Neglect and Prevention Policies (NAPP) Data

NDACAN Dataset Number 282
USER'S GUIDE

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

Duke University / Cornell University

Phone: 607-255-7799

Email: ndacan@cornell.edu

Website: www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov

Initial release: 2/26/2024

Last Revision: 4/16/2024

Neglect and Prevention Policies Data

Data Collected by

Tola Seng, MSW
University at Albany, State University of New York, New York

Holly White-Wolfe, PhD

Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
University at Albany, State University of New York, New York

Kristcha De Guerre, PhD
Galen University

Distributed by

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

User's Guide Written by

Sarah Sernaker, M.S.
National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

in collaboration with

Tola Seng, MSW
University at Albany, State University of New York, New York

Holly White-Wolfe, PhD

Table of Contents

PREFACE

The data for *Neglect and the Family First Prevention Act* have been given to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) for public distribution by Tola Seng, Holly White-Wolfe, Kristcha De Guerre, and Katharine Briar-Lawson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCE

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and the original collector(s) of the data when publishing manuscripts that use data provided by the Archive. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below.

> The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from *Neglect and Prevention Policies Data* were originally collected by: Tola Seng, Holly White-Wolfe, Kristcha De Guerre and Katharine Briar-Lawson. The collector(s) of the original data, the funder(s), NDACAN, Duke University, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

> Seng, T., White-Wolfe, H., Briar-Lawson, K., & De Guerre, K. (2024). *Neglect and Prevention Policies Data* [Data set]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN). https://doi.org/10.34681/4D21-NR74

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the terms of the *Data License* for this dataset, users of these data are required to notify the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect of any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data. A copy of any completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint should be emailed to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu. Such copies will be used to provide our funding agency with essential information about the use of NDACAN resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities among data users and contributors.

ABSTRACT

Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment and is a frequently occurring reason for family separation to foster care. The *Neglect and Prevention Policies Data* aggregates policy information using data pulled from several sources such as federal agency legislation, implementation websites, and state-level neglect statutes. Presented as several linked data tables, this data package is designed to assist child welfare researchers with analyzing how states address neglect.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Study Identification

Neglect and Prevention Policies Data

Principal Investigator(s):

Tola Seng, MSW
University at Albany, State University of New York

Holly White-Wolfe, PhD

Katharine Briar-Lawson, PhD
University at Albany, State University of New York

Kristcha De Guerre, PhD
Galen University

Purpose of the Study

Aggregated, state-level neglect rates vary greatly across the United States and territories. Likewise, state-level maltreatment statutes related to neglect feature variation in definitions and exclusions. In 2021, Briar-Lawson and De Guerre developed a typology of neglect statutes to better understand how specific features of statutes impact state neglect rates. Study results suggest there is no national standard for neglect definitions and a cluster of states feature neglect rates that warrant further investigation as exemplars, including Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Hawaii. Further details are available here:

> de Gurre, Kristcha, and Katharine Briar-Lawson. "Policy Brief: A Typology of Child Neglect Statutes and Exploration of Rate Variation among States." *Child Neglect, Inequity, & Poverty: Contextual Issues & Implications - Child Welfare League of America*, vol. 1, Child Welfare League of America, 2022, https://community.cwla.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=21971007.

In 2023, Briar-Lawson and De Guerre expanded their research team to include Tola Seng and Holly White-Wolfe. The new team expanded the study focus to examine other state-level policy data related to neglect. These data include meta-data on state-level Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation Plans and supplemental information from two clearinghouses featuring data about evidence-based interventions: the Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (CEBC). These "clearinghouses," or registries, list programs that have been systematically reviewed and codified with research ratings, target audiences, and other qualifying details that establish a program's effectiveness.

Further, the research team conducted content analysis of state-level prevention plans to look for any references to tribal communities – communities that are both exemplars in implementing

neglect prevention strategies and who are vulnerable to neglect investigations. The team examines the alignment of neglect rates and neglect interventions in a forthcoming chapter for the second Child Welfare League of America volume on neglect with an anticipated release in Spring 2024.

Study Design

The study design intends to bring together several policy data sources and implementation data.

Neglect statute data

Each state must define neglect for laws and policy in the context of child maltreatment. These data contain binary indicators as to whether certain terms or definitions were included in a state's definition of neglect, for example, whether the definition of neglect included mention of caregiver substance use.

Family First Prevention plan data

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) seeks to reduce the use of congregate care (e.g. group homes) and to redirect existing Title IV-E Social Security funds towards the prevention of family separation to foster care. Under the Act, states are eligible to seek approval for a state prevention plan that outlines how a state will implement and evaluate selected prevention strategies for candidates who are at risk for foster care. These prevention plans cover a five-year program period and explicitly name selected prevention strategies. States are expected to report on the use of each intervention and the outcomes (such as, reduced entry to foster care) for each candidate served. The Administration of Children and Families, through the Children's Bureau, approves state-level plans and posts any public links to the plans on their website (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data/status-submitted-title-iv-e-prevention-program-five-year-plans). General information about the Title IV-E Prevention Program can be found from the Children's Bureau website: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/title-iv-e-prevention-program.

This data contain meta-data about each state's plan, including the date it was published (or last checked if not published), what Title IV-E Clearinghouse approved evidence-based interventions they include, and whether there is specific mention of Native American/tribal children or partnerships with tribes.

Clearinghouse (evidence-based interventions) data

Two clearinghouses, or registries of evidence-based interventions, are commonly used in child welfare practice settings: The Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the California Evidence-Based (CEBC) clearinghouse.

The Children's Bureau, under the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF), created the Title IV-E Clearinghouse. It features programs that show evidence of effectiveness in four topic areas that are outlined in the federal Family First Prevention Act: mental health, substance use, parenting skills, and kinship care. In contrast to the focus on broader child welfare outcomes of the CEBC, the Title IV-E Clearinghouse was established to create a registry of

programs that may prevent family separation to foster care (Wilson et al, 2019). States applying for Title IV-E reimbursement funding under Family First must select to use interventions in the registry. Further, the ACF incentivizes states to use interventions that are rated as well-supported or that demonstrate the highest levels of effectiveness.

The purpose of the CEBC is to promote practices that evidence suggests can effect positive change for children and families engaged with the child welfare system. CEBC organizes information on primary, secondary, and tertiary programs that are evidence-based to prevent or intervene in child abuse and/or neglect. Further, it has created a rating system that codifies programs to three levels of relevancy (low, medium, and high) that establish what the research suggests about the appropriateness of use with the child welfare population. The California Department of Social Services created this clearinghouse and attaches funding to the use of interventions listed in this registry. Other jurisdictions and funders also guide grantees to select programs from this clearinghouse.

Date(s) of Data Collection

Neglect statute typologies data were established and applied to existing state statutes between 3/2022- 4/2022.

Family First Prevention plan data was collected between 8/2022-11/2023.

Clearinghouse data was collected in June 2023.

Geographic Area

Neglect statutes reflect state-level policies in the United States and Washington, DC.

Family First Prevention plan data includes the fifty American states, territories, and selected tribes (those who are approved to have a Title IV-E program plan).

The clearinghouse data are not organized by geography.

Unit of Observation(s)

The Neglect statute data is organized by state (and DC).

The Family First Prevention plan data is organized by state or Native American Tribe.

The Clearinghouse data is organized by evidence-based plan for each clearinghouse.

Sample

Neglect statute data

Statutes relating to child maltreatment for all 50 states and DC were analyzed for neglect definitions and references.

Family First Prevention plan data

All fifty American states and Washington, D.C. are represented in the bulk of the data. US territories and select tribes are also included in the sample, although some data are incomplete for these entities.

Clearinghouse (evidence-based interventions) data

Evidence-based interventions relating to child welfare are inventoried both within state-level prevention plans and within two clearinghouses: Title IV-E Clearinghouse and the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse. All evidence-based programs included in the Title IV-E Clearinghouse are included in the sample, while only those that show evidence in reducing child abuse or neglect are included from the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse.

Data Collection Procedures

Neglect statute data

The research team used each state's neglect statutes to create the typology. Statutes were drawn the Child Welfare Information Gateway (CWIG) database (https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/, filtered by Resource Type -> State Statutes -> Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect). A random subset of state statutes was crosschecked with the SCAN Policies database of state statutes (https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/definitions) for consistency. CWIG compiles definitions of child welfare neglect and abuse at the state level. Statutes were assessed for particular patterns and similarities and then classified in the emerging typology. In a few instances when there were differences in their assessments, the researchers conferred and reached a consensus on how the statute would be classified in the typology.

Family First Prevention plan data

State-level Family First Prevention plans were inventoried by two researchers who conferred on all data collected. State-level plans were identified through internet searches and the Children's Bureau website (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data/status-submitted-title-iv-e-prevention-program-five-year-plans). In addition, the researchers used reports from the Children's Bureau to confirm the validity of the data (e.g. summary counts of interventions offered by states - https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/programs-and-services-in-approved-state-prevention-program-plans). The plans were also used to conduct content analysis using

Indigenous-related terms. A single researcher used a word search and count to determine if Native American and other Indigenous-related terms were used in the plans.

Clearinghouse (evidence-based interventions) data

Data were collected from on-line data tables, approved state implementation plans, and published reports. The study team created new data tables that are formatted for easy quantitative analysis. Specifically, the Clearinghouse data tables were created by a single researcher who transferred the data from the Title IV-E (https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/) and CEBC (https://www.cebc4cw.org) on-line data tables into excel charts.

Sources of Information

Neglect statute data

Neglect statute data was drawn the Child Welfare Information Gateway (CWIG) database (https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/, filtered by Resource Type -> State Statutes -> Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect).

Family First Prevention plan data

State-level Family First Prevention Plans were inventoried using plans that were identified through internet searches and the Children's Bureau website https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data/status-submitted-title-iv-e-prevention-program-five-year-plans. Validity of these inventories was conducted using the summaries provided by the Children's Bureau here: https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/programs-and-services-in-approved-state-prevention-program-plans).

Clearinghouse data

Clearinghouse data tables were informed by program data from the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/) and the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (https://www.cebc4cw.org/).

Supplemental state codes data table

A supplemental table including state names and abbreviations, FIPS codes, ICPSR codes, regional codes is included in the data package. This was compiled by Alex Roehrkasse from multiple publicly available data sources such as the Census Bureau and ICPSR.

Type of Data Collected

Policy and policy-related data, codified.

Related Publications and Final Reports

Users are strongly encouraged to review published works, based upon these data, before doing analyses. To view a complete list of publications for this dataset, please visit our online citations collection called "canDL" at: or go to the <u>child abuse and neglect Digital Library (canDL) NDACAN webpage.</u>

Analytic Considerations

Neglect statute data

- Terms in state definitions used to discern whether there were qualifiers of neglect other than poverty/financial (relating to variable OH_TH_POV) included:

  o financial inability to provide;
  o inability to provide, even with receipt of assistance;
  o non-provision of subsistence even when able;
  o offered other means and unable to provide;
  o unwilling to pursue or accept financial assistance;
  o mentions financial/income resources.

Family First Prevention plan data

- When the plan link is missing (e.g. plan_link = 99), the plan was not published or publicly accessible, even if it was approved or submitted. Plan links are missing for all tribal agencies.

  In some cases where a plan link is missing, data is still present (non-missing) in the variables measuring the evidence-based interventions (see below). Information for such cases was taken from (Capacity Building Center for States, 2023), a brief overview of programs and services in approved state prevention program plans.

  Missing dates in an observation where the plan link is not missing is due to lack of information reported. For example, WI has a published plan that was reportedly approved on 10/01/2022, but the plan submission, start, and end dates are missing because that content was absent.

  An internet search confirms these plans are not currently posted on public sites at the time of this writing.

- The set of variables from safecare to incredible_sch correspond to the evidence-based programs from the Clearinghouse data. The variable short_var_name in the Clearinghouse Compare data relates to the variable names found in the Family First Prevention plan data. While there are hundreds of programs to choose from, states have been consistently selecting a common subset, therefore not all

programs in the clearinghouse data are found in the Family First Prevention plan data - only those of which that appear in at least one state's plan.

Clearinghouse data

- CEBC data

  o Programs are rated with a child welfare system relevance level of high, medium, or low. The clearinghouse site User Support page of the NDACAN website (https://www.cebc4cw.org/ratings/child-welfare-relevance-levels/) states the following:
  "The Child Welfare System Relevance Level is determined by examining the goals of the program, target population for which the program was developed, and any research that has been conducted for the program to determine its relevance to children and families served by the child welfare system…Please note that the relevance level is not a rating and it should not be used to exclude programs from consideration. Programs that are determined to have a level of medium or low may still be very useful to child welfare populations."

    The levels are defined on the site as:

      ▪ High - The program was designed, or is commonly used, to meet the needs of children, youth, young adults, and/or families receiving child welfare services.

      ▪ Medium - The program was designed, or is commonly used, to serve children, youth, young adults, and/or families who are similar to child welfare populations (i.e., in history, demographics, or presenting problems) and likely include current and former child welfare services recipients.

      ▪ Low - The program was designed, or is commonly used, to serve children, youth, young adults, and/or families with little or no apparent similarity to the child welfare services population.

  o There are two rows for the program Safe Environment for Every Kid because it is the only program to be effective for both primary prevention and secondary prevention. It has a strong evidence rating for primary prevention, but a lower rating for secondary prevention. Primary prevention is for families in general and secondary prevention is for families with risk factors. (https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/safe-environment-for-every-kid-seek-model/)

  o More information about the CEBC rated interventions can be found here:

      ▪ Primary prevention programs (targeted to the general population for the prevention of abuse and/or neglect):

> > https://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/prevention-of-child-abuse-and-neglect-primary-programs/

- - Secondary prevention programs (targeted to families at high risk for abuse and/or neglect): https://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/prevention-of-child-abuse-and-neglect-secondary/

- - Interventions for neglect (targeted to families where basic needs aren't being met): https://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/interventions-for-neglect/

- Title IV-E data

  - o The program ratings are defined in detail on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse website (https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/review-process/psr).

  - o More details about how this clearinghouse rates each program's relevancy for topics such as mental health or substance abuse can be found in Section 2.1.1 of the Handbook of Standards and Procedures (Wilson et al., 2019)[1].

  - o Lilliput Families Kinship Support Services Program and YMCA Kinship Supports Services, YMCA Youth and Family Services of San Diego programs do not have a last review date or program rating because they are "not eligible for review by the Prevention Services Clearinghouse because a written protocol, manual, or other documentation that describes how to implement or administer the practice is not available to the public at this time." (https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/332/show and https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/410/show)

- Compare data

  - o Blank values in the program names indicate the program was not found in that clearinghouse. Blank values in `short_var_name` indicate that program was not referenced in the Family First Prevention plan data.

Confidentiality Protection

Data are about state-level policies and were collected from publicly accessible websites. There are no disclosure risks to any individuals. There are no primary or secondary identifiers in the dataset.

---

[1] https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/psc_handbook_v1_final_508_compliant.pdf

Extent of Collection

There is one table for the Neglect statutes data and for the Family First Prevention plan data, there are 3 tables for the Clearinghouse data, and a supplemental data table with a list of states and corresponding codes (e.g. FIPS, ICPSR, regional code).

This collection consists of the User's Guide, Codebook, and for each data table: one text data file (.dat) with import program files for SAS (.sas), SPSS (.sps), and Stata (.do), a comma-separated formatted data file (.csv), and files native to SPSS (.sav), Stata (.dta), and SAS (.sas7bdat).

Extent of Processing

NDACAN produced the User's Guide, codebooks, data and syntax files formatted for use in SPSS, SAS, Stata, comma-separated, and tab-delimited format for use in spreadsheet and other software applications. Documents that were contributed in MS Word format were modified to meet 508 standards and converted to PDF's.

DATA FILE INFORMATION

File Specifications

Data files are in the file formats SAS, SPSS, Stata, comma-separated, and tab-delimited, and organized as follows:

- Neglect statute data

    o ds282_neglect_statute
      51 observations, 13 variables

        ▪ Data include codified binary indicators about terms and conditions that are explicitly mentioned in a state's statute regarding child neglect.

- Family First Prevention plan data

    o ds282_ffp_plan
      62 observations, 42 variables

        ▪ Data include the child welfare agency for each state or Indian territory, the status of their state-level Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans, a link to the plan if available, when it was submitted, approved and started (if applicable), whether there was mention of the terms Native American or Indigenous in the plan, and indicators as to whether 25 evidence-based programs (detailed in the clearinghouse data) were utilized in their plan.

- Clearinghouse data

    o ds282_clearinghouse_ive
       141 observations, 9 variables

        ▪ Data include information about the programs in the Title IV-E
          Clearinghouse such as program ratings, and indicators about whether the
          program relates to certain topics, such as substance abuse or mental
          health.

    o ds282_clearinghouse_cebc
       27 observations, 9 variables

        ▪ Data include information about the programs in the California Evidence-
          based Clearinghouse such as program ratings, target populations, and
          indicators about whether the program relates to certain topics, such as
          substance abuse or mental health.

    o ds282_clearinghouse_compare
       158 observations, 4 variables

        ▪ Data include the list of program names from CEBC and Title IV-E linked
          to see which programs can be found in either or both clearinghouses.
          There's also a variable that provides an abbreviation of the programs
          referenced in the Family First Prevention plan data.

- State codes

    o ds282_statecodes
       53 observations, 7 variables

        ▪ This supplemental data includes geographic identifiers such as state
          name, abbreviation, FIPS code, ICPSR code, and census region

Data File Notes

Data will be periodically updated to try to capture updates in submitted plans, evidence-based
interventions, or changing policies.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACF – Administration for Children and Families
CEBC – California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse
CWIG – Child welfare information gateway
EBI – Evidence-Based Interventions

EBP – Evidence-Based Programs
FFPSA – Family First Prevention Services Act
FIPS – Federal Information Processing System
ICPSR – Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
SCAN – State Child Abuse & Neglect Policies Database

REFERENCES

Wilson, S. J., Price, C. S., Kerns, S. E. U., Dastrup, S. D., & Brown, S. R. (2019). *Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures, version 1.0*, OPRE Report # 2019-56, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Capacity Building Center for States. (2023). *Programs and services in approved state prevention program plans*. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

de Gurre, Kristcha, and Katharine Briar-Lawson. "Policy Brief: A Typology of Child Neglect Statutes and Exploration of Rate Variation among States." *Child Neglect, Inequity, & Poverty: Contextual Issues & Implications - Child Welfare League of America*, vol. 1, Child Welfare League of America, 2022, https://community.cwla.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=21971007.

Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN.

Please send your inquiries to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu

Visit the User Support page of the NDACAN website for help documents and videos (https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/user-support/user-support.cfm).