General's Office.

Screening

Staff responsible for screening are known as Child and Family Services Specialists.

Investigations

Nebraska has the following investigative findings: Court Pending; Court Substantiated; Agency Substantiated; and Unfounded.

Staff responsible for conducting investigations are known as Child and Family Services Specialists.

Child welfare response

Nebraska's decision to provide in-home services is not based on substantiated findings, but rather if there is a need to provide services. Nebraska provides in-home services to all families (which may include unsubstantiated cases) where the children are determined to be:

1. Unsafe;
2. Conditionally safe;
3. Safe and at low or moderate risk per Structured Decision Making (SDM) score and the family is requesting services;
4. At high or very high risk per SDM score for future maltreatment of their children; or
5. In need of services and a court of competent jurisdiction has placed the child in the custody of the Department.

Staff responsible for conducting foster care case management are known as Child and Family Services Specialists.

The following cases cannot be assigned to differential response:

1. A household member who either has been convicted or pending conviction of a crime that resulted in the death of a child;
2. When the abuser of the child resides with either the subject of an active traditional response, an individual or family receiving services through the Children and Family Services Protection and Safety section;

3. An individual or family who is involved in a juvenile court petition;
4. A Household Member has been convicted of or has criminal charges pending for manufacturing methamphetamine or other controlled substances;
5. Reports involving murder in the first or second degree or manslaughter;
6. Reports involving assault in the first, second, or third degree or assault by strangulation or suffocation;
7. An allegation that requires a forensic interview at a child advocacy center or coordination with the child abuse and neglect investigation;
8. An allegation being investigated by a law enforcement agency at the time of the assignment;
9. Reports involving a history of termination of parental rights;
10. Absence of a caretaker without having given an alternate caregiver authority to make decisions and grant consents for necessary care, treatment, and education of a child or without having made provision to be contacted to make such decisions or grant such consents;
11. For a report involving an infant, a household member tests positive for methamphetamine or nonprescribed opioids at the birth of such infant.

The Ponca Tribe does not provide foster care to Tribal members, instead the Tribe utilizes the Department of Health and Human Services to provide foster care.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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