



Effective Reviews of Sudden & Unexpected Infant Deaths

Your Child Death Review or Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team (CDR or FIMR) is important in helping your community and state understand Sudden and Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) and can catalyze services, agency improvements and prevention efforts.

CDR and FIMR are multidisciplinary case reviews of the circumstances leading to infant and child deaths.

Sudden and Unexpected Infant Deaths usually occur in the sleep environment and include SIDS, suffocations and undetermined causes.



Records Shared at the Review

- Autopsy reports
- EMS run reports, scene investigation reports and scene reenactment photos
- Prenatal, birth and health/hospital records
- Home visitor reports
- Interviews with family members
- Child care licensing investigative reports
- Prior child welfare/criminal histories
- Prior deaths of children in family

Reviews Help Improve Services

- Bereavement services for parents and other family members
- Provision of cribs or other beds for children still at home
- Safety assessment and support by child welfare if neglect is suspected
- Burial payments for needy families
- Additional health services as needed

Reviews Help to Identify the Risk Factors

- Place and position of baby's sleep
- Sleep surfaces and bedding
- Sharing of surface with persons, pets and things
- Prenatal and secondhand smoke
- Overheating
- Prematurity and low birth weight
- Medically fragile infants
- Faulty design of cribs or beds
- Quality of supervision





Reviews Catalyze Action to Prevent SUID Deaths

- Crib distribution programs
- Safe infant sleep education at childbirth classes and in newborn nurseries
- In-hospital nurse assessments of home sleep environments
- Hospital certification programs
- Smoking cessation education and support for pregnant and parenting women and other caregivers
- Ensuring that every infant leaving a hospital has a primary care provider established and referrals for care as needed
- Community-wide safe sleep media campaigns
- Safe sleep messages targeted to childcare providers and licensing requirements for child care safe sleep
- State policy and legislation to address SUID through licensing and awareness initiatives



Reviews Guide Improvements to Agency Practices

- Coordination of investigations with medical examiners, law enforcement and child welfare, to ensure quality autopsies and comprehensive, timely death scene investigations, including scene reenactments and interviews
- Provision of support services for high-risk families with newborns and young infants
- Notifications to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission about faulty infant sleep products
- Renewed focus on comprehensive services to high-risk families

National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention

Contact Us For Help in Building or Improving Your CDR or FIMR Program.



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