Greetings from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention.

My name is Esther Shaw, and I am a Senior Data Analyst at the National Center. We are in the middle of a busy spring season creating webinars, print and digital resources, and—my personal favorite—providing technical assistance. In the midst of it all, one thing remains constant: our ongoing support for fatality review data activities through the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS).

If you have ever needed a password reset or had a question about or suggested an improvement to the NFR-CRS, it is likely I’ve talked to you. I
have spoken with at least one individual in each state over my past 12 years working for the National Center, and I enjoy the fact that on any given day, I don’t know which state I will hear from next.

It is my goal to ensure that state and local fatality review teams have what they need to collect and analyze quality data to help them craft effective recommendations to reduce fatalities. **I encourage you to let us know if something in the NFR-CRS is not working well for you, or you can think of a way to improve the Report Form.** We are always working to improve, and your input helps us do that.

Thank you for all you are doing to support the important work of fatality review. It is an honor to partner with you.

Kind Regards,
Esther Shaw

The National Center gratefully acknowledges the participation of staff from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau at our CDR Regional meetings this spring. Thank you for your ongoing investment in and enthusiasm for fatality review as a way to improve communities and save lives.

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**Upcoming Events**

**WEBINAR:**

*Black/White Equity in the Opportunity to Survive the 1st Year of Life... a dream deferred*

**Wednesday, June 5, 2019**
**1:00-2:30 PM EST**

Register here!

Join us for an extended presentation from Dr. Art James exploring how the American history of slavery provides the primary explanation for the racial disparities we see today in infant mortality outcomes. Dr. James will challenge participants to accurately identify the roots of these inequities and explore strategies to achieve equity for mothers and babies.
State FIMR Coordinators Conference Call
June 5, 2019
3:00-4:00 PM EST

Conference Opportunities

March of Dimes Equity in Action: Moving from Theory to Practice
July 8, 2019, Orlando, FL

March of Dimes will host a one-day workshop, Equity in Action: Moving from Theory to Practice on July 8th, immediately preceding the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) annual conference at the Hilton Bonnet Creak Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Attendees will gain knowledge, tools, and training necessary to initiate community-led collaboration to drive improvements in equity and birth outcomes through local birth equity collaboratives. For the full agenda, or to register for the workshop, please visit the registration site.

Safe Kids Worldwide
PREVCON-the Childhood Injury Prevention Convention
July 17-20, 2019, Washington, DC

The Safe Kids Worldwide Childhood Injury Prevention Convention, or PrevCon, connects child injury prevention professionals and empowers them to make a stronger impact. By bringing together experts and partners in the field, attendees gain practical skills, discover helpful resources, and make lasting connections. PrevCon will be held at the Marriott Marquis, July 17-20. To register, or for more information, click here.

September 11-13, 2019

The Safe States Injury and Violence Prevention Conference features three days of educational sessions and national networking opportunities for attendees. This year's focus is building and strengthening connections that advance, transform, and lead the field of injury and violence prevention. The conference will be September 11-13 at the Embassy Suites at Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, GA. Online registration is available until August 23rd. Click here for the full agenda and registration.

CityMatCH Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference
Make Waves: Intentional disruption to advance health equity
CityMatCH invites you to join more maternal and child health professionals from across the country at Make Waves: Intentional Disruption to Advance Health Equity. This year, CityMatCH is partnering with the Rhode Island Health Equity Summit to showcase how communities nationwide are prioritizing health equity to build healthier, more resilient, and more just communities. Preconference offerings on September 21st and 22nd include Reproductive Justice 101; How to Evaluate Public Health Programs; and The Other 'H' in MCH: Moving the Needle on the Culture of Humanity. The conference is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI, with group rate lodging options at several local hotels. Click here for more information or to register.

Field Notes

Highlights from state and local programs

Panhandle Child Death Review leads push to get safe infant beds into Texas shelters

A recent SUID case in the Texas panhandle highlighted the lack of safe infant sleep spaces in some emergency shelters in the region. Jessica Gonzales coordinates the Panhandle Child Fatality Review (CFR) team out of the Randall County Sheriff's office. The Panhandle CFR covers a 26-county region in north Texas. After being informed of a sleep-related child fatality in a local emergency shelter, it became clear to Gonzalez that the shelters did not have adequate safe sleeping arrangements for infants.

Gonzales and local fatality review partners used the occasion to highlight the need for safe sleep options in emergency shelters, and the community responded. Monetary donations and donations of portable cribs are providing safe sleep spaces for families who are seeking emergency assistance in shelters, ensuring infant safety during challenging times of transition. Thirteen safe infant sleep options, including portable cribs and bassinettes, were initially donated to the local police department. Local law enforcement subsequently partnered with the Department of State Health Services and Amarillo Public Health Department to create a sustainable plan to keep Cribs for Kids' Safe Sleep Survival Kits with Cribettes in stock. The initiative will send families home with a portable, safe infant sleep space when they transition from the shelter to a long-term living environment.

Fatality review teams participating in the NFR-CRS have reviewed the deaths of 121 infants who died of multiple causes while in shelters; seventy-seven of those deaths were sleep-related.
The Infant Mortality Alliance (IMA) is a collaborative of diverse partners committed to reducing infant mortality in the African American community in Oklahoma County. The Oklahoma City-County Health Department’s Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and Maternal and Child Health Outreach (MCHO) Programs serve as the backbone organization for the IMA.

In April, the IMA and its stakeholders supported the second annual Black Maternal Health Week taking place April 11 – 17, 2019. The campaign was originally created by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to bring awareness to the plight of Black maternal health and mortality. Maternal and infant health disparities between the African American community and other communities in Oklahoma are significant. The preterm birth rate for black babies in the state is 43 percent higher than the rate among all other populations. Women of color are most at risk of facing pregnancy complications, and black women are more than three times as likely as white women to die from pregnancy-related causes.

During Black Maternal Health Week, The IMA hosted the following activities and events in Oklahoma City to celebrate, empower, and uplift Black mothers:

- April 11: Safe Town Domestic Violence Awareness Training
- April 12: Screening "Death by Delivery" followed by a Community Conversation; "Decolonizing Research in Black Maternal Health" webinar
- April 13: INTEGRIS Hispanic Health Fair
- April 14: Partnering with faith communities to provide bulletin inserts to address maternal and child health concerns and action items
- April 15: Proclamation designating Black Maternal Health Week was signed at the Oklahoma State Capital; a similar proclamation was made in Oklahoma City; "Maternal Health Policy Priorities for Black Mamas" webinar
- April 16: Raising awareness on social media using #BlackMaternalHealthWeek and #BMHW19
- April 17: A call to action from March of Dimes to advocate for the passage of Oklahoma HB2334, the Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) Act. It later passed, establishing an MMR committee.

Black Maternal Health Week is an annual event, celebrated nationally from April 11-17 every year.
Miami-Dade FIMR highlights the benefits of maximizing FIMR efforts using the Perinatal Periods of Risk analysis

Kudos to the Miami-Dade FIMR program! Program specialist, Manuela Thomas, presented a poster at the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Annual Conference, April 4-5, 2019. The title of the poster was “An Integrative Approach: Enhancing the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Process of Miami-Dade Using Perinatal Periods of Risk.” Guoyan Zhang, MD, Manuel Fermin, Michelle Resse, Louise Reiter, Claudia Pinzon, and Amy Olen of the Miami-Dade FIMR team were co-presenters.

Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) is an epidemiological analysis that can aid FIMR teams in effective case selection for fatality review with a strong focus on prevention strategies. Our partners at CityMatCH offer resources and technical assistance for PPOR. For an overview, access the National Center’s November 14, 2018 webinar on effective use of population-level data.

Congratulations to the Miami-Dade FIMR program on implementing this valuable analysis method to support their case selection and prevention efforts!

Arkansas hosts statewide fatality review meeting

On April 2nd and 3rd, the Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) program came together for their annual meeting. Over 60 team members attended the annual training with each of the 11 local review teams represented. During this meeting, ICDR teams learned about methods to improve data quality, tips for writing effective prevention recommendations, practicing self-care, strategies for reducing infant sleep-related deaths and developed action plans for implementing prevention activities. Team members also learned what other states are doing to help prevent suicide and sleep related deaths. This annual training provides teams with the opportunity to network, celebrate successes, brainstorm solutions to barriers, and provide feedback for needs at future trainings. Kuddos to the Arkansas team for a successful event.

Greg Adams, the Program Coordinator for the Center for Good Mourning and Staff Bereavement Support at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, taught team members how to better handle job related stress, trauma, and grief through interactive discussions. Attendees expressed value in the information that Greg
This was the first meeting at which guest speakers from other states were invited to share how their local teams address prevention of suicide and infant sleep-related deaths. This was a great opportunity for attendees to learn how other states are addressing the same issues that Arkansas faces. Kate Jankovsky, from Colorado, presented activities that their local teams have implemented to address suicide deaths in youth. Leilani Spence, from Tennessee, presented information about safe sleep activities implemented in Tennessee’s team regions and statewide. Attendees have requested more information about specific activities both Colorado and Tennessee are doing and hope to implement similar activities in Arkansas.

Great job partnering with other states to enrich your state-level training and processes!

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**Data Matters**

**SUID Case Registry partners publish paper in *Pediatrics***

The May 2019 edition of *Pediatrics*, published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), highlights the important work of the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) Case Registry. Alexa Erck Lambert, Sharyn Parks Brown, Carri Cottengim, Meghan Faulkner, Fern Hauck, and Carrie Shapiro-Mendoza published *Sleep-Related Infant Suffocation Deaths Attributable to Soft Bedding, Overlay, and Wedging*. The paper examines data from the SUID Case Registry from 2011 to 2014, and includes SUID cases categorized as explained suffocation with unsafe sleep factors. Among these cases, suffocation was most frequently attributed to soft bedding (69%), followed by overlay (19%), and wedging (12%). Soft bedding deaths occurred most frequently in an adult bed (49%); the most common soft bedding obstructing the airway was a blanket or blankets (34%). The National Center is proud to partner with the CDC to support the work of the SUID Case Registry through the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NCR-CRS).

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**The Copy Case Feature**

Since April 2018, FlMR users of the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) have been piloting a special feature of the system: the ability to copy cases. We are now ready to roll this functionality out to all CDR users on June 24th. The Copy Case feature will enable users to duplicate the entry of most sections of the NFR-CRS. This will save time with data entry for deaths with multiple gestations or incidents where multiple deaths occurred (for example, a home fire where multiple siblings died). Users can enter the information for one decedent and then copy the case that has been already data entered. Once the case has been copied, the user will update the record to be
Resources for Prevention

National Center releases 13-session video training module series for fatality review

The National Center is excited to share a series of video modules created to support the work for FIMR and CDR teams. All under one-hour in length, the 13 modules are available on the National Center website.

Half of the modules are focused on fatality review process topics such as: CDR 101; FIMR 101; National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System; and Maternal Interviews.

The other half focus on best practice topics such as: Building, Maintaining, and Sustaining FIMR Teams; Collaborating Across Review Systems; and Partnering for Prevention.

The modules were designed to support the work of fatality review teams, leaders, and their partners. They are ideal to include as part of an onboarding process for new coordinators or team members, when rolling out a newly-adopted process such as maternal interviews, or joining the Case Reporting System. Click here to access the module series. Happy viewing!

National Center releases two fatality review guidance documents

Coordination and collaboration across fatality review systems can create collective impact around findings and recommendations to prevent fatality. The National Center is pleased to announce the publication of two new guidances to help build capacity around collaboration between review systems. The first, Enhancing Collaboration Between Child Death Review and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review provides best practices and models for collaboration between these parallel processes at the state and local levels. The second, Improving Coordination Between Civilian and Military Child Death Reviews: A Primer on Cooperation to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families, equips CDR teams with understanding of the military CDR process and ways to meaningfully engage military partners around the shared goal of keeping kids alive.
Suicide Prevention Resource Center launches "Locating and Understanding Data for Suicide Prevention"

Many state and local fatality review teams examine the tragedy of suicide up close on a far-too-regular basis. Understanding there are multiple data sources to assist teams in a comprehensive understanding of risk and protective factors for suicide, the National Center recommends a newly-launched e-course from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center. Locating and Understanding Data for Suicide Prevention will equip participants to understand where to find data relevant to suicide as well as key terms necessary to interpret data accurately—all in about 2 hours. The e-course is ideal for professionals involved in national, state, or community-level suicide prevention. Click here to register.

New resources from the Children's Safety Network

The Children's Safety Now Alliance, representing injury prevention leaders and experts from national organizations, federal agencies, state health departments, hospitals, and universities, has created Moving Towards Health Equity: Understanding and Addressing Child and Adolescent Injury Disparities to assist public health practitioners to (a) use a health equity lens in their future injury and violence prevention practices and programs, and (b) reflect on existing practices and programs to make any necessary improvements. This fact sheet provides a brief review of child and adolescent injury disparities across several populations (e.g., sex, race/ethnicity, geography, disability, sexual minority, health literacy, and socioeconomic status (SES)); successful examples from the public health field where injury disparities have been addressed; and resources to identify inequity and understand, assess, and promote health equity. Injuries and violence are leading causes of morbidity and mortality among U.S. children and adolescents. These injuries are preventable. Researchers have identified many strategies that are effective in preventing injuries in this population. Evidence-based and Evidence-informed Strategies for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention synthesizes findings from recent systematic reviews conducted or disseminated by five organizations that specialize in evidence-based public health. The Children’s Safety Network and the Children’s Safety Now Alliance, representing injury prevention leaders and experts from national organizations, federal agencies, state health departments, hospitals, and universities, have created this paper to help state and local injury prevention
practitioners—and others interested in child and adolescent injury prevention—better understand the existing evidence and identify knowledge gaps. These insights can help program planners make the best use of limited resources and implement strategies and programs that have the best chance of making a difference in promoting the safety and well-being of all children and adolescents. Injuries are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among U.S. children and adolescents. State injury and violence prevention programs address a broad range of injury topics across varying populations, with initiatives funded by multiple sources. Proven strategies for preventing injuries among children and adolescents need to be implemented more broadly. Partnerships that combine traditional partners (e.g., hospitals and health care systems) and non-traditional partners (e.g., philanthropies and businesses) can play an important role in expanding the implementation of these strategies. Multiple funding streams also provide more opportunity for states to address injury and violence. Health leaders and practitioners are not always informed of all the potential funding streams or how they may form partnerships to strengthen their injury and violence prevention systems. The Children’s Safety Network and the Children’s Safety Now Alliance, representing injury prevention leaders and experts from national organizations, federal agencies, state health departments, hospitals, and universities, created Leveraging Funding Sources and Partnerships in Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention to provide a compilation of multiple funding sources and strategic guidance on collaborating through partnerships in order to reduce child and adolescent injury and violence.

New & Departing Coordinators

**WELCOME**
- Theresa Quaderer, Ohio state CDR Coordinator
- Robyn Kimmell, Toole Co., MT FICMMR
- Barb Jordan, Lucas Co., Ohio FIMR
- Olga Myers, Rock Co., WI FIMR
- Heather Deurr, Allegany Co., MD FIMR
- Brenda O'Rourke, Kalamazoo, MI FIMR
- Jene Yoder, Shawnee, KS FIMR

**FAREWELL**
- Amy Bailey, Texas state CDR Coordinator
- Carrea Dye, Alabama state CDR Coordinator
- Nikki West, Tennessee state FIMR Coordinator
- Kristi Akelstad, Toole County, MT FICMMR
- Tina Mills, Allegany, MD FIMR

We rely on state and local coordinators to let us know of arriving or departing...
Working with programs is the best part of our job.

- Rosemary Fournier provided FIMR training in the Bronx, NY at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine on February 27th.
- On February 28th, Rosemary met with the New Jersey FIMR leadership, including the state FIMR coordinator, MCH epidemiology staff, and state Title V director.
- Abby Collier participated in the Child Safety Learning Collaborative kick off meeting on February 28th and March 1st.
- Abby had a site visit with the Iowa CDR team on March 7th.
- Esther Shaw and Rosemary attended and exhibited at the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Conference in San Antonio, TX, March 10th-12th.
- Abby participated in the Minnesota Case Registry site visit on March 11th.
- On March 12th and 13th, Rosemary and Esther provided training to the San Antonio FIMR team.
- Susanna Joy provided training at the South Carolina Statewide CDR Coordinators Meeting in Columbia on March 18th.
- Rosemary attended and presented at the Tennessee Statewide FIMR meeting on March 21st.
- Abby participated in the Arkansas statewide child fatality review meeting on April 2nd.
- Abby participated in the Cook County SUID Case Registry site visit on April 16th.
- Susanna represented the National Center at the Tennessee Department of Health Annual Child Fatality Review Training and Safe Sleep Conference in Franklin, TN on April 16th and 17th.
- Susanna represented the National Center at the Cribs for Kids Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, April 23rd-26th.
- Abby attended the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect April 24th-26th.
- Esther and Susanna attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional CDR Coordinators Meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE May 1-2.
- Abby had a meeting with child fatality partners from the Navajo Nation on May 1st.
- Abby joined Heather Dykstra and Erik Buczkowski at the Southeast Regional CDR Meeting in Austin, TX May 13th-14th.
- Abby and Rosemary attended and presented at the Statewide Fatality Review Summit in Honolulu, HI on May 22nd-23rd.
- Susanna and Abby participated in the Massachusetts State CDR meeting in Boston and in the Northeast Regional CDR Meeting in Burlington, VT on May 29th-31st.
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!

- Join the CDR listserv
- Join the FIMR listserv
- Contact the National Center
- Subscribe to the newsletter!

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