

CAP Month During COVID-19

- This is the second year that CAP Month has taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The coronavirus outbreak and its subsequent losses have changed our world permanently. In the United States, we are still trying to adapt and understand the new landscape that the pandemic has created and its repercussions for child abuse and neglect prevention.
- The risk to our nation's children for experiencing child abuse and neglect in times of extreme stress and uncertainty is quite high.
- COVID-19 has added stressors to the lives of parents and caregivers, such as loss of employment, loss of income due to lack of paid leave, school and business closings that necessitate new childcare and homeschool arrangements, and food insecurity.
- Physical distancing leads to the unintended consequence of isolation. The social connections and community services and activities that serve as protective factors against child abuse and neglect under ordinary conditions may not exist in this extraordinary time of physical distancing.