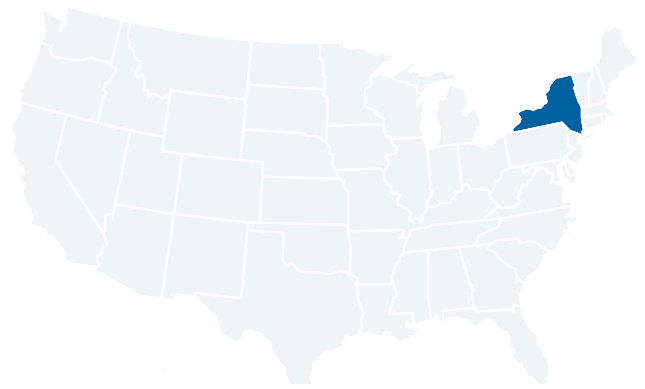


New York

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)	19.5
Population under 18 (%)	21.7
Median household income (US\$)	68,486
GDP per head (US\$)	85,575

State summary

New York has taken several important steps to address CSEA in the state. This includes providing child-friendly court processes and engaging a range of stakeholders in violence prevention planning. A number of gaps remain, however, including training for criminal justice personnel, delivery of holistic sex education in schools and data collection efforts.

Where has progress been made?

Child-friendly court processes: New York law permits child victim-survivors of sexual abuse to testify using closed-circuit television, protecting them from having to give testimony in front of the offender.¹ Additionally, investigators and courts are required to minimize duplicative interviews, take appropriate action to ensure a speedy trial, and, to the extent possible, use Children's Advocacy Centers for the investigation and prosecution of cases.

Fostering coalitions and networks: New York's Injury Prevention Action Plan includes concrete measures to prevent CSEA. The state engages with civil society organizations, advocacy groups, and youth advisory to advance and update the plan.

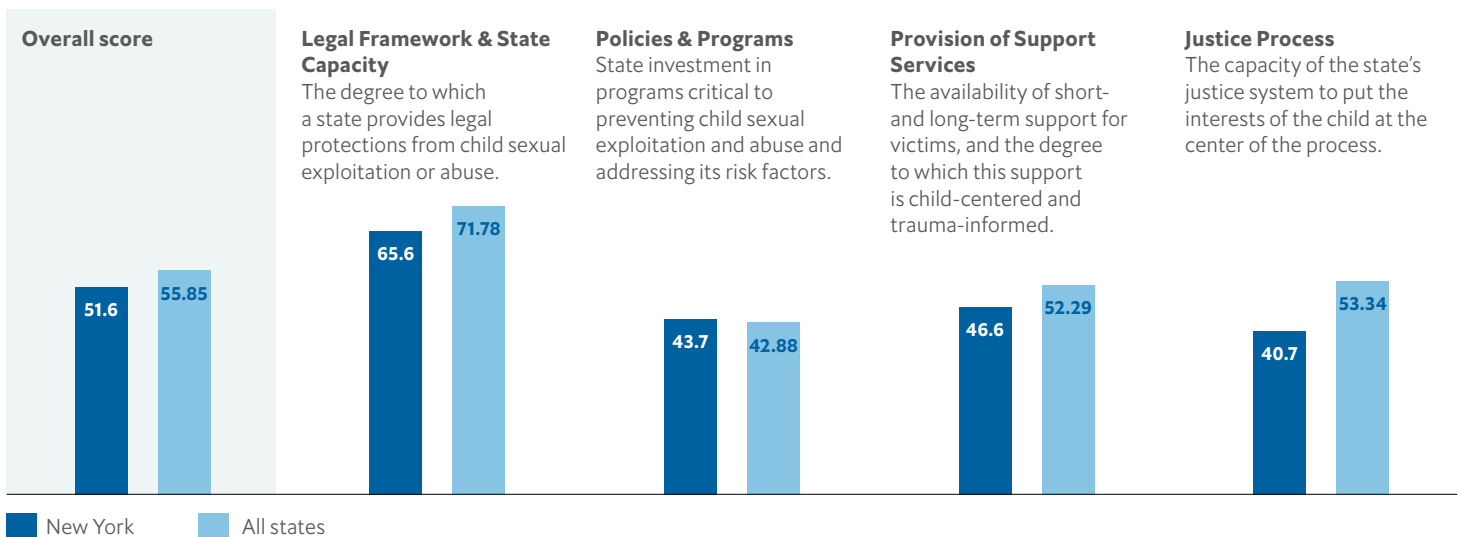
What more needs to be done?

Training gaps: There is a lack of regular, required training on child sexual abuse and providing a trauma-informed response for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.

Sex Education: New York does not require basic sex education, including information on contraception, to be taught in public schools. And, for schools that do teach sex education, there are no requirements for instruction to be medically accurate, culturally sensitive or evidence based.

Data Gaps: The collection of data on the prevalence and response to CSEA is key to informed policy-making, allocation of resources and oversight of systems; however, New York has made limited progress on this front. For instance, the state does not collect and publish data on the prevalence of CSEA, the number of cases reported to law enforcement, or CSEA-related arrests, charges, convictions, or backlog of cases.

Index scores



¹ This protection only applies to children 14 years and younger. New York should amend their procedural code, extending this protection to children up to the age of 18, or sexual abuse victims of any age, to protect against re-traumatization during court proceedings.

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

Indicator		Score/100	Indicator		Score/100
	Prevention	54.6		Response	44.7
1.1)	Gender Equality, Gender Protection and Marriage Laws	83.6	3.1)	Support - Child Welfare	48.1
1.2)	Consent Laws	25	3.2)	Support - Immediate Support and Recovery	32.5
1.3)	Laws Against CSEA	80	3.3)	Rehabilitation & Prevention	50
1.4)	Exemptions & Qualifiers	81.2	3.4)	Children's Response to Online Sexual Harms	93.4
1.5)	Background Checks/Disqualifications	80	4.1)	Child-Centered Emergency Response	82
1.6)	Data Availability	49.5	4.2)	Police Capacity	49.8
2.1)	Building Individual Skills & Knowledge	56.2	4.3)	Integrated Response and Coordination	25
2.2)	Educating Providers	50	4.4)	Judicial Processes	65
2.3)	Promoting Community Education	0	4.5)	Legal Representation & Advocacy	47.6
2.4)	Fostering Coalitions & Networks	100	4.6)	Monitoring & Evaluation	0
2.5)	Changing Organizational Practice	70			
2.6)	Influencing Policy & Legislation	47.5			

 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 New York'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:

Economist Impact. 2022. Out of the Shadows - US Pilot: Shining a Light on Prevention of and Response to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the US. New York State Profile. Economist Impact, London, UK.

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