



**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT:**

## Do state policies create safer places for children?

In this brief, we highlight key findings from our commentary published in the *Journal of Family Violence*.



### WHAT WE KNOW

Child sexual abuse happens in homes, schools, and other places. States enact laws to reduce and prevent child sexual abuse. But we don't know if these policies help create safer places for children.

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### WHAT WE FOUND

We completed a scoping literature review. This process helps us understand how many research studies there are on this topic. Our review found only three published articles evaluating these policies. These studies have mixed findings. Sometimes, when states enact these child sexual abuse laws, more kids and families are reported to child welfare.

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### WHAT THIS MEANS

Children should be safe and free of harm in homes, schools, and other places. We need to conduct more research on this topic. We also need to understand how states are implementing these policies.



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