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## About

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country. In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, we have designed a historical timeline of significant moments in child abuse prevention in the United States

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## Timeline

- 1974 ◀ [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#)
- 1982 ◀ [First National Child Abuse Prevention Week](#)
- 1983 ◀ [April proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#)
- 1984 ◀ [Child Abuse Prevention Federal Challenge Grants Act](#)
- 1989 ◀ [Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse](#)
- 1991 ◀ ["We Can Make a Difference: Strategies for Combating Child Maltreatment" Conference](#)
- 1996 ◀ [The Children's Bureau named the lead agency for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention \(CBCAP\) grants](#)
- 1996 ◀ [The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and Federal Interagency Work Group on Child Abuse and Neglect are established](#)
- 2001 ◀ [13th National Conference, "Faces of Change: Embracing Diverse Cultures and Alternative Approaches"](#)
- 2003 ◀ [Child Abuse Prevention Initiative and the 14th National Conference, "Gateways to Prevention"](#)

- 2005 ◀ Year of the Healthy Child
- 2007 ◀ OCAN developed the Resource Guide held the 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, "Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities"
- 2007 ◀ Three grantees funded for nurse home visitation services
- 2008 ◀ CB launched cooperative agreements to increase knowledge about evidence-based home visiting programs
- 2009 ◀ 17th National Conference, "Focusing on the Future: Strengthening Families and Communities"
- 2010 ◀ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010
- 2011 ◀ Network for Action prevention initiative kicks off
- 2012 ◀ 18th National Conference, "Celebrating the Past - Imagining the Future"
- 2014 ◀ 19th National Conference, "Making Meaningful Connections"

**Acknowledgment:** This historical timeline of National Child Abuse Prevention Month was developed with input from [Paltech, Inc.](#)

The Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funds the National Child Abuse Prevention Month initiative each April on the Child Welfare Information Gateway website.

Tools



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- Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect
- Promoting Child & Family Well-Being
- Public Awareness & Creating Supportive Communities
- Prevention Programs
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