

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2021: Wisconsin

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 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

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.

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/>).

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
a. State abbreviation	WI
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	55
c. Census region code	Midwest
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
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	No
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	No
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	Yes
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	Yes
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	Yes
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	Yes
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	No

Table II (continued)

	Response
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Physical abuse includes excessive corporate punishment
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, malnourishment, and medical neglect
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable
3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment	No
5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition	Yes
b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition	Yes
c. Harmful environment, conditions	Yes
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No
6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment	No
7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	Yes
8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Any adult	Yes
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member/parent/paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No

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 neglect, the perpetrator is a caregiver; For emotional maltreatment, the perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or legal custodian
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	No

Table III. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

	Response: Yes/No/Unknown
1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child	Yes
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
2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations	Yes
b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	Yes
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 72 hours old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
e. Child must be left unharmed	No
f. Other (specify)	No

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

	Response: Yes/No/Unknown
1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment	
a. Not specified/not 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 was in child welfare custody/foster care	No
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Incident in which a child who has been placed outside the home by a court is suspected to have committed suicide
f. Unknown	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	
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
3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment	
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
4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect	
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

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table V. Reporting policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized reporting	No
2. How reporting is decentralized	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	Yes
b. Some counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	No
c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	No
d. Other (specify)	No
3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment	
a. Known abuse and neglect	No
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
4. Universal mandated reporting	No
5. Required training for mandated reporters	Yes, some mandated reporters
6. Penalties for failure to report	Yes, all mandated reporters
7. Specific penalties for failure to report	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
8. Penalties for false reporting	No
9. Specific penalties for false reporting	
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
10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect	Yes
11. Information requested at the time of report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Identifying and other information of reporter	Yes
g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker	Yes
h. Identifying and other information of family/household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes

Table V (continued)

	Response
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Collateral contacts; Whether they are in the Safe At Home program; Whether services are already in place; Interventions or services needed for the child; How the family may respond to intervention by Child Protective Services (CPS)
12. Anonymity of reporter	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	No
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	Yes
c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous	No
d. Unknown	No
13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	Yes - Tribes are not specified
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency to accept reports (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes accept reports and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
e. Unknown	No
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
d. Unknown	No
15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No

Table VI. Types of mandated reporters

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report²
a. Foster parents	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Yes	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
d. Before- /after-school program staff	Yes	No	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	No	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	Yes	No	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	No	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	Yes	No	Yes
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	No	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	No	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	No	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	Yes	No	Yes
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	No	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	Yes	No	No

Table VI (continued)

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report²
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Mediator; Acupuncturist; Dietician	No	Yes - Mediator; Acupuncturist; Dietician

¹Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table 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).

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

Table VIII. 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	Yes	Required for some	—
d. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—
2. Variability of decision process used for screening			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—
3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening	Yes		
4. Activities/information required as part of screening			
a. Safety or risk assessment	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 - Review criminal and sex offender history	Required for all	Not applicable
5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured decision making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Screen for present and impending danger threats and other emergency conditions	—	—
6. Consistency of screening activities/information			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

Table IX. Screeners

	Response
1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
2. Qualifications of screener	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	No
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	Yes - Staff members whose responsibilities include investigation or treatment of child abuse and neglect or of unborn child abuse shall successfully complete training in child abuse and neglect protective services approved by the department; Caseworkers and supervisors must participate in pre-service training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners	
a. Not required	Logical Skip
b. Required	Logical Skip
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
4. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	Yes - Tribes are not specified
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	No

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table X. Investigations policies

	Response
1. Child maltreatment investigations 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	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	No
3. Qualifications of investigator	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	No
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Investigators and workers who remove children must participate in pre-service training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators	
a. Not required	Logical Skip
b. Required	Logical Skip
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)	
a. Preponderance of evidence	Yes
b. Credible or substantial evidence	No
c. Probable or reasonable cause	No
d. Unknown	No
6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes	No
c. Unknown	No

Table XI. Required activities/information for investigation

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process	Yes		
2. Specific activities or information required for investigation			
a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Visit to child's home	Yes	Required for some	Alleged perpetrator is the child's caregiver or legal guardian or is suspected to be in the child's home
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	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
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 all	Not applicable

Table XI (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Alleged maltreatment and any other type occurring within the family; Child functioning; Adult functioning; Parenting and discipline techniques; Family functioning; Collateral sources of information (e.g. physicians); Identify children who might be subject to Indian Child Welfare Act; Identify services and supports offered; Collaborate with law enforcement on some cases	Required for all	Not applicable

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table XII. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1 Differential/alternative response	
a. No	No
b. Yes - implemented statewide	No
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	Yes - Currently (2021) operating in Barron, Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Dodge, Douglas, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, La Crosse, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Outagamie, Pierce, Racine, Sauk, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago counties
d. Unknown	No
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	No
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	Yes
c. Unknown	No
3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	Yes
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	Yes
d. Sexual abuse	Yes
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
g. Other (specify)	Yes - Methamphetamine abuse by parent caregiver; Chronic neglect or hospitalization due to suspected maltreatment
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes	No
c. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
d. Unknown	No
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No risk	Logical Skip
b. Low risk	Logical Skip
c. Moderate risk	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip

Table XII (continued)

	Response
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	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Assignment to a traditional response or alternative response takes into consideration an array of factors (e.g., presence of imminent danger, level of risk, the number of previous reports, the source of the report, and/or presenting case characteristics such as type of alleged maltreatment and age of the alleged victim); Assignment to the traditional or alternative approach can change based on new information that alters safety threats or levels of risk
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	
a. At time of screening to screen out to differential response	Yes
b. After a report is screened in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	No
c. Yes - when families express interest	No
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	Yes
e. Yes - other (specify)	No

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

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

Table XIII (continued)

	Response
9. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers	
a. Not required	Logical Skip
b. Required	Logical Skip
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip

Table XIV. Agency staff dedicated to equity

	Response
1. Child welfare agency uses staff roles/functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity	
a. No staff or roles	No
b. Uses cultural brokers	Yes
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
2. Aspects of child welfare process that involve cultural brokers	
a. Screening process	Yes
b. Investigation process	Yes
c. Case management/child welfare response	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
3. Specify other staff roles/job functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity	Not applicable
4. Aspects of child welfare process that involve other staff roles/functions used to address disproportionality and/or equity	
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
1. State- or county-administered child welfare system	
a. State administered	No
b. County administered	No
c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties)	Yes
d. Unknown	No
2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring	Yes - Milwaukee County Child Protective Services Settlement

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

State statute defines the following types of child maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, emotional damage, sexual abuse, and methamphetamine manufacture.

There is no specific exemption in state statute for physical discipline, but the statutory definition of "physical abuse" is "physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means." The statute defines what constitutes a "physical injury."

Department of Children and Families (DCF) standards provide that allegations of an infant born with controlled substances or controlled substance analogs in their system should be screened in to develop a plan of safe care and provide services, but that no substantiation decision should be made.

Wisconsin statute defines "unborn child abuse" as follows: "[w]hen used in referring to an unborn child, serious physical harm inflicted on the unborn child, and the risk of serious physical harm to the child when born, caused by the habitual lack of self-control of the expectant mother of the unborn child in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree." DCF standards state that screened-in allegations of unborn child abuse should receive a "services needed" or "services not needed" determination after the Initial Assessment (IA) rather than a substantiation determination.

One of the following criteria needs to be met for a fatality or near-fatality practice review to take place:

1. Any case that was open, either to IA or ongoing, at the time of incident
2. Any case that had 6 contacts with Access in the 12 months before the date of the incident (CPS Access is the process of receiving, analyzing, and documenting reports of alleged child maltreatment and unborn child abuse.)
3. Any case that has 2 or more contacts with Access in the 3 months before the date of the incident
4. Any case that has 2 or more IA's in the 12 months before the date of the incident

Reporting

Tribes are not involved in the county agency's decision on whether to accept a report, but there are cases that are reported to a tribal social services agency. In those cases, the tribal social services agency is involved in accepting the report. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

State statute lists categories of professionals who are mandated to report child maltreatment. Whether school bus drivers or other transportation staff are mandated reporters depends on whether they are considered school employees, which varies from district to district. Camp counselors, camp directors or administrators, and athletic coaches or staff at private sports organizations are not expressly included as categories in the Wisconsin mandated reporter

statute, but an individual in one of these positions could be in one of the other categories in the mandated reporter law, such as child care provider.

DCF does provide a free online training for mandated reporters. However, state law only requires training for certain categories of mandated reporters (for example, school boards require every school district employee to attend). In addition, licensing requirements for certain professions may require mandated reporter training. Certain employers may also require their employees to have mandated reporter training.

Foster parents are not mandated reporters. However, foster parents are required to report serious incidents, including child abuse or neglect concerns. Foster parents receive training on serious incident reporting and what to do if a serious incident occurs. If a foster parent fails to report a serious incident, their foster care license may be revoked.

University of Wisconsin coaches are the only athletic coaches and staff that are mandated reporters.

Professional licensure could be suspended or revoked for failure to report based on the licensing rules of the specific profession. Certain employers may also impose their own penalties for failure to report.

For notifications of a substance-exposed newborn, only reports by physicians are screened in. If anyone else reports a substance-exposed newborn, it could be screened out.

Screening

There are different criteria for reports of abuse of an unborn child and reports of possible medical neglect of a disabled infant.

Some counties have specialized screening staff, and other counties have workers with mixed caseloads (for example, screening along with other functions).

There are no statewide requirements for qualifications for screeners, but counties may set their own qualification requirements.

For county agency cases involving tribal families, tribes are not involved in the county agency's screening process. Some cases that are also reported to a tribal social services agency. In those cases, the tribal social services agency conducts the screening process. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

Investigations

Criminal charges are part of a separate law enforcement process, but law enforcement and CPS may work together in the investigation.

Some counties have specialized investigations staff, and other counties have workers with mixed caseloads (for example, investigations along with other functions).

There are no statewide requirements for qualifications for investigators, but counties may set their own qualification requirements.

Child welfare response

When reports are screened out at CPS Access, agencies are encouraged to refer families to community resources when appropriate. When a report is screened out, but an agency decides to make an offer of services, the agency has initiated voluntary services (assessment and referral), which are optional for families.

Tribes may be involved in the foster care placement process. In some cases, a tribal child may be placed in a home licensed by a tribal social services agency. The involvement in foster care varies from tribe to tribe. In addition, tribal social services agencies conduct all tasks related to foster care for cases that are within their jurisdiction. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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Kinship Care and Long-term Kinship Care, Wis. Admin. Code Ann. § 58 (2020).

Re-entry into out-of-home care for youth 18 years of age or over, but under 21 years of age , Wis. Admin. Code Ann. § 21 (2018).

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