

# Completing the *Life Stressors* Section

***The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (National Center) added the Life Stressors, Section 17, in the release of version 5.1 of National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS).***

The National Center added these questions so fatality review teams can begin to identify additional risk and protective factors surrounding a death. These factors could have occurred directly to the child, happened a caregiver, and/or were present in the environment. In the NFR-CRS Version 5.1 Data Dictionary, the introduction to Section 17. *Life Stressors* says:

*Children can be impacted by environmental stressors even when they are unaware of them. Please indicate all stressors that were present for this child and family around the time of death. Please elaborate in the narrative section O1 if any of these stressors directly contributed to the child's death.*

The National Center recognizes that some of these variables can be subjective and hard to capture. However, it is important to identify these incidences of structural inequity that disproportionately impact certain populations.

***This document is intended to inform fatality review coordinators and teams with options for how to complete the Life Stressors Section***

As a reminder, there does not need to be clear documentation to support teams' decision about a Life Stressor. It is also important to remember that each team member brings implicit bias into the team meeting which impacts the discussion. It is vital that the team have a method for identifying and discussing bias. The following options are examples of strategies teams have found useful for discussing and capturing Life Stressors in their team meetings.



### **Option 1:**

Team coordinator proposes applicable life stressors to the team during the case review discussion. This requires the team coordinator to have reviewed the case before the discussion and identified potential life stressors. During the discussion, the team coordinator would identify any additional life stressors and ask the team to weigh in on the selection.



### **Option 2:**

Team members select the life stressors they think are applicable during the review discussion. This could be done by photocopying the life stressors section of NFR-CRS paper form. Additionally, the team coordinator could create a virtual survey to collect the information. After the meeting, results would need to be tabulated.



### **Option 3:**

The team can discuss all potential life stressors during the review meeting and document the appropriate ones.

As a reminder, only section 17a., **social/economic stressors**, will appear for stillbirths and infants; for children one year and older, this section is divided into **social/economic stressors** (17a); **relationship stressors** (17b); **school-related stressors** (17c); **technology-related stressors** (17d); **life transitions** (17e); and **trauma** (17f). This document lays out related variables from other parts of the NFR-CRS that can inform team discussions about the life stressors. For section 17a, relevant FIMR-only variables are identified in addition to variables from the whole of the NFR-CRS.

## 17a. Life Stressors—Social/Economic

Variable	Relevant variables—both CDR and FIMR	Relevant FIMR-only variables
<i>Racism</i>	<p>A5. Race            A6. Hispanic or Latino origin            A8. Residence Address            B2. Biological parent race            B3. Parents' Hispanic or Latino origin            B8. Biological parents speak and understand English            B9. Parents first generation immigrant            C4. Caregiver(s) race            C5. Caregiver(s) Hispanic or Latino origin            C9. Caregiver(s) speak and understand English            C10. Caregiver(s) first generation immigrant</p>	<p>A136. Did the mother feel that her infant was ever treated differently or unfairly in getting services?            A139. Were any of the following identified as psychosocial or lifestyle problems experienced by the mother AT ANY TIME in her life, as a child herself, before or during pregnancy or while the infant was still alive?            A140. Did the mother feel that she was ever treated differently or unfairly in getting services?</p>
<i>Discrimination</i>	<p>A5. Race            A6. Hispanic or Latino origin            A8. Residence Address            A13. Child had disability or chronic illness            A15. Child's health insurance            A40. What was child's gender identity            A41. What was child's sexual orientation            B2. Biological parent race            B3. Parents' Hispanic or Latino origin            B8. Biological parents speak and understand English            B9. Parents first generation immigrant            C4. Caregiver(s) race            C5. Caregiver(s) Hispanic or Latino origin            C9. Caregiver(s) speak and understand English            C10. Caregiver(s) first generation immigrant</p>	<p>A112. At any time before or during pregnancy or until the infant's death, did the family experience any difficulties in obtaining, communicating, processing, or understanding basic health information and services in order to make informed health decisions?            A136. Did the mother feel that her infant was ever treated differently or unfairly in getting services?            A139. Were any of the following identified as psychosocial or lifestyle problems experienced by the mother AT ANY TIME in her life, as a child herself, before or during pregnancy or while the infant was still alive?            A140. Did the mother feel that she was ever treated differently or unfairly in getting services?</p>
<i>Poverty</i>	<p>A15. Child's health insurance            A19. Residence overcrowded            A20. Child ever homeless</p>	<p>A101. Payer source for mother's care</p>

	<p>A50. Were there access or compliance issues related to prenatal care</p> <p>B5. Parents' employment status</p> <p>B6. Parents' income</p> <p>B11. Parents receive social services in the last 12 months</p> <p>C6. Caregiver(s) employment status</p> <p>C7. Caregiver(s) income</p> <p>C12. Caregiver(s) receive social services in the last 12 months</p> <p>H8h. Were there access or compliance issues related to the death</p>	<p>A102. Did the mother have stable housing during the pregnancy</p> <p>A103. Did the mother have phone service during the pregnancy</p> <p>A109. Did the mother experience any stressors during her pregnancy</p> <p>A143. Did the infant ever have an illness for which they weren't seen or treated? If yes, what were the barriers?</p> <p>O2.18. Transportation</p>
<i>Neighborhood discord</i>	<p>A8. Residence address (child)</p> <p>H8q. Cause of death</p>	<p>A8. Residence address (child)</p> <p>O2.8. Environment</p>
<i>Job problems</i>	<p>B5. Parents' employment status</p> <p>B6. Parents' income</p> <p>B11. Parents receive social services in the last 12 months</p> <p>C6. Caregiver(s) employment status</p> <p>C7. Caregiver(s) income</p> <p>C12. Caregiver(s) receive social services in the last 12 months</p>	<p>A109. Did the mother experience any stressors during her pregnancy</p> <p>A142. Did the father experience any stressors during the mother's pregnancy</p>
<i>Money problems</i>	<p>A15. Child's health insurance</p> <p>A27. Child's work status</p> <p>A50. Were there access or compliance issues related to prenatal care</p> <p>B5. Parents' employment status</p> <p>B6. Parents' income</p> <p>B11. Parents receive social services in the last 12 months</p> <p>C6. Caregiver(s) employment status</p> <p>C7. Caregiver(s) income</p> <p>C12. Caregiver(s) receive social services in the last 12 months</p> <p>H8h. Were there access or compliance issues related to the death</p>	<p>A81. Mother's employment during pregnancy</p> <p>A109. Did the mother experience any stressors during her pregnancy</p> <p>A111. Family referred for services</p> <p>A142. Did the father experience any stressors during the mother's pregnancy</p> <p>O2.10. Social Support</p>
<i>Food insecurity</i>	<p>A20. Child ever homeless</p> <p>B11. Parents receive social services in the last 12 months</p>	<p>A111. Was the family referred to any health or human</p>

	C12. Caregiver(s) receive social services in the last 12 months	services program during or after the pregnancy
<b>Housing instability</b>	A17. Type of residence A18. New residence in past 30 days A19. Residence overcrowded A20. Child ever homeless B11. Parents receive social services in the last 12 months C12. Caregiver(s) receive social services in the last 12 months	A102. Did the mother have stables housing during the pregnancy A111. Was the family referred to any health or human services program during or after the pregnancy A142. Did the father experience any stressors during the mother's pregnancy O2.12. Family Transition
<b>Witnessed violence</b>	A22. Child had history of maltreatment A37. Child had delinquent or criminal history A38. Child spent time in juvenile detention B14. Parents ever perpetrator of maltreatment B17. Parents have history of intimate partner violence B18. Parents have delinquent/criminal history C15. Caregiver(s) ever perpetrator of maltreatment C18. Caregiver(s) have history of intimate partner violence C19. Caregiver(s) have delinquent/criminal history	A109. Did the mother experience any stressors in her pregnancy A110. Was the mother a victim of intimate partner violence
<b>Pregnancy/ Pregnancy scare</b>	<i>These questions apply to children old enough to have become pregnant.</i>	<i>*Please skip for fetal and infant deaths*</i>

### I7b. Life Stressors—Relationships (Age 5 and over)

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Relevant CDR Variables</b>
<b>Family discord</b>	A22. Child had history of maltreatment A37. Child had delinquent or criminal history A38. Child spent time in juvenile detention B14. Parents ever perpetrator of maltreatment B17. Parents have history of intimate partner violence B18. Parents have delinquent/criminal history C15. Caregiver(s) ever perpetrator of maltreatment C18. Caregiver(s) have history of intimate partner violence C19. Caregiver(s) have delinquent/criminal history

	15.e. Event(s) triggering child abuse 16a. Child's history (Suicide)
<b>Argument with parents/caregivers</b>	16a. Child's history (Suicide)
<b>Parents' divorce/separation</b>	16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Parents' incarceration</b>	B18. Parents have delinquent/criminal history
<b>Argument with significant other</b>	16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Breakup with significant other</b>	16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Social discord</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Argument with friends</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school 16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Bullying as a victim</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school 16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Bullying as a perpetrator</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school
<b>Cyberbullying as a victim</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school 16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death
<b>Cyberbullying as a perpetrator</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school
<b>Peer Violence as victim</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school 16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
<b>Peer violence as a perpetrator</b>	A28. Did child have problems in school
<b>Isolation</b>	<i>The child spent a significant amount of time alone or separate from others, or perceived that they did not fit in or have a sense of belonging in the relationships around them.</i>
<b>Stress due to sexual orientation</b>	A41. What was the child's sexual orientation 16h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) 16i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)

<i>Stress due to gender identity</i>	A40. What was the child's gender identity I6h. Warning signs within 30 days of death (Suicide) I6i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death (Suicide)
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#### 17d. Life Stressors—School (Age 5 and over)

Variable	Relevant CDR Variables
<i>School failure</i>	A28. Did child have problems in school I6a. Child history (Suicide) I6b. Was the child ever diagnosed with any of the following
<i>Pressure to succeed</i>	A28. Did child have problems in school
<i>Extracurricular activities</i>	A28. Did child have problems in school I6a. Child history (Suicide)
<i>New school</i>	<i>The child had relocated to a new school, requiring them to readjust to a new environment, learn new routines, and establish new relationships.</i>

#### 17d. Life Stressors—Technology (Age 5 and over)

Variable	Relevant CDR Variables
<i>Electronic gaming</i>	O1. Narrative
<i>Texting</i>	O1. Narrative
<i>Restrictions of technology</i>	O1. Narrative
<i>Social Media</i>	I6a. Child history (Suicide)

#### 17e. Life Stressors—Transitions (Age 5 and over)

Variable	Relevant CDR Variables
<i>Release from hospital</i>	A30. Child had received prior mental health services A31. Child was receiving mental health services A34. Child was hospitalized for mental health care within the previous 12 months A36. Child had history of substance use or abuse I6b. Was child ever diagnosed with any of the following (Suicide) I6g. Did the child ever have a history of non-suicidal self-harm, such as cutting or burning oneself
<i>Transitions from any level of mental health care to another</i>	A30. Child had received prior mental health services A31. Child was receiving mental health services

	<p>A34. Child was hospitalized for mental health care within the previous 12 months</p> <p>A36. Child had history of substance use or abuse</p> <p>I6b. Was child ever diagnosed with any of the following (Suicide)</p> <p>I6g. Did the child ever have a history of non-suicidal self-harm, such as cutting or burning oneself</p>
Release from juvenile justice facility	A37. Child had delinquent or criminal history
End of school year/school break	A3. Date of death
Transition to/from child welfare	<p>A22. Child had history of maltreatment</p> <p>A24. Was child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death</p> <p>I6i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death</p>
Release from immigrant detention center	<i>The child is re-entering from detention at an immigrant detention center which could be at a juvenile justice facility.</i>

#### 17f. Life Stressors—Trauma (Age 5 and over)

Variable	Relevant CDR Variables
<i>Rape/sexual assault</i>	<p>A22. Child had history of maltreatment</p> <p>B13. Parents ever victim of child maltreatment</p> <p>C15. Caregiver(s) ever perpetrator of maltreatment</p> <p>C18. Caregiver(s) have history of intimate partner violence</p> <p>I6i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death</p>
<i>Previous abuse (emotional/physical)</i>	<p>A22. Child had history of maltreatment</p> <p>I6i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death</p>
<i>Family/domestic violence</i>	<p>A22. Child had history of maltreatment</p> <p>I5e. Event(s) triggering child abuse</p> <p>I6i. Child experienced a known crisis within 30 days of the death</p>