

FRANKLIN COUNTY  
CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

# 2012-2014 DATA SNAPSHOT



## INTRODUCTION

**This data snapshot is a summary of the deaths of 617 children** (under the age of 18 years) in Franklin County that occurred during 2012-2014. It provides demographic and cause of death information to identify common themes and help the community work toward preventing future deaths.

**The Franklin County Child Fatality Review (FCCFR)** is an on-going community planning process in which a team of community experts from various systems and agencies convenes to review the circumstances around the deaths of children who are residents of Franklin County, Ohio.

**FCCFR Member Agencies:**

- ADAMH Board of Franklin County\*
- Franklin County Board of Development Disabilities
- CASA of Franklin County
- CHOICES of Columbus
- Columbus City Schools
- Columbus Police Department\*
- Columbus Division of Fire
- Columbus Public Health (Lead Agency)\*
- Franklin County Children’s Services\*
- Franklin County Coroner’s Office\*
- Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
- Franklin County Juvenile Court
- Franklin County Job & Family Services
- Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office
- Franklin County Public Defender Office
- Franklin County Public Health
- Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- LOSS (Local Outreach for Suicide Survivors)
- Nationwide Children’s Hospital (Dept. of Pathology, Center for Injury Research and Policy, Center for Child & Family Advocacy, Primary Care Pediatrician\*)
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

\* Indicates a mandated member

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILD DEATHS, 2012-2014

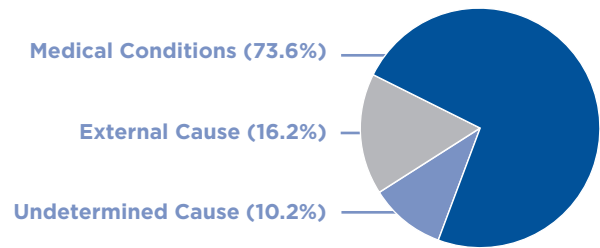
	Number	Percent	Rate*
<b>Age</b>			
< 1 year	449	72.8	832.4
1-4 years	60	9.7	29.5
5-9 years	27	4.4	11.4
10-14 years	30	4.9	13.3
15-17 years	51	8.3	38.6
<b>Race</b>			
White	274	44.4	50.4
Black	286	46.4	107.9
Other	57	9.2	128.7
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	356	57.7	81.8
Female	261	42.3	62.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>72.4</b>

*Data Notes:*  
 \*Deaths per 100,000 subpopulation. Rates were calculated using Ohio Public Health Data Warehouse Population Data for years 2011-2013. Franklin County population data was compiled from July 1, 2010 - July 1, 2013 Vintage 2013 Bridged-Race Postcensal Population Estimates.

# GENERAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Of the 617 deaths that occurred among children in Franklin County during 2012-2014:

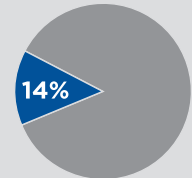
- 73.6%, or 454 cases, were the result of medical conditions (more information on page 3),
- 16.2%, or 100 cases, were the result of external causes (or injuries) (more information below), and
- 10.2%, or 63 cases, did not have a cause determined.



## SLEEP-RELATED INFANT DEATHS

**Sleep-related infant deaths**, also known as sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) are deaths among children younger than one year of age that happen during sleep. These deaths fit into all three general causes (medical, external, and undetermined); the manners of these deaths were natural, accidental, and undetermined. **From 2012 through 2014, there were 66 SUIDs (accounting for 14.7% of all infant deaths) in Franklin County, many of which could have been prevented.**

**66**  
SUIDs



# EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH

**Non-infant deaths (1-17 years) account for 83% of all child deaths due to external causes or injuries.** The five leading external causes of death among children ages 1-17 years are: weapons (including body part), motor vehicle or other transport, asphyxia, drowning, and fire, burn, or electrocution as well as poisoning, overdose, or acute intoxication (tied). For infants (under 1 year), the leading external cause of death is asphyxia.

Specific External Causes of Death	Infant (< 1 Year)		Other (1-17 Years)		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Asphyxia	10	58.8	21	25.3	31	31.0
Weapon, Including Body Part	2	11.8	26	31.3	28	28.0
Motor Vehicle or Other Transport	1	5.9	24	28.9	25	25.0
Drowning	0	0	6	7.2	6	6.0
Fire, Burn, or Electrocution	1	5.9	2	2.4	3	3.0
Poisoning, Overdose, or Acute Intoxication	1	5.9	2	2.4	3	3.0
Animal Bite or Attack	1	5.9	0	0	1	1.0
Exposure	0	0	1	1.2	1	1.0
Other	0	0	1	1.2	1	1.0
Undetermined	1	5.9	0	0	1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

# MEDICAL CAUSES OF DEATH

**Infant deaths (under 1 year) account for 82.8% of all child deaths due to medical causes.** The five leading medical causes of death among infants are: prematurity, congenital anomalies, pneumonia, cardiovascular conditions, and SIDS. For children ages 1-17 years, the leading medical causes of death are: cancer, congenital anomalies, and cardiovascular conditions.

Specific Medical Causes of Death	Infant (< 1 Year)		Other (1-17 Years)		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Prematurity (see table below for risk factors)	243	64.6	0	0	243	53.5
Congenital Anomaly	73	19.4	10	12.8	83	18.3
Cardiovascular Condition	8	2.1	7	9.0	15	3.3
Pneumonia	11	2.9	3	3.8	14	3.1
Cancer	0	0	13	16.7	13	2.9
Neurological/Seizure Disorder	1	0.2	4	5.1	5	1.1
SIDS	5	1.3	0	0	5	1.1
Asthma	0	0	1	1.3	1	0.2
Other Medical Condition	22	5.9	33	42.3	55	12.1
Other Infection	6	1.6	7	9.0	13	2.9
Other Perinatal Condition	7	1.9	0	0	7	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100</b>

## RISK FACTORS AMONG DEATHS DUE TO PREMATUREITY

The leading risk factors for prematurity are maternal complications during pregnancy, multiple births, and late access to prenatal care.

Risk Factors for Prematurity (n=243)	Yes	No	Unknown	Percent Yes Excluding Unknowns
Maternal Complications	176	28	39	86.3
Multiple Births	76	163	4	31.8
Late Prenatal Care*	29	94	120	23.6~
Maternal Drug Use	5	26	212	16.1~
Maternal Smoking	33	187	23	15.0
Previous Preterm Birth	35	208^	NA	14.4

Data Notes:

\*Initiation of prenatal care after the first trimester.

^Includes cases with unknown and missing information, without discriminating between unknown and missing information.

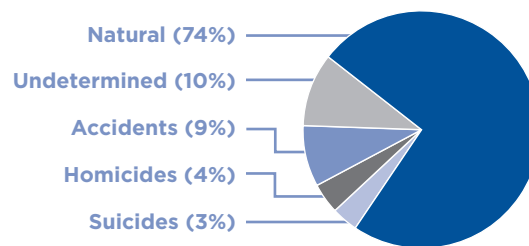
~Unreliable rates due to a high amount of records with unknown information.

# MANNER OF DEATH

**Deaths resulting from natural causes occurred most often among infants, specifically those in the neonatal period.** Suicide was the leading manner of death for 15-17 year olds. More White children died from suicide and more Black children died from homicide. Boys are also more likely to die from homicide when compared to girls.

Of the 617 deaths that occurred among children in Franklin County during 2012-2014:

- In 74% of cases (457) the manner was natural,
- In 10% of cases (61) the manner could not be determined,
- In 9% of cases (52) the manner was accident,
- In 4% of cases (26) the manner was homicide, and
- In 3% of cases (21) the manner was suicide.



	Natural	Undetermined	Accidents	Homicides	Suicides	Total
<b>Age</b>						
Younger than 1 year	379	53	15	2	0	449
<i>Neonatal (0-27 days)</i>	316	6	2	0	0	324
<i>Post-neonatal (28-364 days)</i>	63	47	13	2	0	125
1-4 years	31	7	17	5	0	60
5-9 years	17	0	6	3	1	27
10-14 years	17	0	3	5	5	30
15-17 years	13	1	11	11	15	51
<b>Race</b>						
White	200	26	27	6	15	274
Black	217	30	18	16	5	286
Other	40	5	7	4	1	57
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	263	35	29	19	10	356
Female	194	26	23	7	11	261
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>617</b>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations from the CFR process are used to plan public health interventions and to prioritize resources. The most frequently made recommendations to prevent future deaths include:

- Provide infant safe sleep education and resources
- Provide suicide prevention education for children and caregivers
- Expand driver education classes to include distracted driving and defensive driving
- Follow pedestrian safety tips
- Limit access to firearms
- Supervise infants and young children, especially around water
- Get early, regular prenatal care
- Protect children from tobacco smoke, alcohol and other drugs