

Introduction

- The American Dental Association's *Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* states that dentists are obligated to become familiar with signs of abuse and neglect and should report cases with reasonable suspicion consistent with individual state laws.¹
- Training requirements for child abuse and neglect (CAN) recognition and mandated reporting requirements for dental licensure across the US, and what types of training exist, are unclear.
- Objective: to understand mandatory educational requirements for CAN recognition and mandated reporting for dentists to obtain and renew dental licensure in the United States.

Methods

- Publicly available state websites, dental board documents and The American Academy of Dentistry Website outlining requirements for dental licensure in the US were reviewed for specifically designated mandated reporting or CAN educational requirements as prerequisites to obtaining either initial or renewal of licensure to practice dentistry within the jurisdiction.
- To be included in the study, the training had to be listed as a requirement specific to obtaining or renewing dental licensure, not just a general suggested training.
- Two reviewers (SB, KG) independently recorded findings, reviewers compared findings for consistency, and discrepancies were settled by a secondary analysis by both reviewers. (SB, KG).

Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-422-4453

Results

Table 1. States that require mandated reporting child abuse training courses as part of the criteria for initial licensure

| State | Initial License Requirement |
|--------------|--|
| Illinois | Initial mandated reporter training through the Department of Child and Family Services is required within 3 months of their date of engagement in a professional or official capacity as a mandated reporter |
| Iowa | Initial two-hour child abuse mandatory reporter training course offered by the department of human services within six months of employment |
| New York | Initial two-hour online training course on identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment |
| Pennsylvania | Initial online three hours training course on child abuse recognition and reporting |

Table 2. States that require mandated reporting child abuse training courses as part of the criteria for renewal of dental licensure

| State | Renewal of License Requirement |
|--------------|---|
| Illinois | The mandatory training course required for initial licensure must be retaken every 6 years |
| Iowa | A one-hour training course must be taken every 3 years for renewal |
| Maryland | Prevent Abuse and Neglect Through Dental Awareness (PANDA) is an online and/or training course that must be taken every 2 years |
| Pennsylvania | A 2-hour in-person or online course on child abuse recognition and reporting must be taken every 2 years |

Conclusions

- There is variability in requirements for mandated reporter child abuse education for dental licensure across states.
- Most states do not require specific mandated reporter child abuse and neglect education for dental licensure.
- Further research is required to determine the value of this license requirement and how it may impact decision making and provider comfort in child abuse and neglect reporting in the dental setting.

References

- Code of ethics.* Code of Ethics | American Dental Association. (n.d.). <https://www.ada.org/about/principles/code-of-ethics>

States Requiring Specific CAN Mandated Reporting Training for Initial License

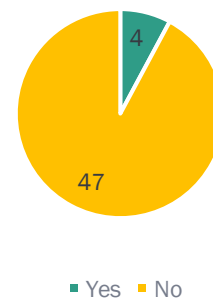


Figure 1. Number of states that require mandatory child abuse training mandatory reporting courses as part of the criteria for initial dental licensure.

States Requiring Specific CAN Mandated Reporting Training for Renewal

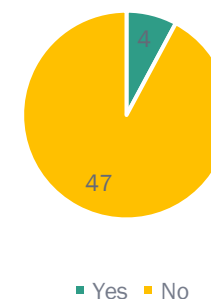


Figure 2. Number of states that require mandatory child abuse training mandatory reporting courses as part of the criteria for renewal of dental licensure.