

Franklin County Child Fatality Review 2007 Data Snapshot

Includes data from the 198 child deaths which occurred in 2007

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	141	71.2	96.9
Female	57	28.8	40.8
Total	198	100	69.4

Race	Number	%	Rate*
White	93	47.0	47.6
Black	89	44.9	116.4
Other/Multi	16	8.1	**
Total	198	100	69.4

Age	Number	%	Rate*
Less than 1 year	154	77.8	969.6
1 - 4 years	17	8.6	**
5 - 9 years	7	3.5	**
10 - 14 years	4	2.0	**
15 - 17 years	16	8.1	**
Total	198	100	69.4

*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 = 29)	Number	%
Suffocation or Strangulation	9	31.0
Weapon Including Body Part	8	27.6
Motor Vehicle Accident	5	17.2
Drowning	3	10.3
Fire, Burn or Electrocutation	1	3.5
Fall or Crush	1	3.5
Poisoning	1	3.5
Exposure	1	3.5

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

Risk Factors for Infant Sleep-Related Deaths Excluding SIDS (n = 17)	Yes		No/Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%
Unsafe Sleep Place*	15	88.2	2	11.8
Unsafe Sleep Position**	12	70.6	5	29.4
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke	11	64.7	6	35.3
Same Sleep Surface as Adult	10	58.8	7	41.2
Same Sleep Surface as Another Child	3	17.7	14	82.4

*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 = 158)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Prematurity	84	53.2
Congenital Anomaly	19	12.0
Cardiovascular	15	9.5
Other Medical Condition	10	6.3
Pneumonia	9	5.7
Other Perinatal Condition	7	4.4
Cancer	4	2.5
Other Infection	4	2.5
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	3	1.9
Unknown	2	1.3
Undetermined	1	0.6

Risk Factors for Top Medical Cause of Death = Prematurity

<i>Risk Factors for Prematurity (n = 84)</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No/Unknown</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Maternal Complications During Pregnancy	70	83.3	14	16.7
Late Access to Prenatal Care*	66	78.6	18	21.4
Maternal Smoking	14	16.7	70	83.3
Multiple Birth	13	15.5	71	84.5
Previous Pre-term Birth	3	3.6	81	96.4

*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	168	84.9
Accident	20	10.1
Suicide	2	1.0
Homicide	6	3.0
Undetermined	1	0.5
Pending	1	0.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>100</i>

Preventability

<i>Was death preventable? (n = 198)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
No, probably not	157	79.3
Yes, probably	25	12.6
Team could not determine	16	8.1



Recommendations to Prevent Future Deaths

- Infant safe sleep.
- No alcohol consumption or use of drugs while caring for children.
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit education of parents about sibling bed sharing.
- Family planning/pregnancy spacing.
- Access to early prenatal care.
- More affordable child care options.
- Gun control.
- Use of smoke detectors.
- No underage drinking.
- Law requiring cigarette manufacturers to make fire-safe cigarettes.
- Fire safety education.
- Obey traffic laws.
- No smoking while pregnant, or around children.
- Following proper dosage instructions for medication.
- Specified bus loading zones and drop-off zones on school property.
- No radio on while school bus is moving.
- Teen driver education.
- Proper maintenance of fencing around playgrounds.
- Appropriate supervision of children.
- Increased access to mental health care.
- Suicide survivor services for children in schools, not just for next of kin.
- Proper storage of guns.

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.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, there were 208 child deaths in Franklin County in 2007. Final Cause of Death rulings are still pending for 10 of these deaths, therefore only 198 were included in this analysis.

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 6 of the 9 Suffocation and Strangulation deaths in the table, as well as 1 Undetermined death, and 10 other deaths with a Natural Manner of Death where the FCCFR disagreed with the ruling on the death certificate.

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