

Child Death Review Data Fact Sheet

May 2011

Why is it important to review deaths of children?

“Child death review programs provide a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to understanding and preventing child mortality in the United States. State public health agencies have made significant progress in child death prevention efforts over the past decade”

--Association of State and Territorial Health Officers Issue Brief, February 2004

- Data from Child Death Reviews (CDRs) help us understand how and why children die and allow us to accurately track factors that can increase the risk of childhood death. Data are used to take action that can prevent future deaths and improve the health and safety of children.
- In Washington, CDR data provides more information on child deaths than what can be obtained from the death certificate alone. For example, CDR data are a key source of accurate information on:
 - Shaken Baby Syndrome
 - Deaths due to the Choking Game
 - Deaths in unlicensed child care facilities
 - Deaths associated with substance use
 - Youth suicide risk factors
 - Infant deaths associated with bed-sharing, substance use and other risk factors

Child Death Review Teams 2010



Since 1999, Washington CDR teams have reviewed more than 2,160 unexpected deaths of children. Teams determined that more than half of these deaths were preventable.

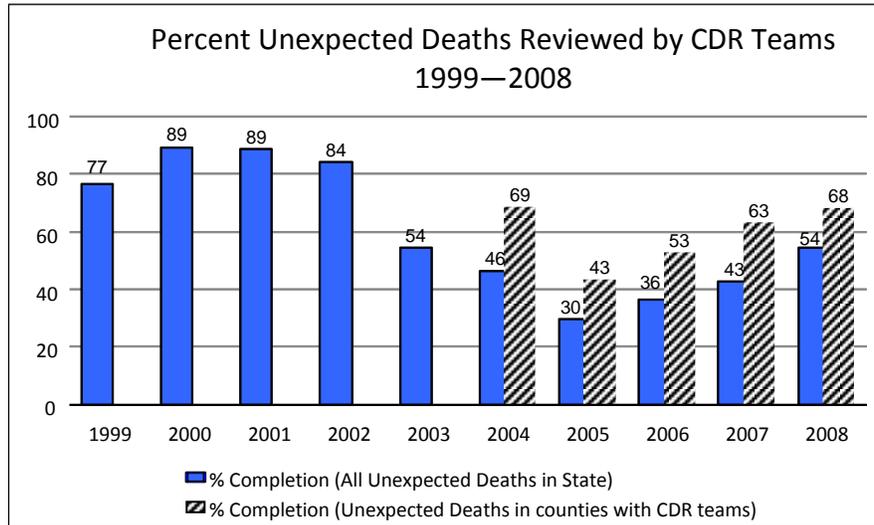
Where do Child Deaths Occur in Washington (By County of Residence 2004–2008)?

County	# Deaths	Rate per 100,000	% Total Child Deaths in State
State Total	3625	47	100%
Adams	27	97	1%
Asotin	11	44	0.3%
Benton	105	47	3%
Chelan	41	44	1%
Clallam	36	52	1%
Clark	199	36	5%
Columbia	*	*	
Cowlitz	63	52	2%
Douglas	31	63	1%
Ferry	11	118	0.3%
Franklin	55	52	2%
Garfield	*	*	
Grant	88	71.6	2%
Grays Harbor	35	41.5	1%
Island	39	42.3	1%
Jefferson	12	47.5	0.3%
King	823	42.2	23%
Kitsap	132	43.0	4%
Kittitas	19	53.2	1%
Klickitat	13	52.1	0.4%
Lewis	45	49.8	1%
Lincoln	9	75.0	0.2%
Mason	42	71.8	1%
Okanogan	41	79.7	1%
Pacific	15	70.9	0.4%
Pend Oreille	*	*	
Pierce	517	51.9	14%
San Juan	*	*	
Skagit	54	38.7	1%
Skamania	9	68.7	0.2%
Snohomish	339	38.8	9%
Spokane	260	48.3	7%
Stevens	44	77.8	1%
Thurston	129	46.8	4%
Wahkiakum	*	*	
Walla Walla	33	49.5	1%
Whatcom	84	40.3	2%
Whitman	14	39.3	0.4%
Yakima	236	67.7	7%

*Data not shown for counties where less than 5 deaths occurred

What Percent of Unexpected Child Deaths are Reviewed?

The percent of unexpected deaths of Washington children reviewed by local CDR teams has decreased since state funding of local CDR teams was discontinued in July 2003. In 2008, about 54 percent of the unexpected deaths of Washington children were reviewed by local CDR teams. In counties with CDR teams, about 68 percent of unexpected deaths were reviewed.



How Do Local Child Death Review Teams Use the Information They Collect?

The following are some examples of how local CDR teams have used the information collected during their reviews:

- Improve death scene investigation
- Develop and implement policies and promote legislation
- Design and implement community education programs, especially around injury prevention
- Identify gaps in community services
- Obtain grants
- Improve communication and interagency collaboration

For more information, please contact:

Cathy Wasserman, Office of Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health
 cathy.wasserman@doh.wa.gov
 360-236-3542

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 1-800-833-6388).