Fatality Review is an engaged, multidisciplinary community telling the story of each person’s death in order to understand how and why the death occurred in order to take action to improve systems and prevent deaths.

1. Fatality
2. Gather Information
3. Conduct Review and Share the Story
4. Identify Systems Issues
5. Identify Risk and Protective Factors
6. Make Recommendations with Partners
7. Take Action to Improve Systems and Prevent Deaths

For more information call: 800.656.2434
Email: info@ncfrp.org
Website: www.ncfrp.org

The National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention is a program of the Michigan Public Health Institute. The Center is supported in part by Grant No. UG7MC28482 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.
Unexpected fetal, infant, child and adolescent 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.

All states support state and/or local review teams. There are more than 180 local Fetal Infant Mortality Review programs (FIMR) in 27 states and over 1300 Child Death Review (CDR) programs in all 50 states.

Although FIMR and CDR are unique, the unifying feature of both is that reviews are multidisciplinary case studies of deaths. Information from reviews is used at the local, state and national levels for policies and practices to improve systems and services, to understand risk factors, and to enhance prevention programs focused on maternal, infant, child and adolescent health and safety.

Fetal, Infant and Child Death Review

The National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention (NCFRP), a program of the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), is funded by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau to provide training, technical assistance, and data services to CDR and FIMR programs around the country. The Center uses on-site and remote consultations, web-based trainings, and an interactive website to support review programs. The Center also develops and disseminates materials. Support focuses on assisting teams to improve their effectiveness in moving from review findings to policy, practice, and prevention improvements.

NCFRP also works with numerous national partners to help translate review findings into policies and practices. NCFRP is working with FIMR teams to add a more comprehensive FIMR case reporting module into the system, leading to an integrated national CDR and FIMR Case Reporting System. The new system will allow local, state, and national analysis of findings from both reviews.

Integrated Case Review Data System

MPHI maintains the National CDR Case Reporting System, in which 45 states currently submit comprehensive data from their reviews into a web-based platform. There is now information on over 180,000 reviews in the system, and national level data is available to researchers and policy makers. A pilot FIMR module is also operational.

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Moving from Reviews to Effective Prevention

Across the nation, FIMR and CDR teams identify the key risk factors involved in the deaths of children and work to develop programs and policies to reduce risks, such as maternal and child health and safety programs, improved agency policies, community education, and laws and enforcement. Teams also focus on addressing and reducing health disparities in their communities and states that are associated with fetal, infant, child and adolescent deaths.

NCFRP Resources to Help You:

- Technical assistance, strategic planning and training to help state and local teams develop, implement and sustain prevention focused CDR, FIMR and other review programs
- Standardized review models and manuals, protocols, guides to effective reviews, state mortality data, and other print resources
- Comprehensive web site and a web-based portal for teams to post successful prevention outcomes
- Software, web hosting, training, and help desk support for the National CDR Case Reporting System
- Support of regional networks of state CDR program leaders and of FIMR coordinators
- Consultation and connection to experts in infant and child death investigation, bereavement support and specific types of child deaths
- Linkage of CDR and FIMR programs to state and national maternal and child health and child injury programs
- Technical assistance and training to improve coordination between FIMR and CDR teams in states and/or communities