Family surveillance: the reporting of child abuse and neglect across US States

Frank Edwards

7/17/2020

Abstract

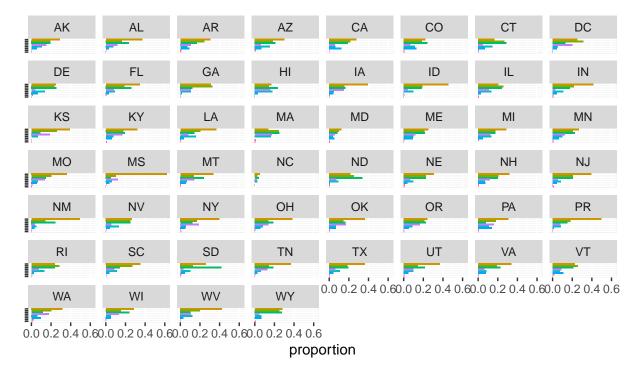
This paper documents the scope of mandated reporting of children and families to state and local child welfare officials for suspected child abuse and neglect. It provides a descriptive account of the magnitude of reporting by professionals required by law to report suspected abuse or neglect. It situates reporting as a diffuse and networked form of family surveillance. We suggest that child welfare surveillance be understood as one particularly invasive component of a carceral approach to child and family social policy.

Screened-in reports by report source, 2018

| | child | community, | | legal, law | | mental | social | substitute |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| | day care | family, or | education | enforcement, or | medical | health | services | care |
| State | eprovider | anonymous | personnel | criminal justice | personnelpersonnel | | personnel | provider |
| $\overline{\mathrm{AK}}$ | 81 | 4851 | 3274 | 3264 | 1760 | 928 | 2547 | 61 |
| AL | 208 | 15667 | 6968 | 9820 | 3335 | 1270 | 4865 | 82 |
| AR | 844 | 21420 | 17195 | 11718 | 4938 | 6444 | 7595 | 171 |
| AZ | 1466 | 33059 | 20470 | 22950 | 16971 | 7610 | 6728 | NA |
| CA | 868 | 121932 | 94199 | 84736 | 27679 | 54671 | 26027 | 363 |
| CO | 525 | 11793 | 10019 | 13054 | 6162 | 6993 | 3769 | 405 |
| CT | 166 | 3787 | 6123 | 6622 | 3349 | 1619 | 1118 | 80 |
| DC | 49 | 4412 | 5488 | 2295 | 909 | 764 | 3539 | 68 |
| DE | 204 | 3400 | 3225 | 3506 | 1880 | 926 | 539 | 61 |
| FL | 2373 | 124906 | 68388 | 94472 | 32298 | 11245 | 28675 | NA |
| GA | 869 | 64328 | 67460 | 25574 | 21593 | 2827 | 22292 | 192 |
| $_{ m HI}$ | 14 | 665 | 574 | 923 | 710 | 125 | 637 | 1 |
| IA | 478 | 22578 | 8871 | 9487 | 2863 | 2631 | 8552 | 259 |
| ID | 123 | 7637 | 3255 | 3169 | 1703 | 81 | 767 | 55 |
| IL | 850 | 38496 | 47978 | 44928 | 25145 | 4909 | 19985 | 1336 |
| IN | 1263 | 93450 | 48436 | 38837 | 24321 | 10169 | 6217 | 1156 |
| KS | 181 | 13954 | 9154 | 3192 | 2313 | NA | 6743 | 81 |
| KY | NA | 33734 | 18988 | 20278 | 7858 | 6439 | 17725 | 931 |
| LA | 160 | 10489 | 5790 | 4167 | 4584 | 1047 | 2299 | 89 |
| MA | 1236 | 13011 | 22859 | 23328 | 15202 | NA | 15973 | 733 |
| MD | 64 | 4488 | 3482 | 2992 | 1356 | 1946 | 2057 | 194 |
| ME | 122 | 3298 | 2767 | 2851 | 1313 | 1206 | 1553 | 8 |
| MI | 1262 | 58530 | 35672 | 36241 | 27522 | 9881 | 25180 | NA |
| MN | 286 | 12433 | 9627 | 10627 | 4609 | 2937 | 5782 | 465 |
| MO | 743 | 39803 | 22198 | 15999 | 7226 | 6245 | 15183 | 679 |
| MS | 191 | 31487 | 5165 | 2647 | 3122 | 1702 | 6187 | 115 |
| MT | 141 | 6520 | 2662 | 4657 | 1330 | 1109 | 2837 | 68 |
| NC | 188 | 6665 | 3608 | 5276 | 3616 | NA | 2947 | NA |

| | child | community, | | legal, law | | mental | social | substitute |
|--------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| | day care | family, or | education | enforcement, or | medical | health | services | care |
| Stateprovider | | anonymous | personnel | criminal justice | personnelpersonne | | personnel | provider |
| $\overline{\mathrm{ND}}$ | 68 | 1770 | 2043 | 2725 | 776 | 79 | 606 | 27 |
| NE | 383 | 9181 | 6747 | 6851 | 3023 | 1139 | 1990 | 225 |
| NH | 116 | 5330 | 3453 | 3400 | 1172 | 1238 | 2023 | 25 |
| NJ | 277 | 36599 | 19125 | 19293 | 8032 | 4124 | 4792 | 1023 |
| NM | 52 | 16268 | 4708 | 8092 | 1628 | 940 | 1222 | 26 |
| NV | 167 | 9589 | 9023 | 8947 | 4863 | 1451 | 2068 | 20 |
| NY | 776 | 109347 | 47118 | 33569 | 15355 | 14300 | 52302 | 2377 |
| ОН | 904 | 51375 | 18453 | 25389 | 11401 | 7591 | 18419 | 234 |
| OK | 560 | 25008 | 9864 | 11492 | 4840 | 4583 | 11809 | 207 |
| OR | 274 | 14560 | 12890 | 13738 | 5450 | 3366 | 9871 | 342 |
| PA | 258 | 14000 | 8245 | 3488 | 4846 | 6397 | 7233 | 195 |
| PR | 8 | 7693 | 2814 | 2310 | 1269 | 219 | 1200 | 7 |
| RI | 121 | 3089 | 3698 | 3119 | 1683 | 306 | 977 | 37 |
| SC | 406 | 36911 | 28143 | 14738 | 11553 | 3469 | 9008 | 344 |
| SD | 46 | 1078 | 533 | 1719 | 414 | 184 | 123 | 11 |
| TN | 617 | 38366 | 14972 | 20046 | 6396 | 2979 | 13203 | 324 |
| TX | 2366 | 115525 | 58001 | 62067 | 35321 | 13333 | 19354 | 1226 |
| UT | 180 | 11262 | 4372 | 6559 | 2993 | 1499 | 2998 | 201 |
| VA | 377 | 18697 | 10687 | 12590 | 4598 | 4324 | 3519 | 38 |
| VT | 102 | 1221 | 1383 | 1134 | 391 | 578 | 492 | 25 |
| WA | 1451 | 18985 | 12001 | 6819 | 3711 | 5726 | 10676 | 583 |
| WI | 326 | 12366 | 6678 | 10295 | 2101 | 2218 | 5708 | 34 |
| WV | 203 | 25017 | 11749 | 6035 | 7296 | 1975 | 6388 | 189 |
| WY | NA | 1632 | 1457 | 1611 | 383 | 405 | 279 | 62 |

Screened-in reports by report source as proportion of all reports, 2018



| day care provider | education personnel | medical personnel | SO |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----|
| munity, family, or anonymous | legal, law enforcement, or criminal justice | mental health personnel | su |

| substitute | social | mental | | legal, law | | community, | child | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------|------------------|-----------|------------|----------|---------------------|--|
| care | services | health | medical | enforcement, or | education | family, or | lav care | , | |
| provider | personnel | personnel | | criminal justice | personnel | anonymous | v | Stateprovider | |
| provider | personner | ipersonner | | | personner | anonymous | Jiovidei | Stateprovider | |
| 61 | 2547 | 928 | 1760 | 3264 | 3274 | 4851 | 81 | AK | |
| 82 | 4865 | 1270 | 3335 | 9820 | 6968 | 15667 | 208 | AL | |
| 171 | 7595 | 6444 | 4938 | 11718 | 17195 | 21420 | 844 | AR | |
| NA | 6728 | 7610 | 16971 | 22950 | 20470 | 33059 | 1466 | AZ | |
| 363 | 26027 | 54671 | 27679 | 84736 | 94199 | 121932 | 868 | CA | |
| 405 | 3769 | 6993 | 6162 | 13054 | 10019 | 11793 | 525 | CO | |
| 80 | 1118 | 1619 | 3349 | 6622 | 6123 | 3787 | 166 | CT | |
| 68 | 3539 | 764 | 909 | 2295 | 5488 | 4412 | 49 | DC | |
| 61 | 539 | 926 | 1880 | 3506 | 3225 | 3400 | 204 | DE | |
| NA | 28675 | 11245 | 32298 | 94472 | 68388 | 124906 | 2373 | FL | |
| 192 | 22292 | 2827 | 21593 | 25574 | 67460 | 64328 | 869 | GA | |
| 1 | 637 | 125 | 710 | 923 | 574 | 665 | 14 | $_{ m HI}$ | |
| 259 | 8552 | 2631 | 2863 | 9487 | 8871 | 22578 | 478 | IA | |
| 55 | 767 | 81 | 1703 | 3169 | 3255 | 7637 | 123 | ID | |
| 1336 | 19985 | 4909 | 25145 | 44928 | 47978 | 38496 | 850 | IL | |
| 1156 | 6217 | 10169 | 24321 | 38837 | 48436 | 93450 | 1263 | IN | |
| 81 | 6743 | NA | 2313 | 3192 | 9154 | 13954 | 181 | KS | |
| 931 | 17725 | 6439 | 7858 | 20278 | 18988 | 33734 | NA | KY | |
| 89 | 2299 | 1047 | 4584 | 4167 | 5790 | 10489 | 160 | LA | |
| 733 | 15973 | NA | 15202 | 23328 | 22859 | 13011 | 1236 | MA | |
| 194 | 2057 | 1946 | 1356 | 2992 | 3482 | 4488 | 64 | MD | |

| | child | community, | | legal, law | | mental | social | substitute |
|-------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| | day care | family, or | education | enforcement, or | medical | health | services | care |
| State | eprovider | anonymous | personnel | criminal justice | personne | elpersonnel | personnel | provider |
| ME | 122 | 3298 | 2767 | 2851 | 1313 | 1206 | 1553 | 8 |
| MI | 1262 | 58530 | 35672 | 36241 | 27522 | 9881 | 25180 | NA |
| MN | 286 | 12433 | 9627 | 10627 | 4609 | 2937 | 5782 | 465 |
| MO | 743 | 39803 | 22198 | 15999 | 7226 | 6245 | 15183 | 679 |
| MS | 191 | 31487 | 5165 | 2647 | 3122 | 1702 | 6187 | 115 |
| MT | 141 | 6520 | 2662 | 4657 | 1330 | 1109 | 2837 | 68 |
| NC | 188 | 6665 | 3608 | 5276 | 3616 | NA | 2947 | NA |
| ND | 68 | 1770 | 2043 | 2725 | 776 | 79 | 606 | 27 |
| NE | 383 | 9181 | 6747 | 6851 | 3023 | 1139 | 1990 | 225 |
| NH | 116 | 5330 | 3453 | 3400 | 1172 | 1238 | 2023 | 25 |
| NJ | 277 | 36599 | 19125 | 19293 | 8032 | 4124 | 4792 | 1023 |
| NM | 52 | 16268 | 4708 | 8092 | 1628 | 940 | 1222 | 26 |
| NV | 167 | 9589 | 9023 | 8947 | 4863 | 1451 | 2068 | 20 |
| NY | 776 | 109347 | 47118 | 33569 | 15355 | 14300 | 52302 | 2377 |
| OH | 904 | 51375 | 18453 | 25389 | 11401 | 7591 | 18419 | 234 |
| OK | 560 | 25008 | 9864 | 11492 | 4840 | 4583 | 11809 | 207 |
| OR | 274 | 14560 | 12890 | 13738 | 5450 | 3366 | 9871 | 342 |
| PA | 258 | 14000 | 8245 | 3488 | 4846 | 6397 | 7233 | 195 |
| PR | 8 | 7693 | 2814 | 2310 | 1269 | 219 | 1200 | 7 |
| RI | 121 | 3089 | 3698 | 3119 | 1683 | 306 | 977 | 37 |
| SC | 406 | 36911 | 28143 | 14738 | 11553 | 3469 | 9008 | 344 |
| SD | 46 | 1078 | 533 | 1719 | 414 | 184 | 123 | 11 |
| TN | 617 | 38366 | 14972 | 20046 | 6396 | 2979 | 13203 | 324 |
| TX | 2366 | 115525 | 58001 | 62067 | 35321 | 13333 | 19354 | 1226 |
| UT | 180 | 11262 | 4372 | 6559 | 2993 | 1499 | 2998 | 201 |
| VA | 377 | 18697 | 10687 | 12590 | 4598 | 4324 | 3519 | 38 |
| VT | 102 | 1221 | 1383 | 1134 | 391 | 578 | 492 | 25 |
| WA | 1451 | 18985 | 12001 | 6819 | 3711 | 5726 | 10676 | 583 |
| WI | 326 | 12366 | 6678 | 10295 | 2101 | 2218 | 5708 | 34 |
| WV | 203 | 25017 | 11749 | 6035 | 7296 | 1975 | 6388 | 189 |
| WY | NA | 1632 | 1457 | 1611 | 383 | 405 | 279 | 62 |