

Saving Lives Together

February 2019

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Greetings from the Staff

Hello, from snowy, cold Michigan!

Due to severe weather conditions, our governor declared a state of emergency last week. We have experienced six snow days in the last two weeks. While this has been challenging for many parents in our area--juggling work and childcare--it is a timely reminder of the reason we do this important and challenging work: **communities care about their kids**. They will go to great lengths to keep their kids safe.



Here at the National Center, it is our great privilege to support you and your team as you do the important work of fatality review. Every day you are on the front lines of community improvement, and the truth is, you may not always get recognition or gratitude for the work you're doing in your community.

Please know that we see it. We know many of you work longer than you have to get records for your review. You build bridges and partnerships that never existed before. You compose yourself when a case hits a little too close to home. You do incredible things with limited resources. You study your data, and you study it some more so you can understand your community's challenges. **You make**

change.

Whether your prevention recommendations focus on healthy pregnancies, health equity, or improved school cancellation policies, your findings and recommendations are jam-packed with potential to save lives. Thank you for all that you continue to do to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your community's infants and children. Please reach out and let us know how we can support you as you serve your community.

With you in the work,

Susanna Joy

Upcoming Events

WEBINAR:
New Resources from
the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
1-2 PM EST

Have you ever wondered what resources are available for child death review (CDR) and fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) professionals? The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (National Center) will be highlighting the breadth of resources it has developed for CDR and FIMR teams over the last two decades as a leader in fatality review. The webinar will focus on the technical assistance, training, and written materials available from the National Center. This will include presentations, virtual trainings, as well as on-site visits. New resources, including a new series of video training modules, will be unveiled. This is a great opportunity for fatality review coordinators, team members, abstractors, maternal interviewers, and injury prevention and maternal child health professionals.

[Click here to register!](#)

Networking Opportunities



- **March 6, 2019, 3:00-4:00 PM EST:** FIMR Coordinators Call
- **March 9-12:** If you're in the area, come and visit National Center staff exhibiting at the **2019 AMCHP Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.** Take advantage of this amazing opportunity to connect with more than 800 public health officials who share

your interest in maternal and child health!

• **April FIMR Regional Support Calls:**

- Western Region: April 10th, 12:00-1:00 EST
- Northeast Region: April 16th, 9:30-10:30 EST
- Midwest Region: April 16th, 11:00-12:00 EST
- Central Region: April 22nd, 11:00-12:00 EST
- Southern Region: April 25th, 11:00-12:00 EST

Field Notes

Highlights from state and local programs

Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee Celebrates 10 years of FIMR



Metro Public Health Dept
Nashville/Davidson County
Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

This April, the Metro Public Health Department, serving Nashville and Davidson Counties in Tennessee will be

celebrating its FIMR program's 10th anniversary. Trevor Crowder, the [Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program](#) Director, describes the role of FIMR in her community: "Nashville/Davidson County has a high infant mortality rate. Many factors such as maternal stress, poverty, overcrowded housing, and disparities in healthcare services have a bigger impact on infants than on any other population... The review of fetal and infant deaths allows the community to respond to the specific needs identified by the cases reviewed and make recommendations. The reviews provide a voice for local families who have lost their babies. The presence of FIMR appears to significantly improve a community's performance of public health functions."

Nashville FIMR's Community Action Team has two active sub-committees: the Behavioral Wellness committee, and the Infant Vitality/Safe Sleep committee. The Behavioral Wellness committee works to ensure bereaved families are connected to needed bereavement and mental health services; the Infant Vitality/Safe Sleep committee promotes infant safe sleep, preconception health, and tobacco cessation resources through presentations, baby showers, and other events.

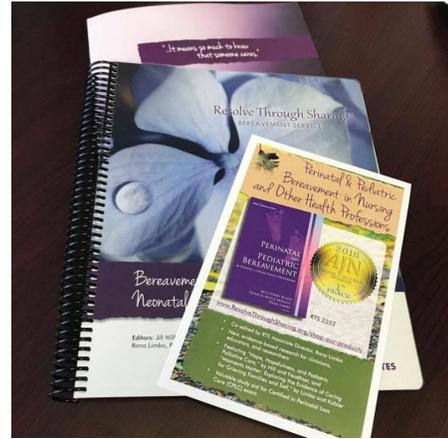
Seven members of the original FIMR Case Review Team have stayed with the program since its beginning in 2009. These members will be recognized by the mayor's office at a public event thanking them for their dedication and service to the moms, babies, and families of Nashville, TN. Additionally, an appreciation luncheon is scheduled to honor FIMR committee members who have volunteered their time regularly for the past ten years.

Congratulations, Metro Public Health FIMR Team! For more information, please contact Trevor Crowder, MA, at 615-340-0552, and check out their [maternal interview web page](#) for an excellent overview for families!

CDR and FIMR staff participate in bereavement training

Fatality review personnel, caregivers, and workers dealing with bereaved families often express their need to know more about communicating with and providing services to families following an infant or child loss. In November 2018, the National Center sponsored CDR and FIMR participants from 8 states to attend the [Resolve Through Sharing®](#) (RTS) training at Langone Medical Center in New York City.

RTS was founded in 1981 by Gunderson Health System. Today it is a not-for-profit organization providing thought leadership and an evidence-based, yet compassion-first, approach to bereavement care for families. Fatality review staff attended Perinatal Death Training and Neonatal/Pediatric Death Training. Participants are able to return to their states and train other fatality review staff how to care for and communicate with the bereaved, using Guided Participation as a method to support relationship-based care and practice with families.



Data Matters

Data Quality Corner



2016? What was the race/ethnicity of deaths reviewed in 2017? How many fire deaths indicated a working smoke detector?

From the main menu of the NFR-CRS, click on Standardized Reports. You can then select different criteria for reports like date of death or only include deaths where the data entry had been completed. Reports can be saved as a PDF or exported to other formats like Word or Excel. Check out **Report 32 on Data Quality!** Users can now run a report to identify which cases have missing data on several priority variables (like date of death, age, whether a death scene investigation was conducted, etc).

Detailed documentation about the Standardized Reports is available on the Help menu. Questions can also be directed to the National Center at info@ncfrp.org. Let's put that data to action!

Need a quick count of your review team data from the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS)? Over 30 NFR-CRS **Standardized Reports** can help you with your number crunching. The Standardized Reports can assist with commonly asked questions like how many suicide deaths were reviewed by your team in 2015? How many of deaths had an autopsy performed in

Resources for Prevention

Suicide Prevention Resource Center hosts strategic communication training webinars

Do your suicide prevention efforts include a communication campaign or materials? Many who begin this type of work realize it sounds much simpler than it ends up being in practice. Our partners at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) have launched a [video series](#) on strategic communication planning for suicide prevention that may be helpful as you consider how to address suicide in your community. The four short modules include:

- [Introduction to Strategic Communication Planning](#)
- [Understanding and Reaching Your Audience: Example from *We R Native*](#)
- [Understanding and Reaching Your Audience: Example from South Carolina](#)
- [Evaluating Your Communication Efforts](#)



The [SPRC site](#) also has an *Additional Resources* list that can help you consider how to craft effective prevention messages.

Explore common risk and protective factors across multiple types of violence



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Violence Prevention has launched [Connecting the Dots](#). The tools allow users to explore shared risk and protective factors among different types of violence encountered by fatality review teams, including: bullying; sexual violence; youth suicide; intimate partner violence; teen dating violence; youth violence; and child abuse and neglect.

The CDC's *Connecting the Dots* site includes a series of six short training modules that lay the foundation for understanding the shared risk and protective factors across multiple types of violence; they can all be completed in less than half an hour. The [Connecting the Dots Selector](#) feature allows users to examine violence types by risk factor across the social-Ecological Model of violence prevention. Finally, there are *Notes from the Field*, highlighting how some states are successfully applying a shared risk and protective factor approach.

As communities and states consider recommendations to decrease infant, child, and youth fatality, a clear understanding of these connections can help teams plan strategies to prevent multiple forms of violence at once and increase public health impact. *Connecting the Dots* is a powerful tool to educate and equip fatality review teams as they make recommendations to improve community safety.

Doyle Recognized by Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Cheryl Doyle, FIMR Coordinator for the Coastal Region of Mississippi, was honored at y the [Mississippi Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) (MSPQC) 5th Annual Meeting. Cheryl is the first recipient of the Excellence Award for her dedication and service to the mothers and infants of Mississippi. The Excellence Award is presented to individuals and organizations that have made a significant impact in the care and health of mothers and babies in Mississippi. Congratulations, Cheryl!

Fatality Review Partners lead Webinar

The National Association of Counties (NACo) sponsored Dixie Morgese from Flagler-Volusia Counties in Florida, and Patti Shearin from Tarrant County, TX to participate in a webinar on January 23rd titled [County Approaches to Improving Birth Outcomes](#). The archived webinar can be found on NACo's website.



Curious if this webinar would be useful for you? Here's a description:

Disproportional maternal and child health outcomes further exacerbate social determinants and health inequities. The issue is a complex problem requiring multi-faceted, solutions tailored to the needs of each community. In this informational webinar, participants will hear from county models who have implemented community-based initiatives to address birth outcomes and support the healthy development of children.

Great job, Dixie and Patti!

Opportunity for Fatality Review Partners

CityMatCH CityLeaders Cohort

CityMatCH, a national leader in urban maternal and child health and partner of the National Center, is offering opportunities for leadership and training for emerging and mid-level urban maternal child health leaders. The program, called [CityLeaders](#), engages participants in nine months of intensive training on the MCH Leadership Competencies, including one onsite meeting and a series of distance-based, skills-building opportunities. A key component in the program is the connection through CityLeaders to a senior urban MCH leader in the field for a mentor/mentee relationship. The leadership training began in 2007 and continues to develop MCH leaders to tackle challenges and seize opportunities on behalf of the



women, children, and families they serve. Watch the CityMatCH web site for the application for the 2019 cohort, coming soon! Applications will be due in early June, and the program kicks off at the Annual CityMatCH Conference. This year's [CityMatCH conference](#) will be September 23 – 25, 2019, in Providence, Rhode Island. For information, contact [Stephani Tyrance](#) or [Mark Law](#) .

New & Departing Coordinators



WELCOME

- Kelly Cunningham, Indiana state FIMR Coordinator
- Sheree Keitt, Maryland state FIMR Coordinator
- Amy Davis, Ohio state CDR/FIMR Coordinator
- Ellis Perez, Coordinator in the brand new Orange County, Florida FIMR
- Rachel Tribble, Tallahassee, Florida FIMR Coordinator
- Kemhorn, Gentes, Columbus, Ohio FIMR
- Nafla Poff, Wisconsin state FIMR Coordinator
- Rosi Trichilo, Louisiana Statewide Surveillance Manager (CDR & FIMR)

FAREWELL

- Matt Slanoc, Ohio state CDR/FIMR Coordinator
- Robin Gruenfeld, Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coordinator (CDR & FIMR)
- Faye Gardner, Tallahassee, FL FIMR Coordinator
- Dani Holliday, Geary County, KS FIMR Coordinator
- Karen Morris, Wisconsin state FIMR Coordinator
- Jennifer Herrera, Maryland state CDR Coordinator

We rely on state and local coordinators to let us know of arriving or departing coordinators, and we appreciate it when you let us know. Thank you!

National Center Staff Out & About

Working with programs is the best part of our job.

Rosemary and Susanna traveled to New York City for Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) bereavement support training November 5-9 at Langone Medical Center in New York City.



Rosemary participated in the Elimination of Perinatal HIV Task Force Summit November 27 & 28th in Washington, DC.

Abby, Esther, Heather, Nanette, and Susanna, along with their SUID/SDY Data Coordinating Center partners Meghan Faulkner and Erik Buzkowski, traveled to the SUID/SDY kick off

meeting at CDC in Atlanta November 27-29.

Rosemary made a site visit to the Healthy Start program in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and presented on FIMR to the Maternal Child Health Coalition on December 7th.

Rosemary visited the Southern Illinois Health Care Foundation Healthy Start to meet with leadership and present on FIMR to the Community Action Network on December 11th.

Susanna traveled to Columbia County, OR and Clark County, WA December 10th and 11th to meet with fatality review partners there before joining the Washington state CDR coordinators for a meeting in Seattle on December 13th.

Connect with us!

One Stop Shop

The National Center is your one stop shop for all things related to your FIMR and CDR programs. Questions? Concerns? An exciting idea? We would love to hear from you!



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[Start receiving this newsletter!](#)

[Join the FIMR listserv](#)

[Contact the National Center](#)

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