



Center for Fatality Review & Prevention

Saving Lives Together

What is a Fatality Review?

Unexpected fetal, infant and child deaths are opportunities to turn tragedies into lessons that can prevent other deaths. Understanding the circumstances of, and taking action to prevent, these deaths is the work of fatality review programs. There are more than 180 local Fetal Infant Mortality Review teams (FIMR) and 1300 Child Death Review teams (CDR) throughout the U.S. All states manage their local CDR teams at the state level, and several states coordinate their local FIMR teams. Although each process has unique features, the unifying attribute is that both are multidisciplinary case studies of deaths. Information from both reviews can be used at the local, state and Federal levels to focus policy development and quality improvement, and to enhance efforts to develop and maintain risk reduction and prevention programs.

HRSA MCHB Support for the Review Process

Since the early 1990s, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) has provided funding for separate CDR and FIMR national resource centers to improve the capacity of these review programs. In 2015, the MCHB funded a new National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention to bring these two review processes into one coordinated data and technical support center.

The MCHB believes that centralizing data collection, training and technical assistance can facilitate the strengths of each of these death review processes, thus improving both systems of review and building efficiencies to better improve systems of care for mothers, infants, children, and families.

The Michigan Public Health Institute, the grantee for the CDR resource center, manages the new coordinated NCFRP.

Phone: 800-656-2434
Email: info@NCFRP.org
Center website under development
CDR: www.childdeathreview.org

Center Services and Initiatives

Training and Technical Assistance

NCFRP will continue the work of the two previous centers to provide high quality training and technical assistance to both FIMR and CDR state and local review teams through on-site and remote consultations, web-based trainings, an interactive website, and the development and distribution of materials. Support will focus on helping teams improve their effectiveness in moving from review findings to policy, practice and prevention improvements. Federally-funded Healthy Start grantees that are building or supporting FIMR programs will receive priority for FIMR technical assistance.

The Integrated Case Review Data System

NCFRP is building an integrated data system for FIMR and CDR. MPHI developed the National CDR Case Reporting System, in which 45 states currently submit comprehensive data on their reviews into a web-based platform. There is now information from over 170,000 reviews in the system, and national level data is available to researchers and policy makers. NCFRP will work with FIMR teams to enhance and integrate a FIMR case reporting function into the CDR system – leading to a national CDR and FIMR Case Reporting System. The new system will allow local, state, and national analysis of findings from reviews. NCFRP is also implementing a Data Quality Initiative in selected states to improve the quality of the data that review teams enter into the system.

Improving CDR and FIMR Coordination

NCFRP is developing strategies and providing technical assistance to states to improve the coordination between and/or integration of their FIMR and CDR programs.

Taking Data to Action at the National Level

NCFRP is building upon existing relationships that both former centers developed with national organizations and federal agencies. The cornerstone is the Center's Advisory Committee, whose membership comprises a number of national organizations, Federal partners, and representatives of state CDR and FIMR programs. The Committee will help identify ways to translate local and state CDR and FIMR findings into program and policy recommendations at the national level to improve child health and safety.