



FIMR Overview for Case Review Team (CRT) and/or Community Action Team (CAT) members

This publication provides an overview of the FIMR process, role of CRT and CAT members, and suggested team members.

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) - an approach for system improvement

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is an evidence-based process to examine fetal and infant deaths. FIMR is a community-owned & action oriented process to improve service systems and resources for women, infants and families. FIMR offers the community:

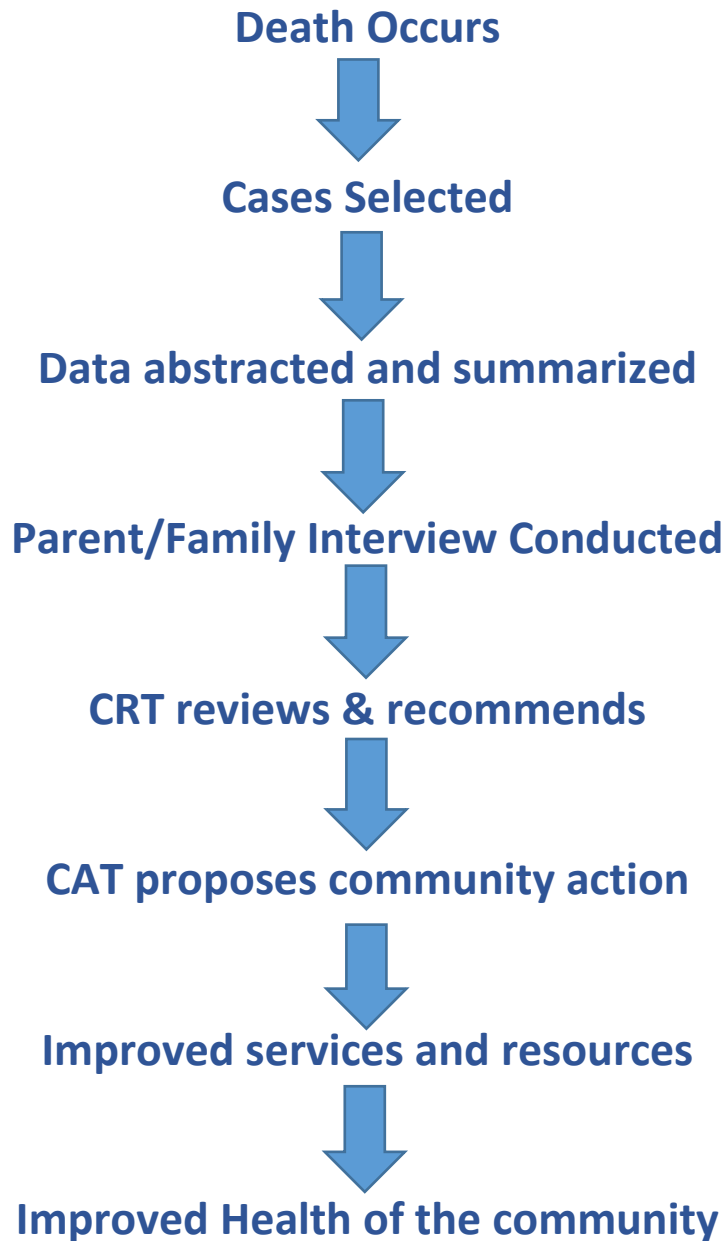
- A warning system that can describe effects of health care systems change
- A method for implementing continuous quality improvement (CQI)
- A means to implement needs assessment, quality assurance and policy development which are essential public health functions, at the local level.

The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Process: A Holistic Approach

- The FIMR process brings a multi-disciplinary community team together to review de-identified infant and fetal death
- Composed of health, social service and other experts; the FIMR case review team (CRT) examines the case summary, identifies issues, and makes recommendations for community change if appropriate.
- Community leaders representing government, consumers, key institutions, and health & human service organizations serve on the community action team (CAT) which acts to implement recommendations.



FIMR sequence for case review & community action



The FIMR process is not about assigning blame, it is an examination of circumstances surrounding the death to identify gaps in care and barriers to services. FIMR can identify a significant problem in a non-threatening manner without singling out any group or person for blame, propose useful actions and be seen as a part of the solution, then its effectiveness and stature in the community are enhanced.

The first step is for CRT to review all the case data and make recommendations. The next step is for the CAT to take the recommendations, prioritize and make the changes needed in the community's service delivery system. Important Tip! When identifying FIMR team participants, assure:

- Diversity
- Influence
- Commitment

Case Review Team Role

- Information processor of the FIMR program
- Reviews and analyzes the information collected in interviews and medical data abstractions
- Summarizes findings and create recommendations to improve the community’s service delivery systems and community resources

Community Action Team Role

- Develop new and creative solutions to improve services and resources for families from the recommendations made by the case review team
- Enhance the credibility and visibility of issues related to parents, infants and families within the broader community by informing the community about the need for these actions through presentations, media events and written reports
- Work with the community to implement interventions to improve services and resources
- Determine if the needs of the community are changing over time and decide which interventions should be added or altered to meet the needs
- Safeguard successful FIMR systems changes from being discontinued in the future

Members invited to the CRT and CAT will vary depending on the needs in the community. While not an inclusive list, these re suggested community members:

Agency/Individual	Agency/Individual	Agency/Individual
Key Community Leaders:	Public Health:	Health Care Providers:
Mayor	City or County Health Department representative	OB/GYN
County Executive	WIC	Maternal Fetal Medicine
Business Leaders (Chamber of Commerce)	Family Planning	Pediatrician
Civic, Social, or Fraternal groups: (Kiwanis, Jaycees,)	Immunizations	Emergency Medicine
Religious Leaders	Medicaid	Family Practice
Educators	Outreach Workers	Nursing (OB/PEDS)
Law Enforcement	Home Visitors	Social Workers
	Medical Examiner	Dieticians
Consumer/Advocacy Groups:	Human Service Providers:	Discharge Planners
March of Dimes	Child Welfare	Childbirth Educators
Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies	Substance Abuse Services	Hospital Administrators
MCH Coalitions	Mental Health Services	HMO/Managed Care rep.
Perinatal Infant Grief Professionals	Domestic Violence Shelters/Services	State/County Medical Society
Consumer representative, bereaved family member	Department of Corrections	EMS Personnel
Family Support Groups	Housing Authority/Tenants Rights Groups	Dentist/Dental Technician
Minority rights Groups	Transportation Authority	
Women’s Rights Groups		
Union/Workers rights Groups		