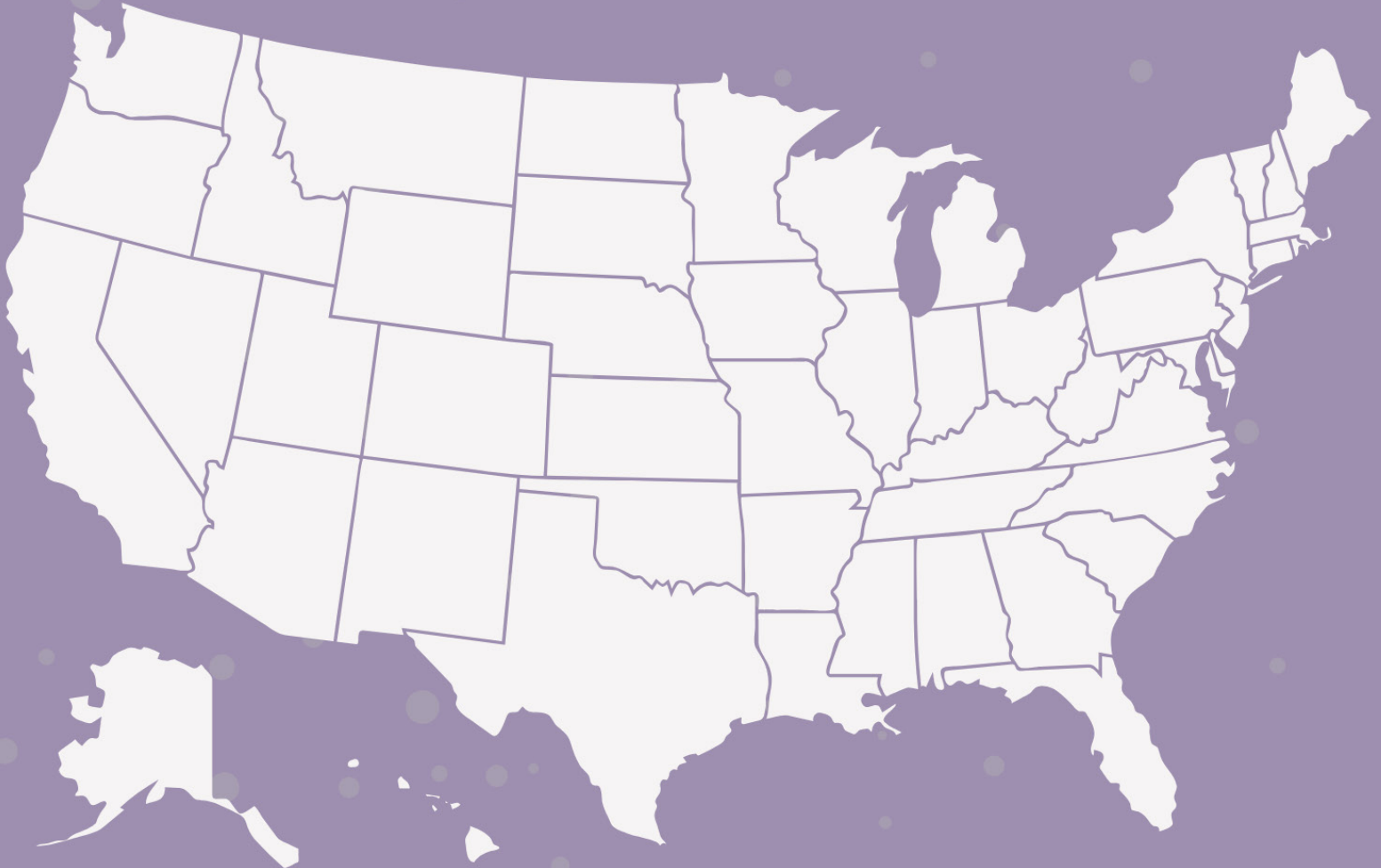




JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Center for Global Women's
Health and Gender Equity



State Gender-Based Violence Data and Policy Briefs Methodology Overview

September 2026

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Introduction

A research team at the Johns Hopkins Center for Global Women’s Health and Gender Equity at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health developed 50 state briefs on gender-based violence (GBV). The briefs provide an overview of key data points, programming, and policy in each state. This overview presents our methodology. These methods could be followed to explore if updated data, programming, or policy information is available following creation of these briefs in September 2026.

The sources informing these briefs were diverse and managed by various agencies. Some sources were updated monthly, and some were static or updated at irregular intervals. When exploring these sources for updated information, keep in mind that sources may have changed in important ways from the sources we accessed.

Overview of Sources

These briefs drew upon population-based surveys, administrative records (including crime data), service-use data, and legal and policy reviews. Because these sources measure different dimensions of gender-based violence, they should not be interpreted as interchangeable measures of prevalence or impact.

Source Types

Source type	What it can show	Key limitation
Population survey	Estimated prevalence and population-level patterns	May be affected by sampling, recall, data suppression, and differing reporting periods
Administrative data	Incidents or services recorded by police, courts, hotlines, or programs	Captures only reported incidents or people who interacted with the relevant system
Point-in-time count	A one-day or one-night snapshot of service use or housing circumstances	Does not represent annual need or overall prevalence
Policy review (compendium)	Whether a particular policy or legal provision appears to be in effect	May not reflect recent changes and should be confirmed using current statutes or other primary legal sources

Updating Data and Information

Any source that has been updated since the briefs were created (Sept 2026) may have been updated in more ways than one. Additional data or information may be available, and definitions of key terms, data collection methods, or other important methodological elements may also have changed.

Guidance for Unavailable Data

Data and information were not available for each state. Missing data were sometimes due to a state not participating in a data collection system or a state having too few data points for the information to be considered accurate.

Brief-To-Source Crosswalk

State GBV Brief Content	Source Type	Source number listed below
Sexual Violence	Data	1–3
Intimate Partner Violence	Data	2–6
Stalking	Data	7
Trafficking	Data	8, 9
Priority 1: Prevention	Policy Support	1–3
Priority 2: Support	Policy	1, 4
Priority 3a: Housing	Support	5, 6
Priority 3b: Economic	Policy	7–9
Priority 4: Online safety	Support	10–12
Priority 5: Legal/justice	Policy	10, 13, 14

Data Sources

Many of our data points came from the 2023/2024 National Intimate Partner and Sexual

Violence Survey (NISVS), a rigorous national survey implemented by the CDC. Multiple reports can be found on the [NISVS](#) website, with each report referencing slightly different data, based on the year of collection and focus of the report.

We prioritized 2023/2024 data in the briefs. We included 2016/2017 data when relevant information was not yet available from the 2023/2024 data year. State estimates were not available for every sex or measure. Missing estimates did not indicate there were no reports in a particular state, but rather that it was not possible to create a reliable estimate based on the number of reports in relation to the state population.

When looking for updated data, we strongly recommend you document the following:

- The date the information was published or most recently updated
- The agency that collected the data
- The population from which the data were gathered
- Definitions of key terms
- Methods by which the data were gathered by the agency
- Methods by which you accessed data
 - Any filters used
 - Date accessed
- Any limitations affecting generalizability of data

[1. CDC NISVS 2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief](#)

Description	A national data brief with selected state estimates for adult lifetime experiences of sexual violence, released in December 2025.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Know Your Numbers (KYN) SV Bullet 1: Adult lifetime SV • “Donut” graph: Adult lifetime completed or attempted rape
Our Methods	Weighted percent and estimated number of victims were selected from state tables, rounded to the nearest whole number.
Watch for	Ensure you are looking at the proper table for the type of sexual violence you are updating and for the sex you are referencing.

[2. CDC NISVS 2016–2017 State Report](#)

Description	A national data brief with state-by-state prevalence for intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking among U.S. adults, released in December 2023.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• KYN SV Bullet 2: First experience of SV before age 18 • KYN IPV Bullet 2: First experience of IPV before age 18
Our Methods	Weighted percent and estimated number of victims were selected from state tables, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Watch for	Ensure you are looking at the proper table for the type of violence you are updating and for the sex you are referencing.
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[3. CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\) Explorer](#)

Description	An interactive tool allowing access to health and risk behavior data gathered from high school students in participating states and districts. This survey is administered every two years, but not all states participate on this schedule.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• KYN SV section: Experienced SV in past year, female high school students • KYN SV section: Experienced SV in past year, high school students identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual or people who have sex with same-sex partners • KYN IPV section: Experienced physical IPV in past year, female high school students • KYN IPV section: Experienced physical IPV in past year, high school students identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual or people who have sex with same-sex partners
Our Methods	From the main page, the Unintentional Injuries and Violence topic was chosen, revealing all related items available. For each item for the brief, table mode was chosen, and within table mode, the state and most recent year data were available. Percentages for females and students identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual or having sex with same-sex partners were chosen where available, rounded to the nearest whole number. Items chosen for the brief were: Experienced sexual violence by anyone, Experienced physical dating violence. When YRBS data were not available, we looked for similar state-level youth surveys by state and reported similar data if available.
Watch for	States differ in how often they participate, the grade(s) they survey, how they define SV and IPV being measured, and how and if they report data by sexual orientation or gender identity. Within a given state, approaches to each of these features may change year to year. Pay attention to all details provided in the table window.
Best Practice	Record the year of publication for each data point chosen as well as the access date.

[4. CDC NISVS 2023/2024 Intimate Partner Violence Data Brief](#)

Description	A national data brief with selected state estimates for adult lifetime experiences of intimate partner violence and related impacts, released in December 2025.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• KYN IPV Bullet 1: Adult lifetime IPV • “Donut” graph: IPV impact
Our Methods	Weighted percent and estimated number of victims were selected from state tables, rounded to the nearest whole number.
Watch for	Ensure you are looking at the proper table for the type of violence you are updating and for the sex you are referencing.

[5. CDC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System \(PRAMS\)](#)

Description	A national survey of maternal and child health which includes indicators on IPV during and before pregnancy. Only select states participate.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• KYN IPV section (if available)
Our Methods	The PRAMS MCH Indicators by Year Excel file for 2022 was reviewed, accessing the Intimate Partner Violence tab. The weighted percent of survivors was selected for each state from the two listed tables.

[6. CDC WISQARS National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\)](#)

Description	A searchable system containing data gathered from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner information, and law-enforcement reports for violent deaths in participating jurisdictions. This system began collecting data in 2003. While states opted in at different times, currently 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico participate.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• KYN IPV homicides

Our Methods	From the main page, the Change Filters button was chosen. The following filters were chosen in addition to the relevant state: • Report Type: Rates and Counts • Data year: 2019 through 2023 • Intent: Homicide • Cause or Mechanism: All • Age: Custom Age Range: 15 to 85+ (the top category) • Sex: Female • Race, Ethnicity, Place of Injury, Pregnancy, Homeless, Military: All • Relationship: Spouse or other intimate partner involvement (current or former). Results were grouped by race/ethnicity when available. The total death count was recorded along with any discrepancies in crude rate by race, when meaningful. Discrepancies were rounded to the nearest .5 in most cases. When data weren't available for all five years, adjustments to time period were made to reflect available data.
Watch for	When searching for death counts in a multiyear span, all data will be suppressed if one of the selected years has no data available. Adjust selected years until data displays. In the output, no data for a given race is not necessarily indicative of no violent deaths of people in this category within the filtered specifications. Within the NVDRS system, numbers under 10 are suppressed for confidentiality.

[7. CDC NISVS 2023/2024 Stalking Data Brief](#)

Description	A national data brief with selected state estimates of adult experiences of lifetime stalking.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Stalking section
Our Methods	Weighted percents were selected from state tables, rounded to the nearest whole number. This number was used to create the “1 in X” statistic using the rubric below. If 2023/2024 data were unavailable for a state, 2016/2017 data were used.

"1 in X" Rubric

Content Language	Exact Percent	Nearly 1 in X	Over 1 in X
1 in 2	50%	49%	51–99%*
1 in 3	33%	32%	34–48%
1 in 4	25%	24%	26–31%
1 in 5	20%	19%	21–23%
1 in 6	17%	16%	18%
1 in 7	14%	13%	15%

* None of the values used in the briefs required the phrase "Over 1 in 2."

8. FBI Crime Data Explorer

Description	A searchable system containing Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data gathered from participating law-enforcement agencies, including human trafficking, sexual offenses, or partner-related offenses. Coverage for FBI UCR data varies by geographic area, and data is updated regularly.
Relevant Items in Briefs	Human Trafficking Bullet 1: Number of commercial sex trafficking victims
Our Methods	After choosing to explore state data, the following filters were used: - Crime: Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts - Location: Choose state of interest - Time Frame: one year (our data were retrieved in December 2025; thus our time frame was December 2024–December 2025) Total number of offenses were recorded.
Watch for	As data from the past year can be updated at any time, data retrieved on different days may vary slightly.
Best Practice	Record access date.

[9. National Human Trafficking Hotline State Statistics](#)

Description	State-level summaries of potential trafficking situations and victims identified through contacts to the hotline.
Relevant Items in Briefs	Human Trafficking Bullet 2: Number of victims identified via hotline calls
Our Methods	The state was selected for the year 2024. Under the section “Cases identified in 2024,” we recorded the number of total victims involved in hotline cases.

Policy and Support Sources

Methods for accessing state policy compendia and other information are described below. An abbreviated version of the rubric used to determine responsiveness of each state’s policy is provided in the Appendix. Our rubric was designed to provide a very simple three-level system for describing a policy and was not intended as a descriptor of a state’s policy landscape.

We chose policies and programming that were available for most (if not all) states via publicly available compendia.

When looking for updated data, we strongly recommend you document the following:

- the publication year of an updated compendium
- the cited statute and effective date
- the retrieval date and any additional information regarding how you found the data, such as a table number, page number, any filters used, or statutory citation
- relevant language for specific features of interest
- existence of any amendment or repeal since the compendium publication by searching on an official state legislative website

[1. Futures Without Violence: Compendium of State and U.S. Territory Statutes and Policies on Domestic Violence and Health Care](#)

Description	A state-by-state review of domestic violence and healthcare statutes and policies.
Relevant Items in Briefs	- Priority Area 1 Bullet 1: DV Training for Healthcare Workers - Priority Area 2 Bullet 2: Insurance Discrimination Protections - Priority Area 5 Bullet 2: Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

Our Methods	Information for each state was reviewed. For DV Training for Healthcare Workers, the review focused on if trainings were required, encouraged, or neither.
	For Insurance Discrimination Protections, the review focused on available protections in the following categories: health, life, disability, and property, with attention to which category of survivor (SV, IPV, etc.) was covered by the policy.
	For DV Fatality Review Teams, the review focused on if a team was mandated, encouraged, or neither; and if it exists through executive order or codified law.

[2. U.S. Department of Transportation: Transport-Specific Human Trafficking Laws Compendium](#)

Description	A 50-state and territory guide of transport-sector-related human trafficking laws.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 1 Bullet 2: Human Trafficking Prevention Training
Our Methods	Information for each state was reviewed with a focus on whether human trafficking trainings are required or encouraged for specified professions or locations.

[3. Enough Abuse: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education Laws](#)

Description	A state map summarizing laws that require, encourage, or allow child sexual abuse prevention education in schools.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 1 Bullet 3: Child Sexual Assault Prevention Education
Our Methods	Each state's information was accessed by clicking on the state icon in the U.S. map. Information was reviewed with a focus on if the policy applies to students, staff, or both; whether it is required, encouraged, or allowed; and the grade span of students referenced.

[4. National Network to End Domestic Violence \(NNEDV\) Domestic Violence Counts](#)

Description	An annual one-day census of participating domestic violence programs, services provided, unmet requests, and service capacity by state.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 2 Bullet 1: Domestic Violence Service Providers
Our Methods	Referencing the 20 th annual count released in 2025, the total number of identified DV service providers was recorded for each state (found in the opening paragraph).

[5. HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports](#)

Description	Annual point-in-time estimates of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, including an adult-survivor-of-domestic-violence subpopulation.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• State Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Callout: Unhoused IPV survivors
Our Methods	The most recent report for a selected state was reviewed. The total number of IPV survivors was recorded from the table “Summary of All Other Populations Reported.”

[6. National Housing Law Project: Housing Rights of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors](#)

Description	A state and local law compendium covering housing protections for survivors.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 3a Bullet 1: Court/protection orders allow for removal of abusive partners and other violent perpetrators • Priority Area 3a Bullet 2: Penalty-free early lease termination • Priority Area 3a Bullet 3: Requirement for landlords to change locks for survivors of IPV/SV • Priority Area 3a Bullet 4: State prohibits landlords from evicting survivors due to the GBV they experienced
Our Methods	Information for each state was reviewed with a focus on policy details noted. The statute was cited, with any eligibility, documentation, notice, or coverage limitations of the policy.
Watch for	A protection order may apply only to certain tenancies, orders, or forms of violence.

[7. National Women's Law Center: The Wage Gap, State by State](#)

Description	State-level wage-gap analyses for women overall and, where reportable, by race and ethnicity.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 3b: Wage Gap Callout Box
Our Methods	From the landing page, under the Issues tile at the top of the page, Equal Pay and the Wage Gap was selected. State-by-state pdfs (made available via tiles on the page) were reviewed for white, non-Hispanic women, Black women, Indigenous women, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Alaska Native women. Annual dollar ratios for full-time, year-round workers were recorded by state.

[8. FreeFrom National Survivor Financial Security Policy Map and Scorecard](#)

Description	An interactive state policy tool focused on survivors' financial security and economic protections.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 3b Bullet 1: Criminal definition of DV includes elements of economic coercion or abuse
Our Methods	Each state's information was accessed by clicking on the state icon in the U.S. map. The section "Economic Abuse Defined in State Laws" was reviewed with a focus on if elements of economic coercion or abuse were included in the definition of domestic violence.

[9. Legal Momentum: State Guide on Employment Rights for Survivors](#)

Description	A state-by-state guide to employment leave, discrimination or retaliation protections, and unemployment insurance for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 3b Bullet 2: State law allows leave from employment due to consequences of abuse • Priority Area 3b Bullet 3: State law prohibits employer discrimination or retaliation against employees based on survivor status • Priority Area 3b Bullet 4: State law allows survivors who must leave or quit work to remain eligible for unemployment benefits
Our Methods	Information for each state was reviewed with a focus on policy details noted in the sections on Anti-Discrimination Protections, Leave/Time Off Work, and Unemployment Insurance.

[10. WomensLaw.org State Laws](#)

Description	A state-by-state guide to policies on stalking, harassment, protection orders, technology abuse, and related survivor protections.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 4 Bullet 1: Criminal definition of stalking is inclusive of online tactics • Priority Area 4 Bullet 3: Additional state online safety laws • Priority Area 5 Bullet 1: Survivors of GBV can file for protective orders against stalking (including cyberstalking)
Our Methods	Each state's information was accessed by clicking on the state icon in the U.S. map. For Bullets PA4/1 and PA4/3: from the landing page, the Crimes tab was chosen. Within Crimes, all policies related to stalking and online or electronic harassment were carefully reviewed with a focus on the inclusion of online tactics in the criminal definition of stalking, additional online safety laws. For Bullet PA5/1: from the landing page, the Protective Orders tab was chosen, and all available order types were reviewed with a focus on the ability to file for protective orders against stalking, including cyberstalking as well as which relationship types are covered by the policy.
Watch for	Note "last updated" date at the top of each state page.

[11. Enough Abuse: Laws Addressing AI-Generated or Computer-Edited CSAM](#)

Description	A state-by-state tracker of laws that expressly address AI-generated or digitally altered child sexual abuse material.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 4 Bullet 2: State law criminalizes AI-generated CSAM
Our Methods	“Each state’s information was accessed by clicking on the state icon in the U.S. map. The summary provided was reviewed, as was the full law linked in the summary window. Specific legal language around “synthetic” or “computer-generated” material was prioritized within the criminal definition of CSAM.
Watch for	General CSAM prohibitions may not cover synthetic material; look for specific text regarding AI-generated or digitally altered images as noted above.

[12. Cyber Civil Rights Initiative: Nonconsensual Distribution of Intimate Images](#)

Description	A national and state law overview on nonconsensual intimate imagery.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 4 Sub-bullet 3: As of 2026, all U.S. states have criminalized nonconsensual distribution of intimate images
Our Methods	After confirming bans on nonconsensual distribution of intimate imagery (NDII) across all U.S. states, this source was used for reference rather than individual state policy citations.

[13. Everytown Research & Policy: Gun Law Rankings](#)

Description	A state-by-state gun-law tracker with topic pages and citations, including extreme-risk and domestic-violence firearm policies.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 5 Access to Guns Bullet 1: State law on extreme risk/red flag gun law allowing courts to temporarily limit an individual purchasing or possessing firearms • Priority Area 5 Access to Guns Bullet 2: State law on closing the “boyfriend loophole” by prohibiting gun possession by those convicted of IPV (including dating partners)
Our Methods	From the landing page, the Explore by Policy option was chosen. For Bullet 1, Extreme Risk Law was entered; for Bullet 2, Prohibition for Domestic Abusers Under Restraining Orders was entered. The status for each state was recorded.

[14. End the Backlog: Pillar Map](#)

Description	A state-by-state policy map tracking major elements of sexual assault kit reform.
Relevant Items in Briefs	• Priority Area 5 Rape Kit Policy Bullet 1: State policy on existence of a Rape Kit Tracking System • Priority Area 5 Rape Kit Policy Bullet 2: State policy on deadlines for submission and testing of newly submitted rape kits • Priority Area 5 Rape Kit Policy Bullet 3: State policy on a Victims’ Right to Know for rape kit progress
Our Methods	Each state’s information was accessed by double-clicking on the state icon in the U.S. map. For Bullet 1, Implement Tracking System was reviewed with a focus on whether the system was created via legislation or administratively. For Bullet 2, Test New Kits was reviewed with a focus on submission and testing guidelines separately. For Bullet 3, Victim’s Right to Know was reviewed, with a focus on specific rights enumerated.
Watch for	A state may operate a tracking system without a statutory mandate.

Appendix: “Responsive” Rubric

We chose policies and programming that were available for most (if not all) states via publicly available compendia. We labeled each policy within a state as Responsive, Partially Responsive, or Not Responsive for ease of quick review. We encourage readers to consult the policy cited for a more in-depth review of the policy and how it does or does not meet the needs of your constituents.

The table below presents an abbreviated version of the rubric we used to determine responsiveness of each policy. Our research team read most policies in their entirety, took detailed notes, and discussed ambiguous cases with the full team prior to making a determination.

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 1: Prevention				
Healthcare worker DV training	Training for healthcare workers is required.	Training is encouraged or made available but not required.	Training is neither encouraged nor required.	Futures Without Violence - Compendium of State and U.S. Territory Statutes and Policies on Domestic Violence and Health Care (2019)
	Guidance: Responsive if there is a required number of hours or a credentialing condition. Partially Responsive if participation is not mandatory but state-sponsored training or direction to local entities to develop training is encouraged or suggested.			
Human-trafficking prevention training	Training is required or encouraged for specified professions or locations.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No qualifying training is required or encouraged.	U.S. Department of Transportation - Compendium of Transport-Specific Human Trafficking State and Territory Laws (2024) Transportation - Compendium of Transport-Specific Human Trafficking State and Territory Laws (2024)
	Guidance: Responsive if state law requires or affirmatively encourages human-trafficking prevention training for any specified profession or location, such as commercial drivers or hospitality settings. Not Responsive only when no qualifying training provision is identified.			

Child sexual abuse prevention education	CSA education is required for some/all students and some/all staff.	Education is required for students or staff only (not both) or is encouraged/ permitted but not required.	No CSA prevention education is required or encouraged for students or staff.	Enough Abuse -State Laws Mandating or Allowing Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education in Schools (2025)
	Guidance: Review requirements for students and school personnel separately. Record grade levels, staff categories, and frequency of training if available.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 2: Survivor Support, Safety, and Well-being				
Number of DV providers	All are marked responsive.			National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Domestic Violence Counts
	Guidance: Report the number of DV providers as recorded by NNEDV.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 2: Survivor Support, Safety, and Well-being				
Insurance discrimination	Survivors are protected in all four areas: health, life, disability, and property insurance.	One to three of the four insurance types are protected.	None of the four insurance types are protected.	Futures Without Violence -Compendium of State and U.S. Territory Statutes and Policies on Domestic Violence and Health Care (2019)
	Coding Guidance: Check each insurance category separately: health, life, disability, and property. Responsive if policy is in place for all four categories; Partially Responsive if 1–3; Not Responsive if none. As long as one survivor population (e.g., SV or IPV) has protection, include the policy.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 3a: Housing Stability				
Removal from a shared home	A court or protection order can remove an abusive partner or other violent perpetrator from the shared home.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No state law addresses removal from the shared home.	National Housing Law Project - Housing Rights of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium (2024)
	Guidance: NA			
Early lease termination	Survivors may terminate a lease early with protection from significant financial penalty.	Termination is allowed, but a limited financial penalty remains.	No protection from early-termination penalties exists.	National Housing Law Project - Housing Rights of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium (2024)
	Guidance: Responsive if survivors are protected from “significant” financial penalty. However, if survivors need to pay a limited fee and/or provide documentation of abuse, the policy is still considered Responsive.			
Lock changes	The landlord must change the locks. The tenant may still be responsible for the cost.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	The landlord has no duty to change locks.	National Housing Law Project - Housing Rights of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium (2024)
	Guidance: Not Responsive if survivor is only given permission to change the lock on their own.			

Protection from eviction	The law creates an anti-retaliation protection or affirmative eviction defense based on GBV.	Only limited rental/eviction protection exists, such as protection while seeking emergency services.	No protection exists against eviction related to GBV.	National Housing Law Project - Housing Rights of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium (2024)
	Guidance: NA			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 3b: Economic Security				
Economic abuse in DV definition	The criminal definition of domestic violence includes economic coercion or abuse.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	The definition does not include economic coercion or abuse.	FreeFrom - National Survivor Financial Security Policy Map and Scorecard (2023)
	Guidance: Responsive if economic abuse, economic coercion, financial control, or equivalent conduct is included in the domestic-violence definition. The existence of a separate economic-crime statute is not considered Responsive unless it is incorporated into the DV definition.			
Employment leave	Survivors may take leave for the consequences of abuse.	Leave is limited to obtaining a protective order.	No policy allows leave due to the consequences of abuse.	Legal Momentum - State Guide on Employment Rights for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking (2025)
	Guidance: Responsive if leave is allowed, including either paid or unpaid leave.			

Employment discrimination/retaliation	The law prohibits discrimination or retaliation based on survivor status.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No legal protection exists against discrimination or retaliation based on survivor status.	Legal Momentum - State Guide on Employment Rights for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking (2025)
	Guidance: Responsive if prohibitions exist on adverse employment action due to a person being a survivor or exercising a survivor-related right. General workplace discrimination law is insufficient unless survivor status or qualifying GBV circumstances are covered.			
Unemployment eligibility	Survivors who must leave work due to violence or harassment remain eligible for unemployment benefits.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No protection preserves eligibility when a survivor must leave work due to GBV.	Legal Momentum - State Guide on Employment Rights for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking (2025)
	Guidance: Responsive if leaving or losing work due to violence or harassment is treated as “good cause” or otherwise preserves unemployment eligibility. Cases in which proof, notice, or reasonable-effort requirements exist are considered Responsive. A general good-cause rule should be counted only when the source or statute clearly applies it to GBV-related separation.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 4: Online Safety				
Cyberstalking	The stalking/ harassment definition either names technology-based tactics or is impact-based and inclusive of all tactics.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	The stalking/ harassment definition does not include online tactics.	WomensLaw -State Map
	Guidance: Legal definitions of stalking or harassment generally either name specific tactics or center the definition on impact on the survivor. Responsive if technology-based conduct is named, and also Responsive if impact is centered using language that could encompass online tactics.			
AI-generated CSAM	The definition of CSAM criminalizes AI-generated or computer-edited child sexual abuse images.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	AI-generated or computer-edited CSAM is not criminalized within the definition.	Enough Abuse -State Laws Criminalizing AI-Generated or Computer-Edited CSAM (2025)
	Guidance: Responsive if policy includes AI-generated, computer-edited, morphed, or otherwise synthetic child sexual abuse images within the criminal definition.			
Additional online-safety laws	The state has online-safety laws beyond nonconsensual distribution of intimate images (NDII).	The state has no additional online-safety law beyond NDII prohibitions.	No online-safety law identified, including an applicable NDII prohibition.	WomensLaw - State Map; Cyber Civil Rights Initiative - Nonconsensual Distribution of Intimate Images
	Guidance: Responsive if online safety policies exist beyond NDII. Partially responsive if only an NDII prohibition is available at the state level. No states were considered non-responsive, as NDII is illegal in all 50 states.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice				
Stalking protection orders	A stalking survivor may seek a protection/no-contact order regardless of relationship to the perpetrator.	Eligibility is limited to a current/former intimate partner or household member.	A person cannot seek an order solely on the basis of stalking.	WomensLaw-State Map
	Guidance: Stalking protections may be listed as part of a Domestic Violence Protective Order or as part of another form of protective order. For example, several states have stalking-specific protective orders or general “peace” orders.			
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team	State policy mandates the establishment of a DV Fatality Review Team.	A team is allowed/ encouraged but not required or was created by executive order rather than codified law.	A team is neither legally mandated nor encouraged.	Futures Without Violence -Compendium of State and U.S. Territory Statutes and Policies on Domestic Violence and Health Care (2019)
	Guidance: A general homicide-review body is considered Responsive only if its mandate clearly includes domestic-violence fatalities. States may have implemented Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams without legislation.			

Policy Indicator	Responsive	Partially Responsive	Not Responsive	Source
Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice				
Extreme risk/red flag law	Courts may temporarily restrict a person from purchasing or possessing firearms.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No extreme risk/red flag law exists.	Everytown Research & Policy - 2026 Gun Law Rankings
	Guidance: Responsive if a court can temporarily restrict purchase or possession of firearms through an extreme-risk or comparable order.			
“Boyfriend loophole”	State law prohibits firearm possession after an IPV conviction and includes dating partners.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	Dating partners remain excluded from IPV-related firearm restrictions/ relinquishment.	Everytown Research & Policy - 2026 Gun Law Rankings
	Guidance: Responsive if firearm restrictions following an IPV conviction specifically include dating partners, not only spouses, co-parents, or cohabitants.			
Rape kit tracking system	State policy requires a rape kit tracking system.	A system exists through non-legislative means, or a required system is still in development.	No legal requirement establishes a tracking system.	End the Backlog - Pillar Map (2026)
	Guidance: Responsive if state policy requires a tracking system. Partially Responsive if a functioning system exists through non-legislative means or policy requires a system but that system remains in development.			

Rape kit submission/ testing deadlines	Policy establishes deadlines for both submission and testing of newly submitted kits.	Policy establishes or encourages only some submission or testing guidelines.	No legal requirement establishes submission or testing deadlines.	End the Backlog - Pillar Map (2026)
	Guidance: Responsive if deadlines are required for both newly collected kit submission and testing. Partially Responsive if a deadline or guideline exists for only one stage, or guidance is nonbinding.			
Victims' Right to Know	Policy establishes survivors' right to information about rape kit location, progress, or results.	Not applicable - this indicator is binary.	No Victims' Right to Know policy exists for rape kit progress.	End the Backlog - Pillar Map (2026)
	Guidance: Responsive if an enforceable survivor right exists to receive information about the location, status, progress, or results of a rape kit upon request. A public tracking system alone is not necessarily a Victims' Right to Know policy.			
	Guidance: A general homicide-review body is considered Responsive only if its mandate clearly includes domestic-violence fatalities. States may have implemented Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams without legislation.			

Suggested citation: State Gender-Based Violence Data and Policy Briefs Methodology Overview 2026. Johns Hopkins Center for Global Women's Health and Gender Equity and Bloomberg American Health Initiative. Baltimore MD. Prepared by Georgia Lavery Van Parijs, Cecily Jones, Madison Bates, Patricia Mahoney, & Michele R Decker.