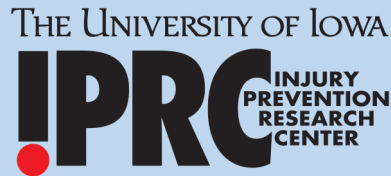


Child Maltreatment Prevention

SCHOOL-BASED RECOGNITION
& RESPONSE TRAINING
POLICIES

June, 2022



The University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center (UI IPRC) conducted a policy analysis examining how reported rates of child maltreatment relate to state laws calling for training of school staff, students, and parents to recognize and respond to child maltreatment. Relevant policies were identified and abstracted, and rates of child maltreatment were derived from the National Child Abuse & Neglect Data System (NCANDS.)

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KEY FINDINGS

- Policies calling for school-based training to recognize and respond to maltreatment may be effective means to identify more instances of harm and intervene in a timely manner.
- The expected substantiated rates of child abuse reports are 1.140 times higher (IRR 1.140, $p = 0.04$) in a state that has a school-based recognition and response training policy than a state that does not.
- The relationship between school-based recognition and response training policies and substantiated rates of child abuse reports was stronger for young children than adolescents.

As of 2018, **IOWA had the 12th highest** annual state rate of substantiated child maltreatment at 1.63%.

Iowa does not have legislation calling for child maltreatment recognition and response training for students or school professionals.



Created by Mohamed Mb

What is child maltreatment?

Child maltreatment is an inclusive term for child neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse.

Effective intervention for child maltreatment and related trauma injury can prevent harms to a child's physical and mental health, as well as harms to family, community, and society. These harms can linger across a child's lifespan and affect generations to come.

The role of education

The education system has policies aimed at preventing child maltreatment and identifying any cases in a timely manner.

Policies include sex offender background checks as a part of school staff hiring processes and mandatory reporting policies, which require school staff to report any suspected instances of child maltreatment.

However, states vary considerably in how schools approach child maltreatment prevention. All educators are mandatory reporters, but policies for educator/ school staff training on how to recognize potential maltreatment can vary from one school system to another.

More training may encourage more accurate reporting and better identify child maltreatment and connect children experiencing abuse or neglect to support.