



# Franklin County Child Fatality Review<sup>†</sup> 2010 Data Snapshot

Includes data from the 219 children, under the age of 18, who died in 2008.

219 children in Franklin County, under the age of 18, died in 2008. That's 1 death every 36 hours.

- 71% were the result of a medical condition with prematurity as the leading medical cause of death.
- 23% were the result of an injury with infant sleep-related deaths as the leading cause of external death.
- The cause of death could not be determined as either medical or external for the remaining 6%.

The following is a more detailed look at each of those 219 deaths.

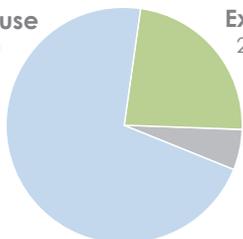
## General Causes of Death

### General Cause of Death

#### Medical Cause

71.2% (n=156)

Death was the result of a medical condition.



#### External Cause

23.3% (n=51)

Death was the result of an injury.

#### Undetermined

5.5% (n=12)

Cause of death could not be determined as either medical or external.

<sup>†</sup> 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, 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.

Compiled by Columbus Public Health - Franklin County Child Fatality Review, December 2010.

## Demographic Information

Gender	Number	%	Rate*
Male	122	55.7	82.6
Female	97	44.3	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.6</b>

Race	Number	%	Rate*
Black	113	51.6	148.1
White	93	42.5	46.7
Other/Multi	13	5.9	**
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.6</b>

Age	Number	%	Rate*
< 1 year	156	71.2	863.5
1-4 years	19	8.7	**
5-9 years	10	4.6	**
10-14 years	14	6.4	**
15-17 years	20	9.1	44.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75.6</b>

Note: Rate for 1-17 year olds combined = 23.2

\*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



## Medical Causes of Death

Specific Medical Cause of Death (n=156)	Number	%
Prematurity	79	50.6
Other Medical Condition	26	16.7
Congenital Anomaly	12	7.7
Cardiovascular	11	7.1
Pneumonia	10	6.4
Cancer	5	3.2
Other Infection	5	3.2
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	4	2.6
Other Perinatal Condition	3	1.9
Neurological/Seizure Disorder	1	0.6



## Risk Factors for Prematurity Top Medical Cause of Death

Risk Factors for Prematurity (n=79)	Yes		No/Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%
Late Access to Prenatal Care*	56	70.9	23	29.1
Maternal Complications During Pregnancy	33	41.8	46	58.2
Multiple Birth	15	19.0	64	81.0
Maternal Smoking	13	16.5	66	83.5
Previous Pre-term Birth	9	11.4	70	88.6

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



## External Causes of Death

Specific External Cause of Death* (n=51)	Number	%
Asphyxia	15	29.4
Motor Vehicle Crash	12	23.5
Weapon, including Body Part	10	19.6
Fire, Burn or Electrocution	6	11.8
Undetermined External Cause	3	5.9
Poisoning, Overdose or Acute Intoxication	3	5.9
Fall or Crush	1	2.0
Drowning	1	2.0

\*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 of the 15 Asphyxia deaths, 2 of the Undetermined External Cause deaths, 7 Undetermined Manner with Undetermined Cause deaths, 4 Natural deaths with an Undetermined Cause, and 1 Natural death with an External Cause.

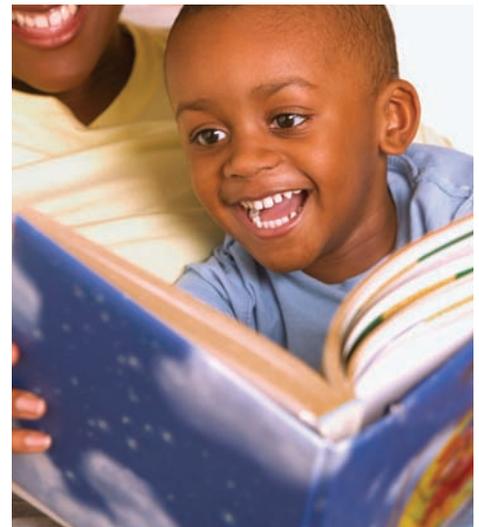


## Infant Sleep-Related Deaths Top External Cause of Death

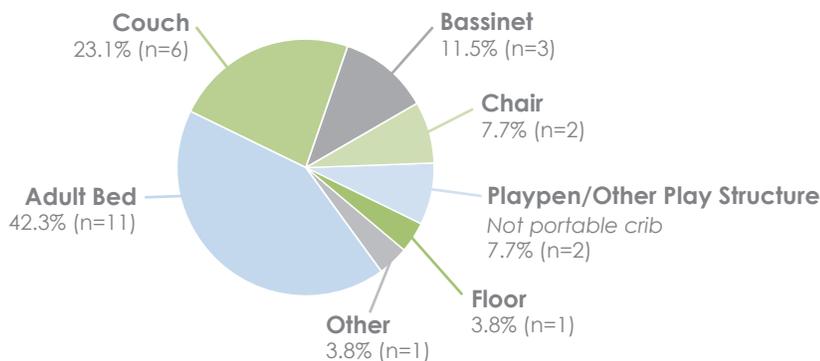
Risk Factors for Infant Sleep-Related Deaths Excluding SIDS (n=26)	Yes		No/Unknown	
	Number	%	Number	%
Unsafe Sleep Place*	23	88.5	3	11.5
Same Sleep Surface as Adult	14	53.8	12	46.2
Exposure to Secondhand Smoke	11	42.3	15	57.7
Unsafe Sleep Position**	10	38.5	16	61.5
Same Sleep Surface as Another Child	7	26.9	19	73.1

\*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



### Sleep-related Deaths by Location of Infant When Found



## Recommendations to Prevent Future Deaths

Throughout the year specific recommendations are made as each case is reviewed. In 2008, the six most frequently made recommendations include:

- Make sure infants sleep safely
- Get early prenatal care
- Use seat belts and age-appropriate car seats that are installed correctly
- Supervise infants and young children
- Keep children away from tobacco smoke, alcohol, and drugs
- Limit access to firearms

FCCFR members also work to develop programs, laws, policies, or agency practices related to recommendations that can help prevent child deaths. Past work includes *Top 10 Tips for Healthier, Safer Children*, available at <http://publichealth.columbus.gov/child-fatality-review.aspx>.

In 2010, FCCFR members began working with health care professionals on identifying and reporting symptoms of child abuse. The FCCFR is also working with law enforcement and coroner's offices for adoption of more consistent investigative and reporting practices in cases of sudden, unexplained infant deaths.

## 2010 FCCFR Members

The members listed below, and the agencies they represent, participated in the FCCFR in 2010. Their efforts made this data snapshot possible.

Shelly Biggs, RN Ohio State University Medical Center	Andrea Hauser, MPH Columbus Public Health	Bryan Meister Franklin County Sheriff's Office	David Sawyer Columbus Division of Fire
Ada Booth, MD Center for Child & Family Advocacy	Erin Heinzman Franklin County Job & Family Services	Kathleen Nicol, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital	Phillip Scribano, DO, MSCE Center for Child & Family Advocacy
Kathy Burns, MD ADAMH Board of Franklin County	Richard Hicks, MPA Columbus Public Health	Anne Pennington Columbus Police Department	Rickey Scott, Sr. Columbus Division of Fire
Sharon Carney-Packard CASA of Franklin County	Christine Julian, JD Franklin County Prosecutor's Office	Beth Pierson, MPH, CPH Franklin County Public Health	Debbie Seastone, BSN, MSN, RN Columbus Public Schools
Kathy Cowen, MS Columbus Public Health	Susan Laughin-Schopis, JD Franklin County Public Defender	Charles Reiner, MD Central Ohio SIDS	Karen Setterlin, MSW, LSW Franklin County Children Services
Jan Gorniak, DO Franklin County Coroner	Debra Laughlin Franklin County Children Services	Anne Russell Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Carolyn Slack, MS, RN Columbus Public Health
Karen Gray-Medina, MS, CHES Columbus Public Health	James McCoskey Columbus Police Department		Marcia Smoot Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services

### 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 FCCFR uses the following definition to determine preventability: "a death in which, with retrospective analysis, it is determined that a reasonable intervention (e.g., medical, educational, social, legal or psychological) might have prevented the death."

For more information or additional resources visit: <http://publichealth.columbus.gov/child-fatality-review.aspx>.