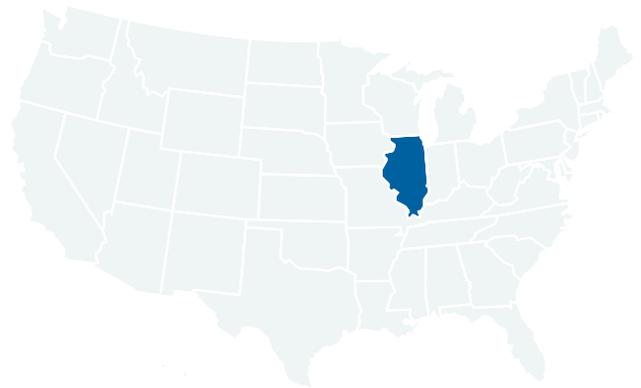


Illinois

Out of the Shadows Index: Shining a Light on Prevention of and Response to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the United States



It takes place mostly in the shadows, but sexual violence against children is happening everywhere, irrespective of income level, age, race, religion and sexual orientation. Yet, child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) can be solved, and there are strategies that have proved to be successful in reducing it. When CSEA is approached as a public health problem, with the child at the center of reforms, progress is possible.

The Out of the Shadows Index United States pilot (the US pilot index) aims to understand how states are tackling CSEA both in person and online. It serves as a tool for policymakers, frontline workers and civil society, capturing state action to combat CSEA and identifying key areas for attention.

Background indicators

Population (m)	12.7
Population under 18 (%)	23.7
Median household income (US\$)	65,886
GDP per head (US\$)	67,137

State summary

Illinois has demonstrated its commitment to tackling CSEA through its various requirements that public schools offer services, education, and training on sexual abuse, trauma, and mental health. In recent years, the state has also taken action to ensure that response services are child-friendly and trauma-informed. Data collection and policy regarding juvenile sex offenders could be improved.

Where has progress been made?

Comprehensive sex education: Illinois not only mandates the provision of sexual education and HIV/STI education to young people, but also imposes a requirement for this education to be medically accurate, evidence based and culturally responsive.

Strong requirements for schools: Teachers and school personnel in Illinois are required to undergo training on child sexual abuse, mental health and the impact of trauma. Additionally, districts are required to establish school-based or school-linked mental health services for students.

Training for law enforcement: Illinois requires regular in-service training for all law enforcement employees on providing a trauma-informed and child-friendly response during sexual abuse investigations.

Child-friendly interviewing: Every child reported to be a victim of sexual abuse has the right to a child's forensic interview conducted by a forensic interviewer from an accredited Children's Advocacy Center.

Quality and timely medical care: Illinois imposes requirements on all hospitals in the state around the quality and timeliness of services for victim-survivors of sexual abuse, with special requirements around the treatment of those younger than 13. Additionally, sexual abuse victims are granted the right to an advocate during any medical evidentiary or physical examination.

What more needs to be done?

Data gaps: There is a paucity of publicly available data on how cases of child sexual abuse reported to law enforcement are received and progress through the justice system.

Juvenile offenders: Illinois has yet to eliminate registration requirements for juveniles who have been adjudicated for misdemeanor and felony sexual offenses. Additionally, the state permits the use of penile plethysmography and polygraphs with juveniles.

Index scores

Overall score

65.9

55.85

Legal Framework & State Capacity

The degree to which a state provides legal protections from child sexual exploitation or abuse.

71

71.78

Policies & Programs

State investment in programs critical to preventing child sexual exploitation and abuse and addressing its risk factors.

66.5

42.88

Provision of Support Services

The availability of short- and long-term support for victims, and the degree to which this support is child-centered and trauma-informed.

60.9

52.29

Justice Process

The capacity of the state's justice system to put the interests of the child at the center of the process.

57.3

53.34

Illinois

All states

1 <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/cac-coverage-maps/>
2 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf>

Out of the shadows: Shining light on the response to child sexual abuse and exploitation

Indicator	Score/100	Indicator	Score/100		
Prevention		Response			
	68.7		59.8		
1.1)	Gender Equality, Gender Protection and Marriage Laws	62	3.1)	Support - Child Welfare	36.3
1.2)	Consent Laws	50	3.2)	Support - Immediate Support and Recovery	62.3
1.3)	Laws Against CSEA	97.9	3.3)	Rehabilitation & Prevention	50
1.4)	Exemptions & Qualifiers	66.7	3.4)	Children's Response to Online Sexual Harms	95
1.5)	Background Checks/Disqualifications	63.3	4.1)	Child-Centered Emergency Response	86.8
1.6)	Data Availability	52.6	4.2)	Police Capacity	54.7
2.1)	Building Individual Skills & Knowledge	68.2	4.3)	Integrated Response and Coordination	75
2.2)	Educating Providers	66.7	4.4)	Judicial Processes	50
2.3)	Promoting Community Education	66.7	4.5)	Legal Representation & Advocacy	30
2.4)	Fostering Coalitions & Networks	66.7	4.6)	Monitoring & Evaluation	14.3
2.5)	Changing Organizational Practice	80			
2.6)	Influencing Policy & Legislation	53.5			

 First quartile (100-75)	 Second quartile (74.9-50)
 Third quartile (49.9-25)	 Fourth quartile (24.9-0)

For a full explanation of indicators, weightings and more detailed information on Illinois's performance, please see the interactive Excel model available on the [US pilot index website](#).

In addition to the full methodology, a report outlining the overall findings is also available.

What is the Out of the Shadows Index?

The World Childhood Foundation USA's (Childhood USA) US pilot Out of the Shadows Index, developed by Economist Impact, examines how stakeholders are responding to the threat of child sexual abuse and exploitation in 12 states. It does not attempt to measure the scale of the problem or incorporate information on the prevalence of sexual violence against children in each state. Rather it uses 182 individual metrics aggregated into 22 indicators and grouped into four categories to measure the extent to which states are acknowledging the problem of sexual violence against children, and whether they are implementing measures to prevent and address the problem holistically.

While the US pilot index can help highlight key areas for attention, existing resources such as the Center for Disease Control's [Technical Package on Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect](#) and [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) offer more detailed information and support for implementation of solutions.

Please use the following when citing this state profile:

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