



Children, Youth & Families Policy: Legislative Trends & 'A Look Ahead'

December 15, 2022



True or False: Research shows that increasing access to affordable housing is the most cost-effective strategy for reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic mobility in the United States.

2022 Economic Mobility Trends

→ 44 states & D.C. passed **482** bills



**Workforce &
Training
Opportunities**



**Tax Credits &
Deductions**



**Administration &
Councils**



**Financial
Literacy**



Housing

Workforce & Training Opportunities

→ **31** states & D.C. passed **85** bills



Bring Historically Underrepresented Populations Into the Workforce

- **Maryland** ([H 158/S 554](#)) created the New Start Grant Program to provide collateral-free business loans to formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **Mississippi** ([H 920](#)), **Colorado** ([S 50](#)) and **Connecticut** ([S 101](#)) established inmate incentive to work programs.



Increase Collaboration & Examine Cross-System Coordination

- **Kentucky** ([S 207](#)), **Louisiana** ([S 107](#)), **Maine** ([H 654](#)), **Pennsylvania** ([H 723](#)) and **West Virginia** ([S 582](#)) established entities to study and coordinate workforce development.
- **Hawaii** ([H 1561](#)), **Iowa** ([H 2165](#)), **New Jersey** ([S 525](#)) and **South Carolina** ([H 3144](#)) addressed workforce readiness through education.

Tax Credits & Deductions

→ 27 states & D.C. passed 76 bills



One-Time Income Tax Credits

- Georgia ([H 1302](#))
- Hawaii ([S 514](#))
- Idaho ([H 436](#))
- Illinois ([S 157](#))



Other Tax Credits

- New Mexico ([H 163](#)) established a 10-year refundable state child tax credit.
- Utah ([S 59](#)) enacted a nonrefundable state earned income tax credit.
- Idaho ([H 509](#)) increased the state's refundable grocery income tax credit 20%.

Administration & Councils

→ 25 states passed **61** bills



Committees, Studies & Task Forces

- **Louisiana** (HCR 94) requested a joint study regarding the potential establishment of a “baby bonds” program.
- The **District of Columbia** (DC B 740) established a study to evaluate the direct cash assistance program.
- **Maine** (H 127) established an advisory committee to implement a strategic plan to end hunger in the state by 2030.
- **New Mexico** (SM 1) required its Workforce Solutions Department to convene a task force to develop recommendations for a paid family and medical leave program that includes a trust fund.
- **Kentucky** (H 7) established a task force to study the impact of the public assistance benefits cliff on labor force participation, employment, wages and benefit duration and usage.

Financial Literacy

→ 17 states passed 31 bills



Require Academic Instruction

- **California** ([A 181](#)) established a block grant program to obtain standards-aligned professional development and acquire instructional materials in financial literacy.
- **Florida** ([S 1054](#)), **Georgia** ([S 220](#)) and **Michigan** ([H 5190](#)) now require high school students to earn at least one-half credit in financial literacy to graduate.



Reach Vulnerable Populations

- **Colorado** ([H 1107](#)) established the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program.
- **Colorado** ([H 1389](#)) created the Colorado Financial Literacy and Equity Exchange Program.
- **Arizona** ([H 2860](#)) established a community treatment program to help incarcerated women and their children develop financial literacy and other skills.



Task Forces & Committees

- **Maine** ([S 408](#)) established a commission to review housing shortages for low-income and middle-income households and the impact of short-term rentals.
- **Georgia** ([HR 1149](#)) and **Louisiana** ([HR 107](#)) passed resolutions to study housing affordability and availability.



Tax Credits and Funding

- **California** ([S 649](#)) extended the low-income housing tax credit program.
- **Kansas** ([H 2237](#)) enacted tax credits for qualified housing projects, established a tax credit for older structures and increased the amount of the tax credit for historic structures.
- **Vermont** ([S 226](#)) reserved funding for grants to first-time homebuyers who are also first-generation homebuyers.
- **Alabama** ([H 171](#)) extended the ability to create a first-time and second-chance homebuyer savings account, allowing deposits for 10 years.

Other Notable Trends:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- **New Hampshire** ([S 404](#)) and **New Jersey** ([A 2361](#)) established outreach programs.
- **California** ([A 2810](#)) now requires each public college and university campus use FAFSA data to identify students who meet the income requirements.

Equity & Economic Opportunity

- **Kentucky** ([S 104](#)) prioritized competitive integrated employment for workers with disabilities.
- **Illinois** ([H 4645](#)) established the Equity in Representation in Health Care Workforce Scholarship.
- **Utah** ([S 62](#)) expanded eligibility for Special Needs Opportunity Scholarships.

Credit, Lending & Banking

- **Illinois** ([S 3032](#)) prohibited higher education institutions from refusing to provide an unofficial transcript because a student has debt.
- **Kentucky** ([H 494](#)) established licensing requirements for some student loan servicers and gives the state authority to investigate them.



Economic Security Mobility

- Policy Experts:
 - Walker Stevens
 - Heather Wilson
 - Cameron Rifkin
 - Heather Hanna
- [Economic Mobility Enacted Legislation Database](#)
- [2022 Economic Mobility Legislative Trends Report](#)



What early childhood topic had the highest number of bill enactments 2022?

- A. Early childhood financing
- B. Child care subsidy and quality
- C. Teachers and workforce
- D. Prenatal, infants and toddlers

2022 Early Childhood Trends

→ 39 states & D.C. passed 158 bills



**Child Care
Subsidies &
Quality**



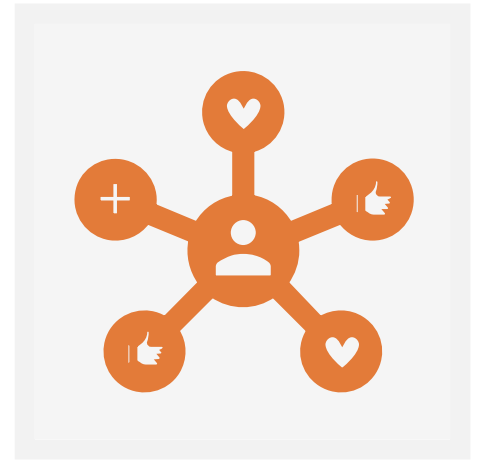
**Early Care &
Education
Workforce**



**Prekindergarten &
School Readiness**



**Early
Childhood
Governance**



**Paid Family
Leave, Home
Visiting & Early
Childhood
Mental Health**

Child Care Subsidies & Quality

→ 26 states passed 80 bills



Increasing the Supply of Child Care

- **New Jersey** ([S 2476/A 4179](#)) Thriving by Three Act appropriated \$25 million in grants to child care providers for equipment, compensation and training.
- **Indiana** ([H 1222](#)), **Michigan** ([H 5041](#)), **Missouri** ([S 683](#)) and **Utah** ([H 15](#)) modified child care licensing requirements to improve quality and/or reduce regulatory burdens for child care providers.



Reducing Cost of Child Care to Families

- **Maryland** ([H 995/S 920](#)) simplified the application process for parents seeking child care assistance and provides reimbursement payments to child care providers.
- **Kentucky** ([H 499](#)) reduced child care costs for some qualifying workers by leveraging matching funds from employers and \$15 million in state general funds.

Early Care & Education Workforce

→ 18 states & D.C. passed 24 bills



Workforce Compensation

- **Colorado** ([H 1010](#)) established the early childhood educator tax credit, **Maine** ([H 1482](#)) continued wage supplements and the **District of Columbia** ([B 632](#)) provided a pay parity grant program.



Preparation for Early Childhood Educators

- **Utah** ([H 290](#)), **Arizona** ([S 1159](#)) and **Virginia** ([H 319/S 616](#)) increased educational requirements for early childhood educators.



Home-Based Child Care

- **Michigan** ([H 5043](#)) established family child care networks.
- **Colorado** ([S 213](#)) created an advisory group to recommend revisions to regulations, policies, procedures and funding for family, friend and neighbor child care.

Prekindergarten & School Readiness

→ 15 states & D.C. passed 25 bills



Expanded Programming and Delivery Models

- **Louisiana** ([S 47](#)) required development of mixed-provider delivery prekindergarten model.
- **Tennessee** ([H 2709/S 2595](#)) allows a local education agency to establish a voluntary prekindergarten program to comprehensively address the cognitive, physical, social and emotional needs of at-risk children.
- **California** ([A 185](#)) and **Hawaii** ([SR 7/SCR13](#)) enacted legislation to explore an expansion of their prekindergarten programming.

Early Childhood Governance

→ 18 states & D.C. passed 31 bills



Service Delivery and Accountability

- **Indiana** ([H 1093](#)) expanded and restructured Early Learning Advisory Committee.
- **Missouri** ([EO 22-01](#)) created Early Childhood State Advisory Council.
- **Rhode Island** ([H 7123](#)) created an early childhood governance working group to make recommendations about the coordination, administration and organization of early childhood programs and services.

Other Notable Trends:

Paid Family Leave

- **Delaware** (S 1) offered 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave within one year.
- **South Carolina** (S 11) and **Utah** (S 100) focused on who qualifies, how long paid leave can be taken and what life events make an employee eligible to receive the benefit.

Home Visiting & Supports to New Parents

- **New Jersey** (S 2023) allocated over \$20 million to home visiting programs.
- **Hawaii** (S 3111) established and funded a pilot program to develop and implement family resource centers.

Early Childhood Mental Health

- **Rhode Island** (S 2614/H 7801) required executive office of health and human services to establish task force to develop plan.
- **Maine** (S 220) expanded its statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program and allocated nearly \$1.5 million in funding for the program for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.



Early Childhood

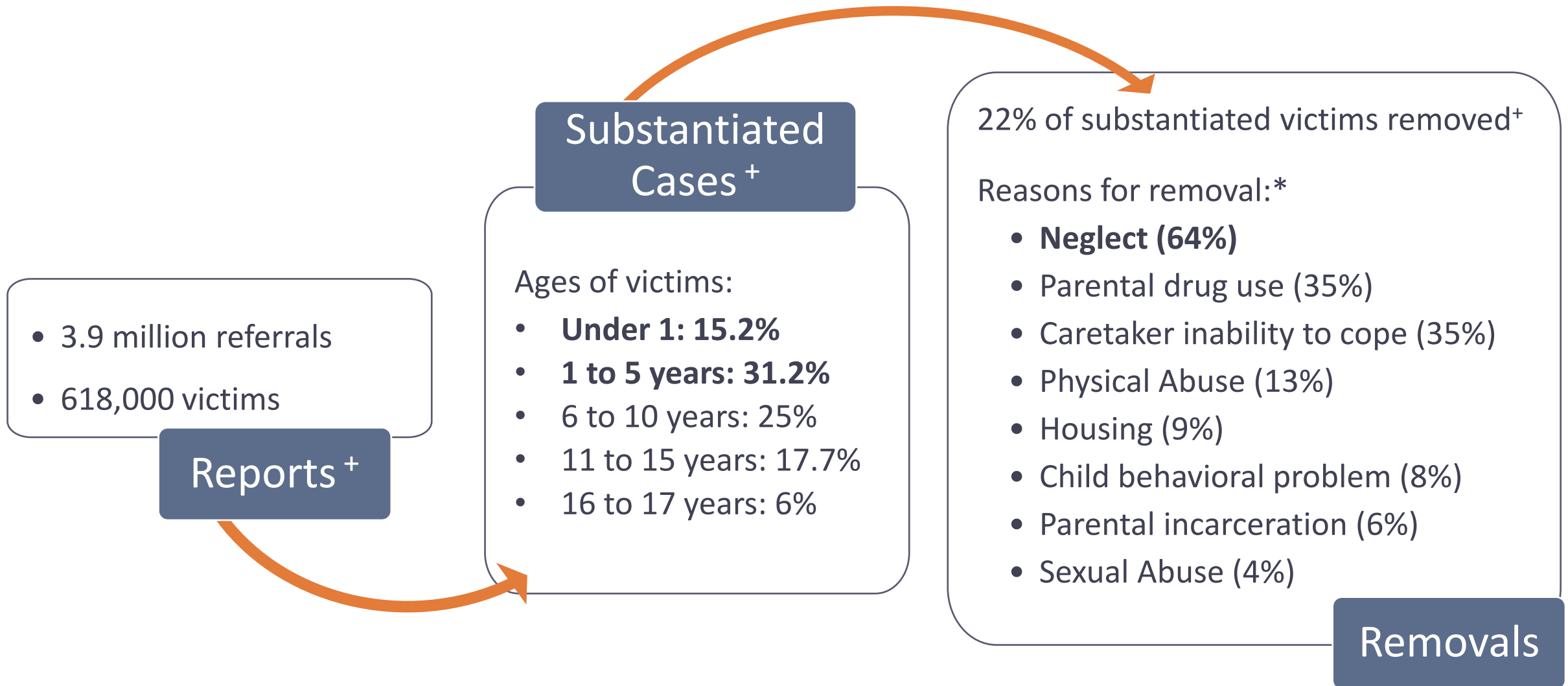
- Policy Experts:
 - **Melissa Mincic**
 - **Alison May**
 - **Jennifer Palmer**
- [Early Childhood Legislation Database](#)
- [2022 Early Childhood Legislative Trends Report](#)



Which of the following policy options are child maltreatment prevention strategies?

- A. Voluntary home visiting programs
- B. Child tax credits
- C. Child support programs
- D. Supplemental nutrition assistance programs
- E. Child care subsidies
- F. Supportive housing programs
- G. All of the above

Child Maltreatment: The Latest National Data



⁺ 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, published Jan. 19, 2022

^{*} The AFCARS Report, published Nov. 19, 2021

Neglect and Poverty



- Neglect and poverty are correlated, but one does not cause the other.
- Those in poverty often have more contact with government systems.
 - More contact → more reports.
 - Poverty is correlated with race and ethnicity → disproportionality.
- Most parents don't intend to neglect their children.
- **Child welfare systems were not designed to prevent poverty.**

Five Reasons Why Prevention Makes Sense

1. Most child maltreatment reports end up not being substantiated.
2. Young children consistently experience higher rates of child maltreatment than older children.
3. Neglect rates have remained high over time.
4. Child maltreatment is expensive and comes with long-term challenges.
5. Existing child welfare practices can perpetuate harm for children and families through the trauma of removal and fear of surveillance.

Policy Levers for Child Maltreatment Prevention

Many states already have these policies, but they aren't always discussed or implemented as child maltreatment prevention strategies!



**Child Care
Subsidies**



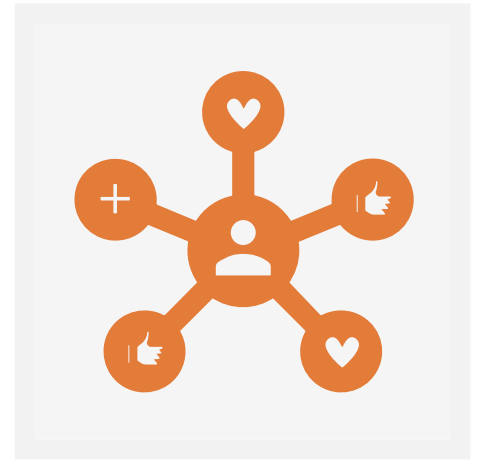
**Earned Income
Tax Credits**



Housing Supports



Home Visiting



**Financial
Literacy & Paid
Leave**

Policy Levers for Child Maltreatment Prevention

Child maltreatment is a complex social problem which means effective prevention will likely require multiple and overlapping strategies. No single strategy will prevent all child maltreatment.



Defining Child Maltreatment



Mandatory Reporting



Cross-system coordination



***Family First* state plans**



Crisis response

Upcoming Child Maltreatment Prevention Resources

Watch for these publications in January 2023.

State Legislative News Exploring Neglect and Poverty

- ☑ Unpack one of the most challenging risk factors for neglect.
- ☑ Explore evidence, research and policy examples.
- ☑ Brief with additional linked resources.

Child Maltreatment Prevention NCSL Webpage

- ☑ Discover more than 30 policy strategies for preventing child maltreatment.
- ☑ Learn what the research shows about preventing child maltreatment.



Child Welfare and Child Maltreatment Prevention

- Policy Experts:
 - **Jill Yordy**
 - **Jenna Bannon**
 - **Alex McWard**
- [Child Welfare Enacted Legislation Database](#)
- Two upcoming prevention-focused resources from NCSL – launching January 2023

A Look Ahead to 2023

Hot Policy Topics

Housing



Child Care Workforce



Adoption



Read more at [NCSL.org](https://www.ncsl.org):
[Housing, Child Care Workers and Adoption Emerge as Priorities](#)



After today's presentation, what are the top two policy areas you anticipate working on in 2023?

- Child Support and Family Law
- Child Welfare (enacted only)
- Early Childhood
- Economic Mobility (enacted only)
- Housing and Homelessness



Children & Families Legislative Databases