CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
Infants & Children, Ages 4 & Under

Quick-Look
National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS)

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The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention collects child abuse and neglect information in NFR-CRS.

Since 2004, there have been 3,216 child abuse and neglect deaths of infants and children, ages 4 and under reviewed by teams.

BY RACE

- 33% African American
- 10% Other/Multi-racial
- 57% White

BY SEX

For every 10 child abuse and neglect deaths
- 4 are girls
- 6 are boys

BY AGE

Infants account for 52% of child abuse and neglect deaths
- 52%
- 48%

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATHS

- 8 in 10 resulted in child protective services (CPS) action due to death
- 7 in 10 occurred in the child's home
- 5 in 10 had evidence of prior abuse
- 4 in 10 had history of child maltreatment prior to death
- 2 in 10 had an open CPS case with child at time of death
1 in 10 were placed outside of home prior to death

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

- Median age = 25
- 6 in 10 = Male
- Biological Parent: 6 in 10
- Mother's Partner: 2 in 10
- Other Relatives: 1 in 10
- Others: 1 in 10

Of deaths reviewed, about **7 in 10** were **abuse** deaths. Of those, **10 in 10** were due to **physical abuse** and **6 in 10** were due to **abusive head trauma**.

Nearly **3 in 10** were **neglect** deaths. Of those, **7 in 10** were due to **failure to protect from hazards** and **2 in 10** were due to **failure to provide necessities**.

**CHILD MALTREATMENT FATALITY REVIEWS**

- An analysis from 2014 of 2,285 maltreatment deaths reported into the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System found that the number of recommended systems changes or planned prevention actions to be disappointingly small.
- In September of 2017, the NCFRP convened a meeting of 23 national thought leaders and a child welfare expert from the United Kingdom to develop strategies that can improve review teams’ skills in moving from the case review to action.
- This guidance provides recommendations to help improve child maltreatment reviews with a special focus on being more effective in moving from the case discussion to systems improvement to better protect children and prevent other deaths.

**LINK TO GUIDANCE**


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1. Includes ages 4 and under; deaths where act caused = abuse or neglect, n=3216. Data download: March 2017, (n=106,827 from 2004-2016). This quick-look only includes cases where the review indicated that child abuse or neglect caused the death. Deaths where child abuse or neglect contributed (but did not cause) the death are not included, nor are deaths where poor or absent supervision or other negligence caused or contributed to the death. Inconsistent classification is common across and within jurisdictions. CDR teams classification of child abuse and neglect may differ from child welfare and legal system definitions.

These data represent approximately 70% of the cases entered into NCFR-CRS. For more information about the data contained in this Quick Look, please visit https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/NCRPCD-Docs/NCFRQuick_Looks_Analysis.pdf

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**National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention**

Supporting Fetal and Infant Mortality Review and Child Death Review Teams

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