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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

House Concurrent Resolution 21

“National Child Abuse Prevention Month”

Sponsor Statement

Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. In 2013, Office of Children’s Services statistics show that there were 40,000 allegations of child maltreatment, meaning abuse or neglect of a person under 18 years of age. OCS substantiated 5,000 of these allegations. In perspective, this is an average of 13 children dealing with abuse in Alaska every day of the year, at an estimated lowest cost per young Alaskan of \$210,012 for healthcare, child welfare and protection, legal proceedings, special education costs, and public assistance. The trend of high rates of abuse in Alaska must stop and recognition and an open discussion are crucial to breaking the cycle of abuse.

Children subject to abuse are more likely to become abusers themselves. They are also 11 times more likely to engage in criminal and other anti-social behavior and more than twice as likely to be arrested for violent or criminal behavior as an adult. Emotionally and physically, abuse has long-term effects, including improper brain formation, an inability to trust, low self-esteem, and an increased vulnerability to post-traumatic stress disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, cancer, and depression. Two-thirds of individuals in drug-treatment programs report being abused as children.

This resolution proclaims April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, in an effort to raise awareness of child abuse nationally and in-state. In 1983, the U.S. Legislature proclaimed April the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month to show a commitment to identifying and implementing solutions to end child abuse. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year. The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) within the Children's Bureau coordinates these activities at the Federal level, providing information and releasing updated national statistics about child abuse and neglect. Many governors also issue proclamations to encourage initiatives and events in their States.

I ask for your consideration and support for Child Abuse Prevention Month to recognize this pervasive problem and open it to discussion about how we can break the cycle of abuse.



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National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: A Network for Action 2013 Resource Guide[The Six Protective Factors](#)[Tip Sheets for Parents and Caregivers](#)[Video Gallery](#)

History of National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Increasing public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children led to the passage of the first Federal child protection legislation, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), in 1974. While CAPTA has been amended many times over the years, most recently with the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, the purpose of the original legislation remains intact. Today, the Children's Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the Federal agency charged with supporting States, Tribes, and communities in providing programs and services to protect children and strengthen families.

[Archived Community Resource Packets](#)

In the early 1980s, Congress made a further commitment to identifying and implementing solutions to end child abuse. Recognizing the alarming rate at which children continued to be abused and neglected and the need for innovative programs to prevent child abuse and assist parents and families affected by maltreatment, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolved that the week of June 6-12, 1982, should be designated as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. Members of Congress requested the President issue a proclamation calling upon Government agencies and the public to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities promoting the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The following year, in 1983, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year. The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) within the Children's Bureau coordinates Child Abuse Prevention Month activities at the Federal level, providing information and releasing updated national statistics about child abuse and neglect. Many governors also issue proclamations to encourage initiatives and events in their States.

In 1969, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse began as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. The Blue Ribbon Campaign has since expanded across the country; many people wear blue ribbons each April in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse and in support of efforts to prevent abuse. Based on Prevent Child Abuse America's (PCAA) Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, some communities distribute pinwheels and coordinate outdoor pinwheel displays representing children affected by abuse or neglect. Regardless of the type of activity, the focus has shifted to a positive message of supporting families and strengthening communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

In Title II of the CAPTA amendments of 1996, the Children's Bureau was charged with identifying a lead agency in each State for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants. These grants support the development, operation, and expansion of initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as the coordination of resources and activities to strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. CBCAP grantees within each State often take leadership roles in coordinating special events and preparing materials to support Child Abuse Prevention Month, and they are required to report annually on their activities.

In 2003, as part of the 20th anniversary of the original Presidential Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN launched the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative as a year-long effort. The theme of the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect was devoted to prevention; at that time, a press conference was held to launch the initiative and release the publication, *Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect*. In addition, OCAN and Child Welfare Information Gateway partnered with PCAA and the child abuse prevention community to produce a variety of tools and resources to support national, State, and local public awareness activities.

History of National Child Abuse Prevention Month

As momentum grew among national organizations and Federal agencies, an emerging consensus determined that building public will for child abuse prevention required engaging the public in efforts to support families and enhance parenting skills. When the U.S. Surgeon General named 2005 the Year of the Healthy Child, there was renewed commitment to make child abuse prevention a national priority. As a result, OCAN focused on making safe children and healthy families a shared responsibility, a theme that was also incorporated into the 15th National Conference. The theme expanded in 2007 when OCAN's resource guide and the 18th National Conference encouraged communities to join the effort to promote healthy families and work collaboratively to provide responsive child abuse prevention and family support services. At the same time, OCAN invited 26 national organizations to be national child abuse prevention partners so the message could reach a wider audience.

Support for child abuse prevention efforts has expanded due in part to the growing body of evidence that suggests home visitation programs for pregnant mothers and families with young children can reduce the incidence of maltreatment and improve child and family outcomes. In 2007, the Children's Bureau funded three grantees to implement and evaluate nurse home visitation services, and in 2008, it funded 17 cooperative agreements to generate knowledge about the use of evidence-based home visiting programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, including obstacles and opportunities for their wider implementation. Recently, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 included a provision to create the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The Health Resources and Services Administration has partnered with ACF to implement this program to fund States and Tribes as they provide evidence-based home visitation services to improve outcomes for children and families in at-risk communities.

The 18th National Conference theme "Celebrating the Past – Imagining the Future" highlighted our desire to embrace our past successes, to learn from our challenges, and to realize our dream of eliminating child abuse and neglect. Timing the National Conference with the centennial celebration provided us with a special opportunity to come together and reflect upon accomplishments and lessons learned, as well as a chance to collectively develop strategies to improved policies and services to ensure the safety, protection, and well-being of our nation's children.

Today, the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative continues to be an opportunity to create strong communities to support families and keep children safe. Visit the [National Child Abuse Prevention Month website](#) for more information on the most current resources and national efforts.

More From Information Gateway

- ♦ [Preventing child abuse & neglect: Related organizations](#)



A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

TOPICS

Family-centered practice
 Philosophy and key elements
 Across the service continuum
 Engaging families
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 National Foster Care & Adoption Directory
 State Guides & Manuals Search
 State Related Organizations Lists
 Adoption Assistance by State
 Child Welfare Workload Compendium
 Publications
 Publications Catalog

30 Ways for Programs to Promote Child Well-Being During National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2013

Community Awareness	Nurturing and Attachment	Knowledge of Parenting and of Child and Youth Development	Parental Resilience	Concrete Supports for Parents	Social and Emotional Competence of Children	Social Connections
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Help a parent "catch their child being good."	2 Praise good parenting when you see it.	3 Invite someone in to help parents learn about managing stress.	4 Create a handout for families with community resources linked to each protective factor.	5 Add children's books about feelings to your program's library.	6 Organize "stroller walks" with new parents. Talk about their challenges as you walk.
7 Put the protective factors on your outreach materials.	8 Create a board game library for families.	9 Have parenting tips handy for parents dealing with challenging issues.	10 Make "how are you?" phone calls to families in the program.	11 Invite a community partner to present a new resource for families.	12 Role play emotions with kids—what do you do when you're happy, sad, or frustrated?	13 Host a potluck or cultural celebration.
14 Plant a pinwheel garden as a reminder of the bright futures all children deserve.	15 Arrange a kickball or soccer game for dads and kids.	16 Learn about parenting practices of a different culture. Share this information with families.	17 Recognize parent accomplishments.	18 Visit a program where you refer families, so you'll know what it's like.	19 Train your staff on how trauma and loss affect children.	20 Encourage parents to support each other through phone trees, car pools, or play groups.
21 Invite community partners to think about how they can build protective factors.	22 Offer parents materials for a craft that they can make with their child.	23 Talk to parents in your program about discipline alternatives.	24 Help parents set goals and solve problems.	25 Let parents use the center's computers for personal business (e.g., writing resumes, email).	26 Teach kids to resolve conflicts peacefully.	27 Create a "positive parenting club" where parents can share their success stories.
28 Create a calendar of community events for families.	29 Create a cozy "book nook" where parents can read to their children.	30 Have a conversation with a parent about where their child is developmentally.				

* Daily activities submitted by Prevention Partners and local Strengthening Families sites.



<https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing>



<http://www.friendsnrc.org>

strengthening families

<http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>

Safe Horizon moves victims of violence from crisis to confidence

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What We Do

- Domestic Violence & Abuse
- Rape & Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse & Incest
 - Child Abuse Facts
 - Child Advocacy Centers
 - 10 Signs of Child Abuse
- Stalking
- Anti-Trafficking Program
- Helping Youth
- Counseling & Support Groups
- Court & Community
- Legal Assistance
- Our Stories

- Donate
- Tell-a-friend about us
- Make a restitution payment

Hotline Phone Numbers

Domestic Violence Hotline:
[800.621.HOPE \(4673\)](tel:800.621.HOPE)

Crime Victims Hotline:
[866.689.HELP \(4357\)](tel:866.689.HELP)

Rape & Sexual Assault Hotline:
[212.227.3000](tel:212.227.3000)

TDD phone number for all hotlines:
[855.694.5350](tel:855.694.5350)



Child Abuse: Statistics & Facts

Child abuse can have damaging effects not only on the children who suffer it, but on communities that must address the aftermath of abuse. Learn the facts about child abuse and how you can help children in need.



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Which children are most likely to suffer abuse or neglect?
Age of most children who become victims of abuse and neglect: **18 months or younger**

Number of children in the United States who died because of abuse or neglect in 2010: 1,537

Of the number of children who died because of abuse or neglect...

- 79.4% were younger than four years of age
- 47.7% were younger than one year in age

Rate at which boys become victims vs. girls: Nearly the same (46.5% male vs. 51.2% female)

How many reports of child abuse are made?

Number of reports of child abuse every year in the United States: 3.6 million

Number of children involved in child abuse reports: 6 million

Who reports child abuse?

Reports that came from teachers, law enforcement or legal representatives, or social service providers: **60%**
(teachers 16.4%; law enforcement 16.7%; social service 11.5%)

Anonymous (9%), other relatives of the child (7%), parents (6.6%), and friends or neighbors of the child (4.4%) made up the remaining total.

Who is most likely to abuse or neglect children?

Percentage of abusers who are someone the child knows (a parent/caregiver, other relatives, neighbors, friends, or persons considered family): **81.2%**

Age of most perpetrators of child abuse (38.3% of cases): **20 to 29 years**

Of the reports, **45.2%** of the perpetrators were male and **53.6%** were female.



What can happen to children who are abused or neglected?

As children

Babies who are victims of shaken baby syndrome can suffer bleeding in the eye or brain; damage to the spinal cord and neck; rib and bone fractures. These injuries can be fatal.

Child physical abuse can result in the malformation of the brain, resulting in impaired mental development and lack of growth in vital areas.

Child abuse victims as young as three years of age have shown signs of depression and withdrawal symptoms.

Child abuse victims are more likely to exhibit anti-social behaviors, including borderline personality disorders and violent behavior.

Child abuse victims placed in foster or kinship care because of abuse or neglect were found to score lower than other students in tests of cognitive capacity, language development, and academic achievement.

As teenagers



In a study of young adults who suffered child abuse or neglect, **80%** met criteria for at least one psychiatric disorder by age 21, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicide attempts.

In a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study of homeless youth, it found that **46%** of those surveyed had escaped a home where they suffered physical abuse, and **17%** left because of sexual abuse.

Young people who were victims of child abuse and neglect are **25%** more likely to experience teen pregnancies, delinquencies, and to suffer mental health problems. They are more likely to perform lower in school, to engage in high-risk sexual behavior, and to use alcohol and illicit drugs.

According to a National Institute of Justice study, abused and neglected children were **11 times** more likely to engage in criminal behavior as teens, are **2.7 times** more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal behavior as an adult, and are 3.1 times more likely to be arrested for one of many forms of violent crime.

As adults

Adults who suffered child abuse and neglect can develop allergies, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, high blood pressure, and ulcers, in addition to other physical disabilities because of poor health caused by the abuse.

Child abuse and neglect have been associated with panic and dissociative disorders, attention deficit and/or hyperactivity disorder, depression, anger, and post-traumatic stress disorder in children and in adults who suffered abuse.

Adults who were abused or neglected as children are more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs during their lifetimes. A study found that as many as two-thirds of individuals in drug treatment programs reported being abused as children.

Continuing the cycle of abuse

Researchers estimate that one third of abused and neglected children will grow up to abuse their own children when they become parents.

How much can child abuse cost?

\$124 billion: Estimated minimum annual cost of child abuse to U.S. communities to provide

- Healthcare to treat mental illnesses, substance abuse, mental and physical disabilities, and other health-related issues
- Child welfare and protection
- Law enforcement and court systems allocation to handle juvenile and adult criminal cases
- Special education costs
- Unemployment and underemployment services and benefits



Low-end estimated cost per case of child abuse: **\$210,012**

Total cost of public education for 50 million children in the United States (2007-2008): **\$596.6 billion**

Cost per pupil for a public education: **\$10,441**

TAKE ACTION: Help save young lives and young futures

Recognize the Signs: Safe Horizon's [10 Signs of Child Abuse](#) ([HTML](#) or [PDF](#) version) can help you learn to recognize when a child is being abused.

Report child abuse: Find out [how to report a case of child abuse](#) in your state.

Help a child in crisis: Safe Horizon's [Child Advocacy Centers](#) provide healing, hope, and justice to more than 5,000 children each year. [Be part of our efforts](#) to give child victims of abuse comfort.

Return to our [Child Abuse](#) page.

Resources

Get informed. Get more facts and statistics about child abuse and neglect.

Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics: [How much money does the United States spend on public elementary and secondary schools?](#)

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implications for Prevention.](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation: [National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being \(NSCAW\), 1997-2010](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families: 2010 Child Maltreatment Report. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/2010stats/2010report.cfm>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/statistics/pcn.cfm>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families: [Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect.](#)

U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health: [The Relationship Between Childhood Sexual Abuse and Sexual Health Practices of Homeless Adolescents](#) (Johnson, Rew, Stanglitz, 2006)

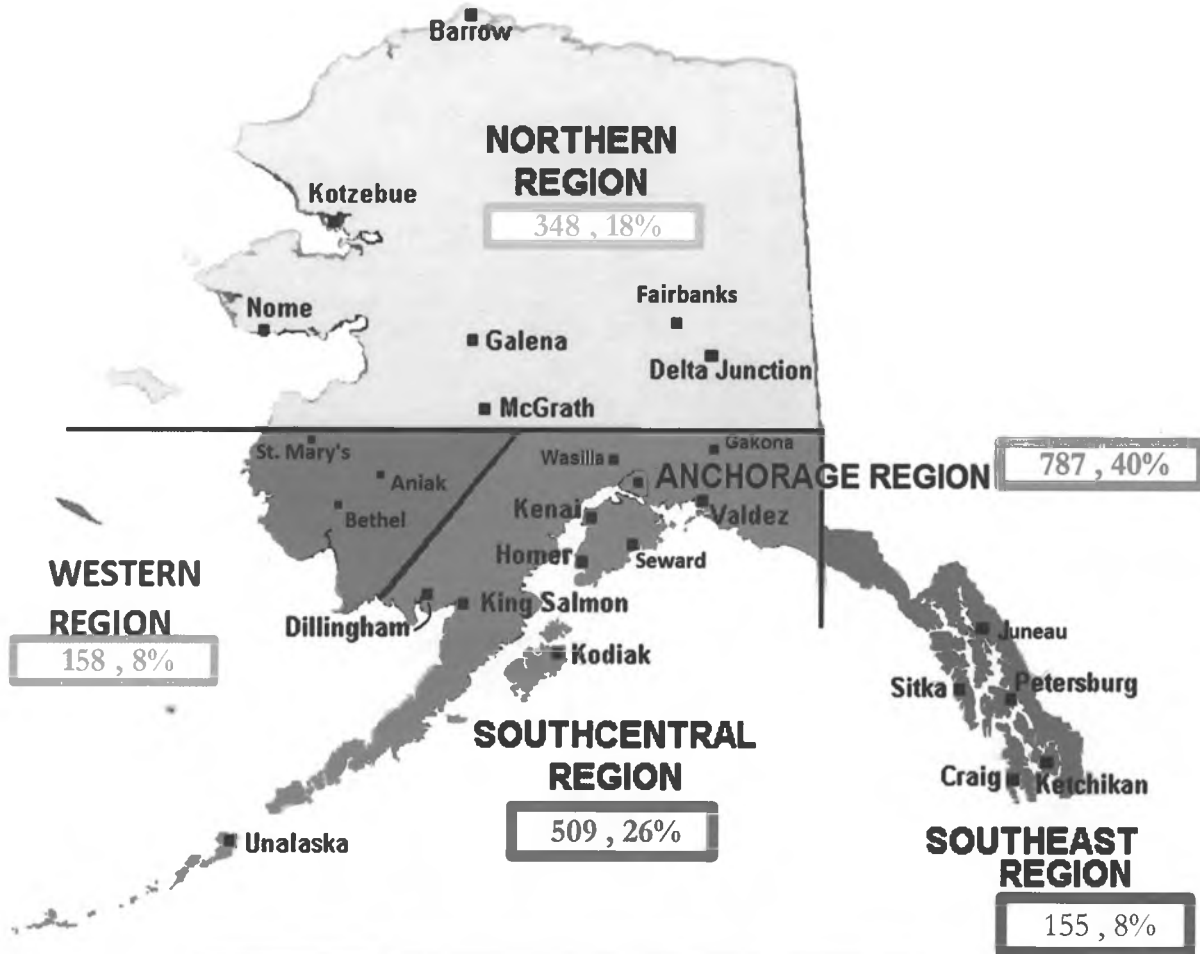
U.S. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse: [Exploring the Role of Child Abuse in Later Drug Abuse](#) (Swan, 1998)

Safe Horizon's mission is to provide support, prevent violence and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities.

Children in Placement

Due January 15, 2014*

Out-of-home placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted by OCS. The first preference considered in all out-of-home placements for a child or youth is a relative's home. When it is not possible to place a child with a relative it is necessary to place the child in a licensed foster home. Residential care facilities may offer short-term emergency shelter as well as more long-term residential treatment.



Region	Children in OOH	
<i>Anchorage</i>	787	40%
<i>Northern</i>	348	18%
<i>Southeast</i>	155	8%
<i>South Central</i>	509	26%
<i>Western</i>	158	8%
Statewide:	1,957	100%

Data counts Children/Youth in Out of Home Care on December 1, 2013

*First available online no later than January 15, 2014. Data may be re-posted with updated statistics. Data in this report is current as of January 3, 2014.

Data Source: ORCA. Program used to tabulate statistics: monthly_ooh_web.sas.

If you have any questions regarding this data please forward your inquiry to ocs@alaska.gov.

Allegations Initially Assessed and Substantiated During the Month of December 2013.

Allegations initially assessed during the month of December, 2013.

Maltreatment Type	Allegations	Victims	Perpetrators	
Mental Injury	386	291	206	Count is the number of allegations screened in for initial assessment of the maltreatment type. Victims is the unique count of alleged victims by maltreatment type. Perpetrators is the unique count of alleged perpetrators by maltreatment type.
Neglect	1,309	891	666	
Physical Abuse	204	180	166	
Sexual Abuse	69	61	50	
Total	1,968	1,060	853	

Some children have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.
Some perpetrators have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.

Initial Assessments completed during the month of December, 2013.

Initial Assessments	651
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Allegations substantiated during the month of December, 2013.

Maltreatment Type	Allegations	Victims	Perpetrators	
Mental Injury	69	54	35	Count is the number of allegations substantiated by maltreatment type. Victims is the unique count of substantiated victims by maltreatment type. Perpetrators is the unique count of substantiated perpetrators by maltreatment type.
Neglect	275	196	150	
Physical Abuse	27	27	27	
Sexual Abuse	19	17	10	
Total	390	240	190	

Some children have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.
Some perpetrators have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.

Initial Assessments substantiated during the month of December, 2013.

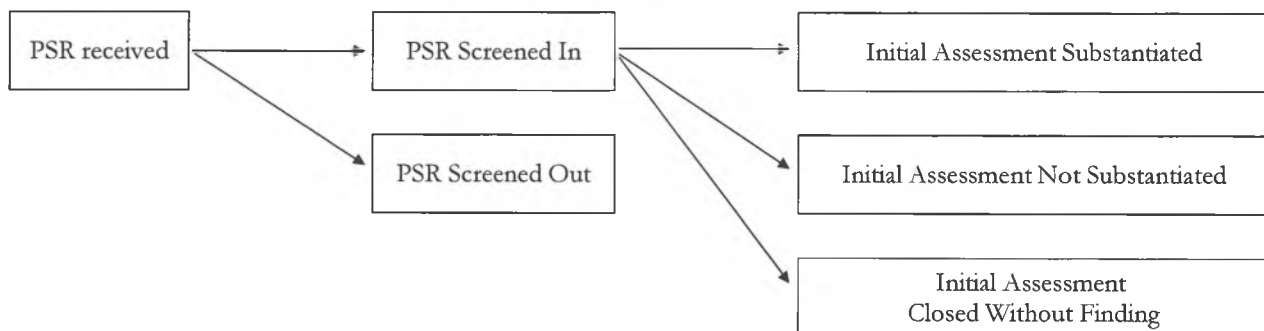
Initial Assessments	152	Initial Assessments are substantiated if at least one allegation is substantiated
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Protective Service Reports contain one or more allegations.

Initial Assessments include one or more Protective Service Reports.

The initial assessment of Protective Service Reports are not always administratively finalized the month they are received.

Administrative Process for Assessing Protective Service Reports (PSR)



Data Source: ORCA. Program used to tabulate statistics: Monthly_IA_Web.sas

Data in this report is as of January 3, 2014. Subsequent reports with the same date parameter will contain up-dated statistics.

If you have any questions regarding this data please forward your inquiry to ocs@alaska.gov.

Allegations Received and Screened In During the Month of December 2013.

Allegations screened during the month of December, 2013.

Maltreatment Type	Allegations	Victims	Perpetrators
Mental Injury	499	384	279
Neglect	2,023	1,380	1,074
Physical Abuse	351	300	270
Sexual Abuse	180	159	143
Total	3,053	1,713	1,445

Count is the number of allegations by maltreatment type.
 Victims is the unique count of alleged victims by maltreatment type.
 Perpetrators is the unique count of alleged perpetrators by maltreatment type.

Some children have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.
 Some perpetrators have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.
 Allegations are required to be screened (in or out) within 1-7 days of being received.

Protective Service Reports received during the month of December, 2013.

Protective Service Reports 1,195

PSR's may report multiple allegations (alleged occurrences of maltreatment), each matching one victim and one perpetrator. This explains why allegations of maltreatment outnumber reports (PSR's) of these maltreatments.

Allegations screened in during the month of December, 2013.

Maltreatment Type	Allegations	Victims	Perpetrators
Mental Injury	383	285	205
Neglect	1,216	837	647
Physical Abuse	186	166	150
Sexual Abuse	51	48	38
Total	1,836	984	804

Count is the number of allegations screened in for initial assessment of the maltreatment type.
 Victims is the unique count of alleged victims by maltreatment type.
 Perpetrators is the unique count of alleged perpetrators by maltreatment type.

Some children have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.
 Some perpetrators have more than one alleged maltreatment type; maltreatments in this report are counted once per type, per child.

Protective Service Reports screened in during the month of December, 2013.

Protective Service Reports 592

PSR's may report multiple allegations (alleged occurrences of maltreatment), each matching one victim and one perpetrator. This explains why allegations of maltreatment outnumber reports (PSR's) of these maltreatments.

Composition of Sample Protective Service Report (PSR)

PSR

- Alleged Victim 1
 - Allegation 1 - Alleged Perpetrator 1
 - Allegation 2 - Alleged Perpetrator 2
- Alleged Victim 2
 - Allegation 3 - Alleged Perpetrator 1
 - Allegation 4 - Alleged Perpetrator 2

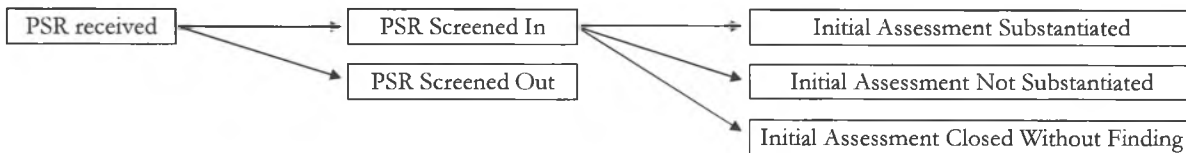
For this example - assume a reporter alleges their neighbors (a mother and father) neglect their son and daughter. Child one has one allegation of neglect from his father and one allegation of neglect from his mother. Child two has one allegation of neglect from her father and one allegation of neglect from her mother. The sample PSR has four counts of maltreatment, two victims, and two perpetrators.

Protective Service Reports contain one or more allegations.

Initial Assessments include one or more Protective Service Reports.

The initial assessment of Protective Service Reports are not always administratively finalized the month they are received.

Administrative Process for Assessing Protective Service Reports (PSR)



Data Source: ORCA. Program used to tabulate statistics: Monthly_IA_Web.sas

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NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH ²₀ ¹₄

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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.

TIMELINE

1974

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA)

The first Federal child protection legislation, CAPTA was signed by President Nixon on January 31, 1974 and marked the beginning of a new national response to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The legislation provided Federal assistance to States for prevention, identification, and treatment programs. It also created the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (now known as the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect) within the Children's Bureau to serve as a Federal focal point for CAPTA activities. Today CAPTA, most recently reauthorized in 2010, continues to provide minimum standards for child maltreatment definitions and support States' prevention and intervention efforts.

1982

FIRST NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION WEEK

1983

APRIL PROCLAIMED THE FIRST NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

In 1982, Congress resolved that June 6–12 should be designated as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week; the following year, President Reagan proclaimed April to be the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a tradition that continues to this day. The Bureau's National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect coordinated activities at the Federal level, including creation and dissemination of information and promotional materials. In 1984, for example, posters, bumper stickers, and buttons displayed the theme, "Kids—You can't beat 'em." Print, radio, and television PSAs, meanwhile, urged viewers to "Take time out. Don't take it out on your kid."

1984

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FEDERAL CHALLENGE GRANTS ACT

The Children's Bureau was an early supporter of State Children's Trust Funds. Kansas was the first State to pass such legislation in the spring of 1984, requiring revenues from surcharges placed on marriage licenses to be used to support child abuse prevention. By 1984, the number of States with Trust Funds was up to 15. That year, Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention Federal

1989

BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

1991

"WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: STRATEGIES FOR COMBATING CHILD MALTREATMENT" CONFERENCE

In the summer of 1991, Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan, MD, created an unprecedented national initiative to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and promote coordination of prevention and treatment activities. A December 1991 meeting, "We Can Make a Difference: Strategies for Combating Child Maltreatment," encouraged participants to develop action plans that could be implemented locally. Public service announcements asking the public to "Show Your Care" were released during Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) 1992.

1996

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU NAMED THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (CBCAP) GRANTS

In keeping with the Clinton Administration's emphasis on collaboration and integration among child and family-serving systems, a new grants program, Community-Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS), was created in 1996. These grants reflected the belief that public and private child abuse prevention and treatment programs must work together toward common goals. The CBFRS program (now known as Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention or CBCAP) requires State lead agencies to establish statewide networks for family support programs, support a coordinated continuum of preventive services, and maximize funding for those services.

1996

THE OFFICE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ARE ESTABLISHED

The reauthorization of CAPTA abolished the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and created an Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) within the Children's Bureau to coordinate the functions required under CAPTA. At the same time, a Federal Interagency Work Group on Child Abuse and Neglect (FEDIAWG) was established to replace the Inter-Agency Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect that had been active since 1988. Today, FEDIAWG includes representatives of more than 40 Federal agencies and meets quarterly with OCAN's leadership and coordination.

2001

13TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "FACES OF CHANGE: EMBRACING DIVERSE CULTURES AND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES"

The 13th National Conference recognized the fact that our diversity enables us to bring a multitude of approaches to bear on key issues in the field of child abuse and neglect.

2003

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVE AND THE 14TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "GATEWAYS TO PREVENTION"

The 14th National Conference recognized that prevention remains the best defense for our children. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first Presidential Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN launched the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative as a yearlong effort. OCAN and its National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information partnered with Prevent Child Abuse America and the child abuse prevention community to produce a variety of tools and resources to support national, State, and local public awareness activities. The same year, OCAN released its *Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* report, the product of a 2-year effort to generate new information about effective and innovative prevention programs.

2005

YEAR OF THE HEALTHY CHILD

There was renewed commitment to make child abuse prevention a national priority. As a result, OCAN focused on making safe children and healthy families a shared responsibility, a theme that was also incorporated into their National Conference.

2007

OCCAN DEVELOPED THE RESOURCE GUIDE HELD THE 16TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, "PROTECTING CHILDREN, PROMOTING HEALTHY FAMILIES, AND PRESERVING COMMUNITIES"

This encouraged communities to join the effort to promote healthy families and work collaboratively to provide responsive child abuse prevention and family support services. At the same time, OCAN invited national organizations to be national child abuse prevention partners so the message could reach a wider audience.

2007

THREE GRANTEEES FUNDED FOR NURSE HOME VISITATION SERVICES

The Children's Bureau funded three grantees to evaluate and implement nurse home visitation services.

2008

CB LAUNCHED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

The Children's Bureau launched cooperative agreements to generate knowledge about the use of evidence-based home visiting programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, including obstacles and opportunities for their wider implementation.

2009

17TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES"

The 17th National Conference theme, "Focusing on the Future: Strengthening Families and Communities" reflected the resolve to continue to protect children by addressing the root causes of child maltreatment.

2010

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OF 2010

This act included a provision to create the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

2011

NETWORK FOR ACTION PREVENTION INITIATIVE KICKS OFF

Network for Action kicked off with a meeting in Alexandria, VA, in June, jointly sponsored by OCAN, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the FRIENDS National Resource Center, and other national prevention organizations. The Network for Action is driven by three specific goals: to create a shared vision for the future of child abuse prevention, engage in shared action, and develop and strengthen prevention networks at the State and Federal levels. A second national meeting was held in April 2012.

2012

18TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "CELEBRATING THE PAST - IMAGINING THE FUTURE"

challenges, and to realize our dream of eliminating child abuse and neglect.

2014

19TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE, "MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS"

The 19th National Conference marks the 40th anniversary of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA, P.L. 93-247).

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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- [Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Promoting Child & Family Well-Being](#)
- [Public Awareness & Creating Supportive Communities](#)
- [Prevention Programs](#)
- [Developing & Sustaining Prevention Programs](#)
- [Evidence-Based Practice](#)
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