

Franklin County Child Fatality Review 2006 Data Snapshot

Includes data from the 223 child deaths which occurred in 2006

The Franklin County Child Fatality Review 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, under the age of 18, who are residents of Franklin County, Ohio. The purpose of the review process is to identify common themes and trends surrounding these deaths, and to develop recommendations for future prevention.

Demographic Information

Gender	Number	%	Rate*
Male	138	61.9	95.7
Female	85	38.1	61.5
Total	223	100	78.9

Race	Number	%	Rate*
White	110	49.3	56.8
Black	109	48.9	143.3
Other/Multi	4	1.8	**
Total	223	100	78.9

Age	Number	%	Rate*
Less than 1 year	164	73.5	947.9
1 - 4 years	16	7.2	**
5 - 9 years	16	7.2	**
10 - 14 years	8	3.6	**
15 - 17 years	19	8.3	**
Total	223	100	78.9

*Rate = per 100,000 persons

**Rate does not meet reliability standards of the National Center for Health Statistics as it is based on less than 20 observations and is therefore not printed

Specific External Cause of Death

Specific External Cause of Death (n = 62)	Number	%
Suffocation or Strangulation	22	36.7
Weapon Including Body Part	10	16.7
Undetermined	11	15.0
Fire, Burn or Electrocutation	8	13.3
Motor Vehicle Accident	7	11.7
Drowning	2	3.3
Poisoning	1	1.7
Unknown	1	1.7

Risk Factors for Top External Cause of Death = Infant Sleep-Related Death

Risk Factors for Infant Sleep-Related Deaths Excluding SIDS (n = 24)	Yes		No/Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%
Unsafe Sleep Place*	23	95.8	1	4.2
Unsafe Sleep Position**	18	75.0	6	25.0
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke	14	58.3	10	41.7
Same Sleep Surface as Adult	13	54.2	11	45.8
Same Sleep Surface as Another Child	7	29.2	17	70.8

*Unsafe Sleep Place = any place that is not a safety-approved crib or bassinet

**Unsafe Sleep Position = any sleep position that is not on the back





Specific Medical Cause of Death

<i>Medical Condition (n = 160)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Prematurity	82	51.3
Congenital Anomaly	37	23.1
Cancer	8	5.0
Other Infection	8	5.0
Pneumonia	7	4.4
Cardiovascular	5	3.1
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	5	3.1
Other Medical Condition	4	2.5
Undetermined	2	1.3
Asthma	1	0.6
Neurological/Seizure Disorder	1	0.6

Risk Factors for Top Medical Cause of Death = Prematurity

<i>Risk Factors for Prematurity (n = 82)</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No/Unknown</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Late Access to Prenatal Care*	58	70.7	24	29.3
Maternal Complications During Pregnancy	17	20.7	65	79.3
Multiple Birth	17	20.7	65	79.2
Maternal Smoking	9	11.0	73	89.0
Previous Pre-term Birth	7	8.5	75	91.5

*Late Access to Prenatal Care = initiation of prenatal care after the first trimester, or not at all

Manner of Death

<i>Manner of Death</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Natural	172	77.1
Accident	26	11.7
Suicide	5	2.2
Homicide	13	5.8
Undetermined	4	1.8
Pending	3	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>100</i>

Preventability

<i>Was death preventable? (n = 223)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
No, probably not	160	71.8
Yes, probably	44	19.7
Team could not determine	19	8.5



Recommendations to Prevent Future Deaths

- Increased funding for patrol of public water areas to prevent unsafe swimming.
- Education to hospital trauma stations on abuse identification/ER intake checks for abuse.
- Standardization within Franklin County Children Services intake process.
- Adherence to infant safe sleep guidelines.
- No smoking while pregnant or around children.
- Access to early prenatal care.
- No drug use while pregnant or while caring for a child.
- Education for children about how to get help/escape when abused.
- Parent education about risk factors for suicide.
- Quicker access to mental health care.
- Use of a standardized data collection tool for suicide investigation.
- Promotion of domestic violence awareness.
- Proper storage of guns.
- More designated street crossing areas, sidewalks.
- Seat belt use.
- Observance of posted speed limits and traffic signs.
- No drunk driving.
- Home maintenance to ensure properly functioning furnace.
- Use of birth control, pregnancy spacing, family planning.
- Use of smoke detectors.
- Law requiring owner of rental property to provide smoke detectors.
- Parent education on signs of drug use.
- Constant supervision around water, use of safety approved flotation devices.
- Use of only age/functionally appropriate toys.
- Proper medication and dosage for babies.

Technical Notes:

Columbus Public Health currently convenes the state-mandated Franklin County Child Fatality Review (FCCFR) process. The data presented here was collected through the FCCFR process and comes from individual agency records, investigation reports, and health documents including birth and death certificates.

The top external cause of death, Infant Sleep-Related Deaths, is not listed on the table of External Causes of Death, but instead accounts for 12 Suffocation and Strangulation deaths, 10 Undetermined deaths, 1 Fire, Burn or Electrocution death, and 1 Unknown death.

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