

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2021: Alabama

### 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.

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### Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. 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 2021 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between July 2021 and January 2022. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2021. 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

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## State profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. It is organized by six domains, with each section containing 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.

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## Data use resources

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

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources, and notes about specific topics. The data user's guide includes appendices with information on corrections to the SCAN Policies Database 2019 and a summary of changes to the data between 2019 and 2021 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. The codebook includes several appendices, including a list of all sources used to review and code data. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' statutes and policies as part of the data review and coding process. 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/>).

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## More information

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

## State identifying information

Table I. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	AL
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	01
c. Census region code	South
d. State verified coding of information	Yes
e. State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
f. State definitions and policies for calendar year	2021
g. Data version	2021v1

## Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table II. State's definition of child maltreatment

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

Table II (continued)

	Response
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Abuse includes physical abuse, emotional maltreatment (mental injury), sexual abuse, trafficking (sexual exploitation), and punishment
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes inadequate clothing, inadequate food, inadequate shelter, medical neglect, failure to thrive, abandonment, failure to protect, failure to provide supervision, and mental abuse/neglect
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Chemical endangerment includes exposure to a drug lab and illegal substances
<b>3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
<b>4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment</b>	Yes - Abuse definition includes harm or risk of harm; Neglect definition includes failure to protect from risk of harm
<b>5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition	Yes
b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition	Yes
c. Harmful environment, conditions	Yes
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes - Physical abuse and its related subtypes include death, bodily injury, or impairment of physical condition; Neglect and its related subtypes include impairment of mental or emotional condition and harmful environment or conditions (e.g., inadequate supervision, food, shelter, clothing, etc. which put children at risk of harm)
<b>7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Any adult	Yes
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member/parent/paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	Yes - Any person 14 years of age or older

Table II (continued)

	Response
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	For all categories of neglect, the perpetrator is a parent or primary caregiver; For medical neglect, the perpetrator is a parent and guardian; For abuse, the perpetrator is any person age 14 or older
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 - Failure to provide adequate clothing/personal hygiene to the extent it poses a risk of serious harm to the child applies to children under age 12 and to those, regardless of age, who have a disability that prevents self-care; Human trafficking applies to persons under age 19

**Table III. Child maltreatment definition exemptions**

	<b>Response: Yes/No/Unknown</b>
<b>1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child	No
b. Discipline; physical discipline, as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child	No
c. Safe haven exemption; newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven laws	Yes
d. Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn with positive test for controlled substance as a result of parent's medical treatment	No
e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	Yes
f. Other exemption (specify)	No
<b>2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations	Yes
b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	Yes
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 72 hours old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
e. Child must be left unharmed	Yes
f. Other (specify)	No

**Table IV. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases**

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



## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table V. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	No
<b>2. How reporting is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	No
b. Some counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	Yes
c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
<b>4. Universal mandated reporting</b>	No
<b>5. Required training for mandated reporters</b>	No
<b>6. Penalties for failure to report</b>	Yes, all mandated reporters
<b>7. Specific penalties for failure to report</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Sentence of not more than 6 months imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$500
<b>8. Penalties for false reporting</b>	No
<b>9. Specific penalties for false reporting</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Logical Skip
b. Civil charges	Logical Skip
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<b>10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect</b>	Yes
<b>11. Information requested at the time of report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	No
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Identifying and other information of reporter	No
g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker	Yes
h. Identifying and other information of family/household members	No
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes
j. Other (specify)	No

Table V (continued)

	Response
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	No
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	Yes
c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency to accept reports (specify tribes)	Yes - Tribes are not specified
d. Tribes accept reports and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment</b>	
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	No
b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No

**Table VI. Types of mandated reporters**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Types of mandated reporters</b>	<b>Included in state's definition of mandated reporters</b>	<b>Training required<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Subject to penalties for failure to report<sup>2</sup></b>
a. Foster parents	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	Yes	Logical Skip	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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
m. Judges	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	No	No
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	No	No	No
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip

Table VI (*continued*)

<sup>1</sup>Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table V.5). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and all mandated reporters require training (Table V.5).

<sup>2</sup>Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6).

## Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table VII. Screening policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized screening</b>	No
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own screening unit	Yes
b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units	No
c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Information required to screen in report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Vulnerability of the child and potential risk of harm to child
g. Unknown	No

**Table VIII. Screening decision process and activities**

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>1. Decision processes used during screening</b>			
a. Supervisory review	Yes	Required for all	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	No	Logical Skip	—
d. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>2. Variability of decision process used for screening</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	No	—	—
b. Varies locally	Yes	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening</b>	Yes		
<b>4. Activities/information required as part of screening</b>			
a. Safety or risk assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Contact all other children living in the home, if warranted; Report to the district attorney's office and local law enforcement agency any report of child abuse or neglect	Required for some	In-person contact with all other children in the home (required for all cases); Reports must be reported to the District Attorney's office and the local law enforcement agency, according to the County Department's written working agreement with the District Attorney and law enforcement
<b>5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured decision making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - The type of assessment or procedure is not specified	—	—

Table VIII (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>6. Consistency of screening activities/information</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

**Table IX. Screeners**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>2. Qualifications of screener</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	
a. Not required	Yes
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>4. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes conduct screening and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
e. Unknown	Yes



## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table X. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties</b>	Yes
<b>2. Investigator for reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Department of Human Resources staff/worker
<b>3. Qualifications of investigator</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	
a. Not required	Yes
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)</b>	
a. Preponderance of evidence	Yes
b. Credible or substantial evidence	No
c. Probable or reasonable cause	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding</b>	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes	No
c. Unknown	No

**Table XI. Required activities/information for investigation**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
<b>1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process</b>	Yes		
<b>2. Specific activities or information required for investigation</b>			
a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Visit to child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Interview or observation of child victim	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	Yes	Required for some	If considered necessary
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	If considered necessary
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for some	For abuse/neglect, the alleged perpetrator is interviewed in-person unless the person is being criminally investigated, and law enforcement, the District Attorney's office or the defense attorney does not authorize the interview
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Photographs to document physical injuries or conditions of children, or neglectful conditions of child's home.	Required for some	If considered necessary

## Domain W: Child welfare response

Table XII. Differential or alternative response

	Response
<b>1 Differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	No
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	Yes
c. Unknown	No
<b>3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	No
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	No
d. Sexual abuse	No
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
g. Other (specify)	Yes - Any child abuse and neglect based on the definitions of state statutes and the Department
<b>4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Family conditions or circumstances that, if left unchanged, can cause child abuse or neglect
d. Unknown	No
<b>5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response</b>	No
<b>6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No risk	No
b. Low risk	No
c. Moderate risk	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Family conditions or circumstances that, if left unchanged, can cause child abuse or neglect
e. Unknown	No

Table XII (continued)

	Response
<b>7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No other cases or conditions	No
b. No immediate safety concerns	No
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Child at risk of maltreatment and the conditions or circumstances described do not constitute a child abuse or neglect allegation; The perpetrator is under age 14; Children for whom school personnel have reported concerns other than school attendance that indicate there may be a risk of maltreatment
<b>8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. At time of screening to screen out to differential response	Yes
b. After a report is screened in	No
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	No
c. Yes - when families express interest	No
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	Yes - The provision of on-going services is voluntary unless a safety threat exists or services have been court ordered. When the Child Protective Services (CPS) Prevention assessment reveals the children are safe, no significant risks have been identified, and the parents or primary caregivers have protective capacities sufficient to protect the children, the provision of on-going services is not necessary.

**Table XIII. In-home services, foster care, and permanency**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. In-home services provided post reunification</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - implemented statewide	Yes
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>3. Tribal involvement in foster care for tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes do not provide foster care	No
b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes)	No
c. Unknown	Yes
<b>4. Foster care extension for those older than 18</b>	Yes
<b>5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care</b>	
a. Age 21	Yes
b. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Permanency</b>	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
<b>7. Foster care case management staff</b>	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>8. Qualifications of foster care case managers</b>	
a. Associate degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>9. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers</b>	
a. Not required	Yes

Table XIII (continued)

	<b>Response</b>
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No

**Table XIV. Agency staff dedicated to equity**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Child welfare agency uses staff roles/functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity</b>	
a. No staff or roles	Yes
b. Uses cultural brokers	No
c. Uses manager, administrator, or office focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or multicultural or tribal affairs	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>2. Aspects of child welfare process that involve cultural brokers</b>	
a. Screening process	Logical Skip
b. Investigation process	Logical Skip
c. Case management/child welfare response	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<b>3. Specify other staff roles/job functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity</b>	Not applicable
<b>4. Aspects of child welfare process that involve other staff roles/functions used to address disproportionality and/or equity</b>	
a. Screening process	Logical Skip
b. Investigation process	Logical Skip
c. Case management/child welfare response	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip

## Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table XV. Child welfare system context

	Response
<b>1. State- or county-administered child welfare system</b>	
a. State administered	Yes
b. County administered	No
c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring</b>	No



## Supplemental Notes on State

### Definitions

Alabama defines emotional maltreatment as "mental abuse/neglect."

### Reporting

Reporting is decentralized, and some counties have their own child abuse reporting hotline. People who wish to report suspected child abuse and neglect should call their county Department of Human Services (DHR) office or local law enforcement.

If athletic coaches and staff are school staff, they are mandated reporters. If substance abuse treatment providers are included in the category of mental health providers, they are mandated reporters.

DHR accepts child abuse and neglect reports on children with possible Indian or Alaska Native heritage who reside off a reservation. County DHR child welfare staff conduct assessments on these children according to Child Protective Services Policy and Procedures, Safety Assessment. In addition, DHR must meet the immediate safety needs of Indian or Alaska Native children in the following circumstances: (1) Indian children are residents of or are domiciled within an Indian reservation but are temporarily located off the reservation and safety threats have been identified; (2) Regardless of whether a child is a ward of the tribal court or the tribe has exclusive jurisdiction, DHR must provide protection and meet Indian children's immediate safety needs.

### Screening

The intake/screening process is used to determine investigative response time. This is also when a determination is made about whether the child is at risk of maltreatment, even if the report does not rise to the statutory definition of child abuse and neglect.

### Investigations

The level of evidence required for substantiation of child maltreatment is "a preponderance of credible evidence."

In addition to social service caseworkers, social workers and senior social workers investigate cases, and they might require additional qualifications such as social work licensure and a master's degree.

### Child welfare response

Regarding differential response, when the intake information reveals the child might be at risk of maltreatment, the information is considered a "CPS Prevention Referral" and an evaluation of the child or family situation is required. The evaluation process is called as a "CPS Prevention Assessment." For referral to CPS prevention or an alternative response to occur, the information provided at the time of report does not rise to the level of child abuse or neglect according to statutory and departmental definitions, or is insufficient to determine whether a child abuse or neglect report exists. When these situations occur and the intake information reveals the child

might be at risk of maltreatment, the information is considered a CPS Prevention referral and an evaluation of the child or family situation is necessary.

**Child welfare context**

Consent decree is only for safety plans.

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