

Oregon

Estimates of the scale and scope of child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) in the United States (U.S.) are deeply concerning. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at least one-in-four girls and one-in-20 boys will experience sexual abuse during childhood.¹ Beyond the human toll, the financial impacts of CSAE are also substantial: the total economic burden of child sexual abuse in the U.S. was estimated to exceed \$9 billion in 2015, including costs related to health care, child welfare services and lost productivity.²

Yet progress is possible. Evidence-based interventions can prevent sexual violence and reduce harm to survivors and their families when it does occur.^{3,4,5} The United States Out of the Shadows Index (the index)—developed by Economist Impact with support from World Childhood Foundation USA—was created to spotlight state action, and inaction, to tackle CSAE. Drawing on more than 170 metrics, the index assesses how effectively states are adopting essential prevention and response measures and where urgent improvements are still needed.

Score

60.3/100

Rank

6/51

Demographics

Population (m)	4.2
Median household income (\$)	80,160
Poverty rate (% below poverty level)	12.2
Educational attainment, bachelor's degree or higher (%)	37.2
Investment in education per pupil (\$)	15,754

Overview

The state of Oregon has made notable progress in addressing CSAE, ranking sixth overall in the index and earning the second-highest score in the *Provision of Support Services* domain. Despite these advances, significant policy gaps remain—particularly in strengthening prevention capacity and expanding access to trauma-informed response mechanisms.

State spotlights

- In 2024, the Oregon Legislature established a one-time \$7 million grant program to expand access to the critical services and support provided by Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) for child victims of severe abuse in the state.^{6,7}
- Oregon released the fifth edition of the *Oregon Child Forensic Interviewing Guidelines (OIG)* in 2024, offering a general framework for conducting child forensic interviews statewide.⁸
- House Bill 4086, passed in 2024, directs the Oregon Department of Human Services to commission a study of the state's response to children exhibiting problematic sexual behavior, including an assessment of current services and resources available in such cases.⁹

Priority areas for future focus

Strengthen the legal framework protecting children from sexual violence by:

- Adopting a clear statutory definition of sexual consent; and
- Ensuring that anti-grooming legislation explicitly criminalizes engaging in a pattern of behavior intended to facilitate or lead to the sexual abuse of a child.

Boost prevention capacity through:

- Developing a statewide CSAE prevention plan or strategy, encompassing both in-person and online abuse and exploitation;
- Requiring school-based online safety education for students that includes instruction on identifying, avoiding and reporting online sexual harms, including the risks of producing and sharing explicit self-generated content; and
- Mandating regular training on child sexual abuse for employees of youth-serving organizations outside the school setting, to equip them with the skills to recognize and respond to abuse.¹⁰

Guarantee access to services of the highest standards by ensuring *consistent* and adequate funding for CACs to meet service standards and demand.

Promote victim-centered and trauma-informed practice by:

- Eliminating both the criminal statute of limitations and the civil statute of limitations for all CSAE crimes;
- Mandating recurring training on sexual violence for key responders, including law enforcement and prosecutors; and
- Adopting measures to prevent the retraumatization of victims during legal proceedings, applicable to all children up to the age of 18.¹¹

What leaders on the ground are saying

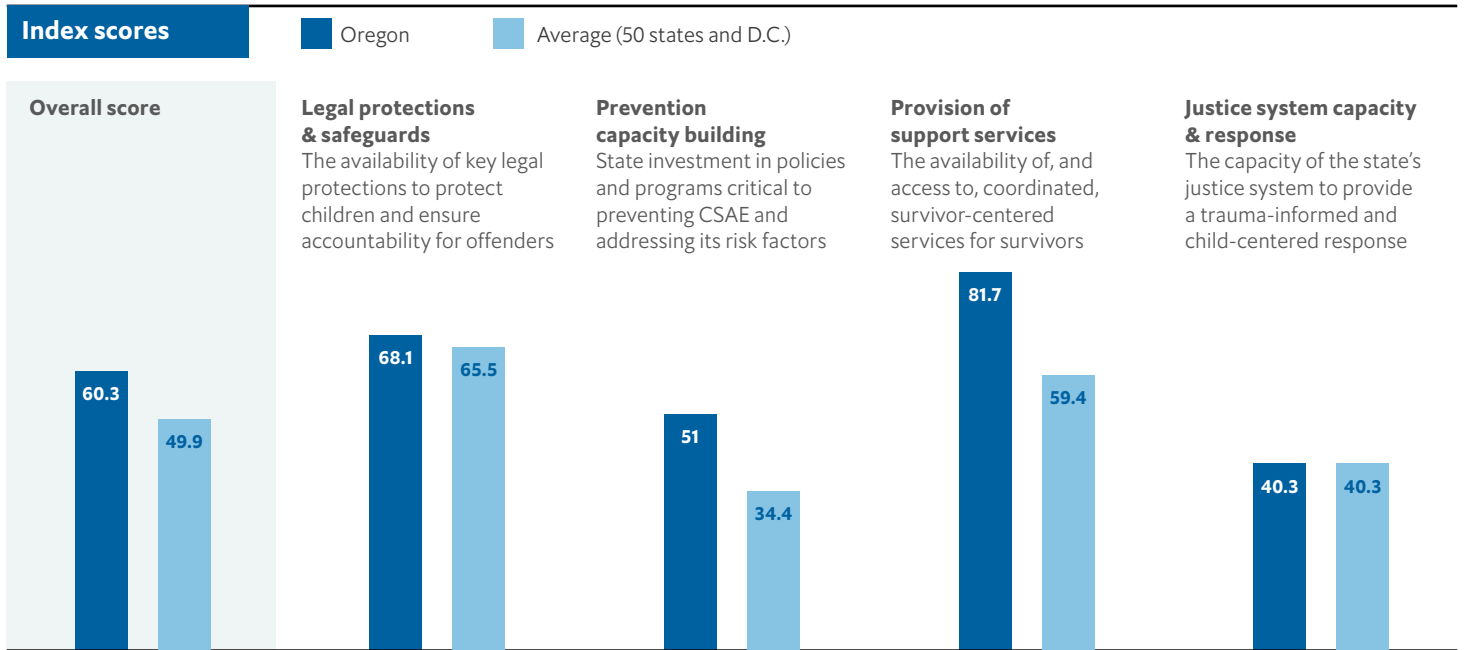
"For leaders of the CAC movement in Oregon, ensuring stable funding and stronger protections for children remains critical. As Shelly Smith, Executive Director of Oregon Child Abuse Solutions, explains, "While the state of Oregon has made an important investment in children's advocacy centers by dedicating \$7 million in one-time funding, the reality is that stable and increased funding is absolutely necessary to sustain and expand the critical services CACs provide in response to child abuse. Every day, children and families impacted by trauma rely on CACs to deliver healing, justice and safety—and that work cannot continue without reliable support. At the same time, Oregon must also pursue additional policy changes to better protect victims of crime, particularly the most vulnerable who are deeply impacted by trauma. By strengthening both our funding and our policies, we can ensure that Oregon's CACs continue to meet the urgent and evolving needs of children and families across the state."

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The United States Out of the Shadows Index: Oregon



Issue spotlights

No
 Partially
 Yes

Legal protections & safeguards	
Statutory definition of sexual consent*	<input type="radio"/>
Minimum legal age for marriage set at 18 without exception**	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
No marital exception or defense permitted under statutory rape laws	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Anti-grooming legislation describes a pattern of behavior to facilitate child sexual abuse†	<input type="radio"/>
Online grooming of a child for sexual abuse is criminalized	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Computer- and/or AI-generated child sexual abuse material criminalized	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Building prevention capacity	
Statewide child sexual abuse prevention plan	<input type="radio"/>
Sex education or HIV/STI instruction required to cover consent (if provided)§	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Mandated child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention and awareness education (students)†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Mandated education on online CSA and/or the risks of sharing explicit self-generated content (students)†	<input type="radio"/>
Mandated training on recognizing and responding to CSA (school employees)†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Mandated training on recognizing and responding to CSA (youth organization employees)†	<input type="radio"/>
Required screening of school employees to prevent educator sexual misconduct¶	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Educator code of conduct with clear teacher/student boundaries outlined	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Provision of support services	
Survivors' right to know about the status of their rape kit†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Survivors' right to an advocate during medical examinations†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Minors' authority to consent to medical care following sexual violence†	<input type="radio"/>
Statute designating CACs as the preferred response to allegations of CSA†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
State funding for CACs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Extended period for CSA survivors to apply for Crime Victim Compensation†,§	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Alternatives to police report to access Crime Victim Compensation†,§	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Justice system capacity & response	
Mandated training for law enforcement: sexual assault†	<input type="radio"/>
Mandated training for law enforcement: trauma-informed practice†	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Mandated training for prosecutors: sexual assault†	<input type="radio"/>
Mandated training for prosecutors: trauma-informed practice†	<input type="radio"/>
Criminal statute of limitations: full elimination for all CSA crimes‡	<input type="radio"/>
Civil statute of limitations: full elimination for all CSA claims against all defendants‡	<input type="radio"/>
Permanently opened revival window for all claims against all types of perpetrators†	<input type="radio"/>
Minors up to age 18 permitted to testify via alternative means (e.g., CCTV) in criminal proceedings involving CSA†	<input type="radio"/>

The findings reflect the most recent available data at the time the research was conducted. Research for the pilot states was completed in 2022/23, for the second iteration states in 2023/24, and for the remaining states and the District of Columbia in 2024/25. For more details, see the methodology report.

The Issue Spotlights figure features a limited sample of the data included in the index. For the full set of indicators and a detailed explanation of the scoring, sources and weightings, please see the project's methodology report and interactive model.

Endnotes

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About Child Sexual Abuse," accessed July 24, 2025, <https://www.cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/about/about-child-sexual-abuse.html>
2. Elizabeth J. Letourneau et al., "The Economic Burden of Child Sexual Abuse in the United States," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 79 (May 2018): 413–22, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.02.020>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Resource_508.pdf.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Preventing Sexual Violence: A Technical Package of Policies, Programs, and Practices*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/SV-Prevention-Resource_508.pdf.
5. Together for Girls. *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children: Evidence Review*. Together for Girls, 2021. <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/what-works-to-prevent-sexual-violence-against-children-evidence-review>.
6. Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are organizations located throughout the US that help facilitate a multidisciplinary and child-centered response to CSAE. These centers bring together several of the key actors—law enforcement, child protective services investigators, medical and mental health professionals, forensic interviewers, victim advocates, and more—under one roof, helping to minimize the number of times a child has to be interviewed and offering critical therapeutic and other support to children and their families.
7. Oregon State Legislature, 2024 Regular Session, SB1579, <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/SB1579#:~:text=abuse%20response%20programs,-The%20Act%20directs%20DOJ%20to%20create%20a%20one%20time%20grant,to%20victims%20of%20child%20abuse>
8. Oregon Department of Justice, 2024, "Oregon Child Forensic Interviewing Guidelines Fifth Edition", <https://www.doj.state.or.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Oregon-Child-Forensic-Interviewing-Guidelines-Fifth-Edition-09.18.24.pdf>
9. Oregon State Legislature, 2024 Regular Session, HB4086, <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/HB4086>
10. Oregon law requires education providers to train school employees annually on the prevention and identification of abuse and sexual conduct (OR Rev. Stat. § 339.400). However, no similar requirement exists for employees of other youth-serving organizations, such as after-school programs or daycares.
11. Testimonial aids are designed to protect children who have experienced sexual abuse from further trauma during judicial proceedings. These measures may include allowing child survivors to provide testimony through alternative means—such as closed-circuit television or prerecorded statements—instead of live, in-court testimony. Additionally, many jurisdictions recognize a child sexual abuse-specific hearsay exception, which permits the admission of non-testimonial out-of-court statements, provided the statements meet established standards of reliability and admissibility under applicable evidentiary rules.

Symbols

- † This reflects whether the state has a statute explicitly mandating this requirement.
- ‡ This data, which is integrated into the index, was sourced from CHILD USA.
- * This reflects whether the state has established a clear statutory definition of "sexual consent" that includes reference to consent being "freely" or "voluntarily" given.
- ** This reflects whether the state has established a statutory minimum legal age for marriage of 18, without exceptions such as parental consent, judicial approval, or pregnancy-related allowances.
- § This reflects whether the state has an anti-grooming law that explicitly defines or describes grooming (or a similar term) as a pattern of behaviors intended to build trust with a child to facilitate sexual abuse. Laws that solely address isolated acts such as luring or enticing a minor—without recognizing the broader behavioral pattern—were not considered. To meet the criterion, laws must explicitly cover in-person grooming, not just online interactions.
- §§ This reflects whether sex education is required by law or through state standards that have the force of law. This data, which is integrated into the index, was sourced from SIECUS.
- ¶ This data, which is integrated into the index, was sourced from Enough Abuse and is current as of October 2024.
- # "No" refers to states whose statutes establishing eligibility criteria for Crime Victim Compensation impose a strict deadline to apply, based solely on the date of the crime or its report to law enforcement, with no explicit exceptions for children or victims of sexual abuse. "Partially" applies to states with vague or discretionary exceptions (e.g., "good cause") or that allow minor victims a fixed time beyond age 18 to apply (e.g., until 21 or 25). "Fully" applies to states that impose no time limit on applications from victims who were minors at the time of the crime and/or were victims of sexual abuse.
- ## "No" refers to states whose statutes establishing eligibility criteria for Crime Victim Compensation require victims to report the crime to law enforcement, with no exceptions for children or victims of sexual assault. "Partially" applies to states that allow some exemptions to the law enforcement reporting requirement for minors or victims of sexual assault, but those exemptions are time-bound, narrow, or vaguely defined (e.g., based on "good cause" without clear standards). "Fully" applies to states that provide various, clearly defined alternatives to reporting to law enforcement — or impose no reporting requirement at all — for minors or victims of sexual assault.

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