Greetings from the Staff

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As many of you may know, we are a small but mighty crew at the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. We have quite a variety of personal hobbies and interests - knitting, fishing, hiking, bowling, piloting airplanes via virtual reality, and of course, traveling. We do have one common passion among all of us though and that is a shared love for Broadway musicals! Many of us have been fortunate to see Hamilton this year. Around the office or during staff meetings, you might hear one of us toss out a favorite Hamilton quip like “Talk less; smile more,” “I want to be in the room where it happens,” or “I’m not throwing away my shot.” But on a more serious note, the finale song in Act 2 “Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story” often makes us think about the important work we all do in fatality review. The National Center’s vision for fatality review is to have an engaged, multidisciplinary community gather together to share a child’s story, one child at a time, to better understand the risk factors and circumstances to prevent future deaths. Fatality review should include...
the telling of the child’s life – not just the death – and come at it from an ecological perspective. The important work in drawing upon the lessons of an individual child’s story helps to guarantee that individual child’s story lives on and shapes for the better the lives of other children. Thank you for taking the time to continue to tell the story of children whose own voices are now silenced. It is hard and at times brutal work but so critical to prevention.

Warmly,

Heather Dykstra
Senior Data Analyst

Upcoming Events

Upcoming FIMR Regional Support Calls:

- Northern Region: October 15, 2019; 9:30-10:30 AM EST
- Midwest Region: October 15, 2019; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM EST
- Western Region: October 16, 2019; 4:00-5:00 PM EST
- Southern Region: October 24, 2019; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM EST
- Central Region: October 28, 2019; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM EST

Save the Date:

WEBINAR: *Using Fatality Review to Understand Disasters*
Thursday, October 31st, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

Registration information will be distributed soon through both CDR and FIMR listservs.

Field Notes

Highlights from state and local programs

FIMR teams celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month
Two FIMR sites celebrated Breastfeeding Awareness Month in August by sponsoring a public viewing of *Chocolate Milk: The Documentary*. *Chocolate Milk* is a digital storytelling project that shares video testimonials from Black mothers who have struggled and succeeded with breastfeeding. The film is a production of The African American Breastfeeding Project, a multi-media initiative to normalize breastfeeding by collecting personal narratives and creating an online database of resources and groups serving African American mothers across the country.

Jene Yoder, the Maternal Child Health/First Steps/FIMR Coordinator from the Family Health Division of the [Shawnee County Health Department](https://www.shawneehealth.org) in Topeka, KS participated with WIC in inviting the community to view the documentary on August 7th. Katherine Campbell, FIMR coordinator from the [Mother & Child Health Coalition](https://www.mchcoalition.org) in Kansas City, MO, sponsored a viewing of the film on August 14th, followed by a panel presentation on strategies for improving the breastfeeding rates among African American mothers. Fifty-nine people attended. Yoder identified that attendees enjoyed that the film highlighted both the strengths and struggles of Black women in the various roles of giving birth, breastfeeding, and providing lactation services and midwifery care. Panelists focused on the following questions:

- How do we encourage women of color to choose lactation professions?
- How do we reach Black women to connect with them and promote breastfeeding?

Fatality review teams regularly develop meaningful recommendations to address health disparities, including disparate rates of breastfeeding—a known protective factor to support infant health and wellness.

## CDR coordinators participate in regional meetings

The National Center participated in a meeting in each of the 5 CDR regions over the summer, meeting a key objective of their cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration. The Northeast region met in Burlington, VT; the Mid-Atlantic region met in
Rehoboth Beach, DE; the Southeast region met in Austin, TX, the West region met in Salt Lake City, UT; and the Midwest region met at the National Center office in Okemos, MI.

Meeting priorities were identified for each region ahead of time to ensure that each region’s meeting met the needs of the participants.

Attendees shared updates from their state programs, engaged in shared problem solving, and provided insights to help shape National Center programmatic support efforts. Federal partners were able to join in 2 of the meetings.

Participants identified the following as some of the helpful outcomes of the meetings:

- Connections with other states—their issues and approaches
- Learned tips and tricks for assembling a strong state advisory board
- Resources for youth suicide prevention
- Feeling energized for upcoming panel meetings

The National Center hosts CDR regional meetings every other year.

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**Kudos Corner**

**Youth firearm suicide study published in Journal of Behavioral Medicine**

"Firearm Suicide among Youth in the United States, 2004-2015" was published in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* on August 1st. Patricia Schnitzer, Heather Dykstra, Theodore Trigylidas, and Richard Lichenstein were contributing authors. The study examined child death review data in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) of firearm suicide deaths of children ages 10-18 where the suicide-specific section in the case report tool was complete, providing rich contextual information for analysis.

Of the 1388 suicide deaths included in the sample, 36% of the children had talked about, threatened, or attempted suicide prior to their death; these cases were categorized as at "greater risk" for suicide. The study concluded that firearms used by children in this "greater risk" category were less likely to be stored in a locked location than firearms used by children who had not previously talked about, threatened or attempted suicide.

Access to firearms is a significant preventable risk factor for youth suicide, and this important study maximizes the use of CDR data to more effectively inform the
Indianapolis celebrates program milestones

The Marion County, IN Healthy Babies/Healthy Start Consortia celebrated 25 years of the Indianapolis Healthy Babies Consortium, 20 years of Healthy Start, and 15 continuous years of FIMR operation. Over 100 community leaders and stakeholders attended the event on June 28th. Keynote speakers included (from left to right) Yvonne Beasley; Dr. Haywood Brown; Dr. Thomas Ferrara; Rosemary Fournier; Dr. Arthur James, and Dr. Virginia Crane. Congratulations on these anniversaries, Marion County!

Data Matters

Data Tip: Please check your bookmarks for National Fatality Review Case Reporting System!

Please note that https://www.cdrdata.org has become https://data.ncfrp.org. If you have the data entry site bookmarked, please check to make sure it says https://data.ncfrp.org. If you are still using cdrdata.org, it will no longer work as of February 2020.

Data Quality Summary Reports coming in September

The National Center will release the 4th annual Data Quality Summary Reports in September, featuring data on deaths that occurred in 2017 and are entered into the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS). This report, prepared for each state that records 30 or more deaths occurring during the report year, shows the percent of missing and unknown data for the CDR priority variables for monitoring data quality. This year the report has been updated, with input from the Data Quality Workgroup, in an effort to make it more user-friendly. These updates include the addition of timeliness
Dawn Porter (pictured), Arkansas' Infant and Child Death Review Program Coordinator, has used her data quality summary to build data collection and data entry capacity among her local coordinators. She has focused her training efforts on the Core "High 5" and "Low 5" variables—the five variables for which there are the highest and lowest rates of missing and unknown responses in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS). Recognizing it takes a significant investment of time and effort to help build data capacity, she expressed the value of doing so: "If you don't have the data, you can't make recommendations because you don't know all the circumstances."

The first Data Quality Summary Reports were provided for cases of fatalities that occurred in 2014 and were distributed in 2016. Arkansas has seen great success since beginning this focused work, including significant decreases in the rates of missing data on specific Core variables (see image below). In 2014, 73% of the Arkansas' cases had missing data for the variable assessing child's health insurance; two years later, it was only missing in 1% of the cases. Porter is pleased, but still sees room for improvement. Lack of investigations, or challenges accessing records still make it difficult for teams to get all the information they want. She continues to encourage teams to build relationships to break down barriers to effective data collection, recognizing quality data drives effective prevention.

If your state program is interested in ways to improve your data quality, please contact us at info@ncfrp.org; we are happy to help you consider ways to improve fatality review data to drive effective prevention.

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**Arkansas Data Improvement**

"Missing"

2014-2016

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**Resources for Prevention**

**National Center releases Improving Racial Equity in Fatality Review**

Fatality review methodologies offer unique strategies for analyses of...
individual and community factors that significantly affect health disparities, including community members' experiences of racism. Acknowledging this, the National Center released *Improving Racial Equity in Fatality Review* in August. It is intended to provide guidance for fatality review teams:

- On team composition and education to new and existing teams to help members understand implicit bias and other equity issues.
- On gathering the right records to help teams understand mothers'/families' experiences of racism, the impacts of other social determinants of health, and how those experiences may have impacted maternal and child outcomes.
- On ensuring that—once teams have their findings—they are making and implementing meaningful recommendations that effectively address disparities and the social determinants of health.

The National Center is excited to help teams build capacity to address systemic racism and promote health equity through the fatality review process.

### National Center promotes video training module series for fatality review

The National Center is excited to highlight a series of video modules created to support the work of 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 National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System. Click here to access the module series. Happy viewing!
Violence prevention resource released

The CDC Division of Violence Prevention released *Select, Adapt, Evaluate! How to Use Essential Elements to Inform Your Prevention Approaches* in August. The tool helps state and local partners with the implementation of prevention approaches based on the best available evidence. Because each community and state is unique, practitioners must decide how to balance the benefits of certain prevention programs with the reality of their local contexts. This tool was developed to support this important decision-making process. *Select, Adapt, and Evaluate!* explains how evidence-informed approaches work and suggests ways to effectively select, deliver, adapt, and evaluate evidence-based programs, or promising or emerging approaches.

To see it in action, join CDC and Prevent Connect for a web conference on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 11:00 AM Pacific/2:00 PM Eastern. Register for the web conference [here](#).

New & Departing Coordinators

**WELCOME**
- Mackenzie Gress, Amanda Rouse, and Blair Tomsheck; Montana FICMMR
- Ashley Sturm; Palm Beach, FL FICMMR
- Sandra Despagne; Palm Beach, FL FIMR
- Colleen Wilburn; Interim State CFR Coordinator, Maryland
- Debbie Walpole; Interim State FIMR Coordinator, Maryland
- Tiffany James; San Antonio, TX FIMR
- Anya Monroe; Tallahassee, FL

**FAREWELL**
- Joey Thurgood; Utah state coordinator
- Sheree Keitt; State FIMR coordinator, Maryland
- Maura Dwyer, State CFR coordinator, Maryland
- Monica Koenig; Yolo County, CA FIMR
- Jennifer Miller; Sedgwick County, KS FIMR
- Jorge Rodriguez; San Antonio, TX FIMR
- Violet Hyatt; Maine MFIMR 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 Fournier presented at the CDC’s 2019 HIV Surveillance Technical Assistance Meeting in Atlanta, GA on June 12th; her presentation was FIMR/HIV 101: A Systems-Level Tool for Ending the Epidemic among Pregnant and Postpartum Women and their Infants.
- Abby Collier, Heather Dykstra, and Patricia Schnitzer joined the state CDR coordinators from the West Region in Salt Lake City June 16th and 17th.
- Abby went to Nome, AK on June 24th to support collaboration between the state health department and local tribes.
- Susanna Joy participated in the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Summit in Flagstaff, AZ June 25th-26th.
- Rosemary attended and presented at the June 28th celebration of the Indianapolis, IN FIMR, Healthy Start and Healthy Babies Consortia
- Rosemary participated in the March of Dimes Equity in Action: Moving from Theory to Practice Summit July 8th in Orlando.
- Abby exhibited at the National Association of City and County Health Officials In Orlando, FL July 8th-11th.
- Rosemary and the Florida Department of Health conducted a community of practice day and bereavement training for Florida FIMR coordinators on July 9th.
- Susanna presented at the Florida Child Abuse Death Review Summit in Orlando July 18th and 19th. She presented on Writing Recommendations. Patricia Schnitzer joined her to remotely present on Data Quality.
- All National Center staff participated in the Mid-West Regional Meeting July 25th and 26th in Okemos, MI at the National Center offices.
- On July 31st, Abby met with the Casey Family Programs and select Native American tribes to build capacity related to CDR.
- Abby joined the Arizona CDR coordinators and met with the Navajo Nation and the states whose borders intersect the reservation August 5th-7th.
- All National Center Staff participated in the NCFRP in-person Steering
Committee meeting in Rockville, MD, on August 13th.

- Susanna presented and facilitated at the Local CDR Team Coordinator’s Meeting in Alabama on August 18th and 19th in Montgomery.
- Susanna participated in the Alabama State Child Death Review Summit on August 22nd and 23rd in Montgomery.
- Abby participated in an Overdose Fatality Review meeting of national stakeholders in Washington, D.C. August 27th and 28th.

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!

Contact the National Center

National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
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