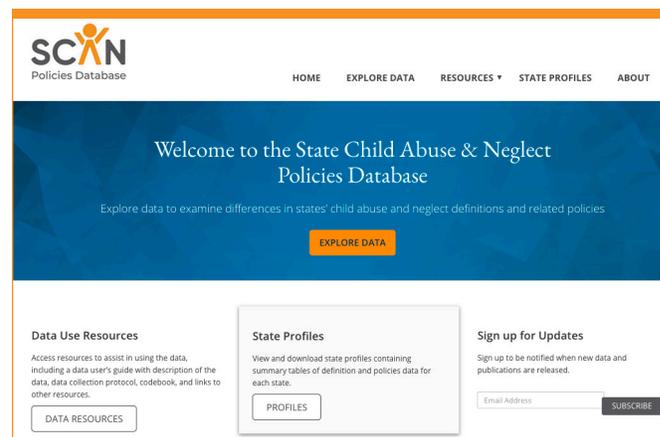


The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and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

Although federal law is the foundation of the child welfare system, states drive much of the structure of their own systems. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g), as amended in 2010, identifies certain acts or behaviors as child maltreatment. States must comply with the broader CAPTA definitions, but within those parameters, states have their own legal definitions. State laws—and the policies states set to enforce these laws—have different definitions of child abuse and neglect and different policies for reporting and responding to child maltreatment.

Data on the definitions and related policies for child abuse and neglect—state by state and over time—can help researchers, analysts, policymakers, child welfare agencies, and others broaden their understanding of differences between states and how these differences may influence rates of child maltreatment.



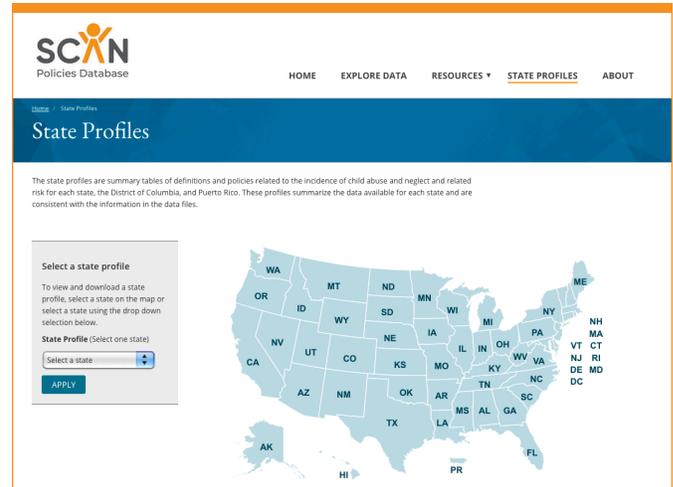
## Purpose

The project’s purpose is to review and compile information from selected child abuse and neglect definitions and related policies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, to create a database of those definitions and policies that can be used for analysis.

A primary benefit of these data is to allow researchers to link the analytic files to other data sources, such as the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), other federal and state administrative data, and survey data. When data from the SCAN Policies Database are linked with other data sources, the linked data can be used to answer important questions about how variations in states’ definitions and policies are associated with the incidence of child maltreatment, the child welfare system response, and ultimately, the safety and well-being of children.

## Highlights

The scope of the topics in the SCAN Policies Database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' response and context are also included. This information represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between May 2019 and July 2020. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2019.



## Access to the SCAN Policies Database

The SCAN Policies Database and data use resources can be accessed via the following sources:



The SCAN Policies Database website at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>

This website provides an interactive tool to view and filter data by state and topic. Users can download the full data file in comma-delimited format and access data use resources. The website also provides state profiles, which summarize data for each state, and additional resources, including state statutes for definitions of child maltreatment.



The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at <https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov>

NDACAN provides access to the full data file in a variety of formats, including commonly-used statistical packages. NDACAN can also provide technical or analytic support for users who access the data from NDACAN.

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