

Child Death Review Surveillance Data Fact Sheet

January 2008



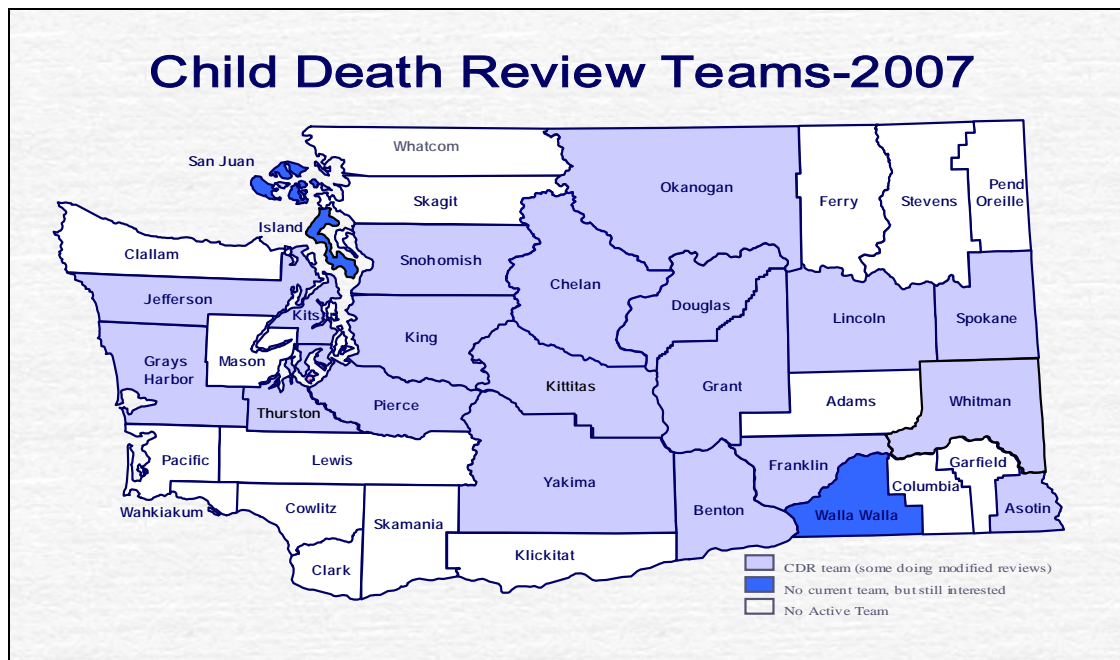
Why is it important to review deaths of children?

“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 2004¹

- ◆ Data from Child Death Reviews help us understand how & 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 & improve the health & 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 day care facilities
 - Deaths associated with substance use
 - Youth suicide risk factors
 - Co-sleeping infant deaths and association with substance use and other risk factors

Since 1999, Washington CDR teams have reviewed more than 1,600 unexpected deaths of children. Teams determined that half of these deaths were preventable.



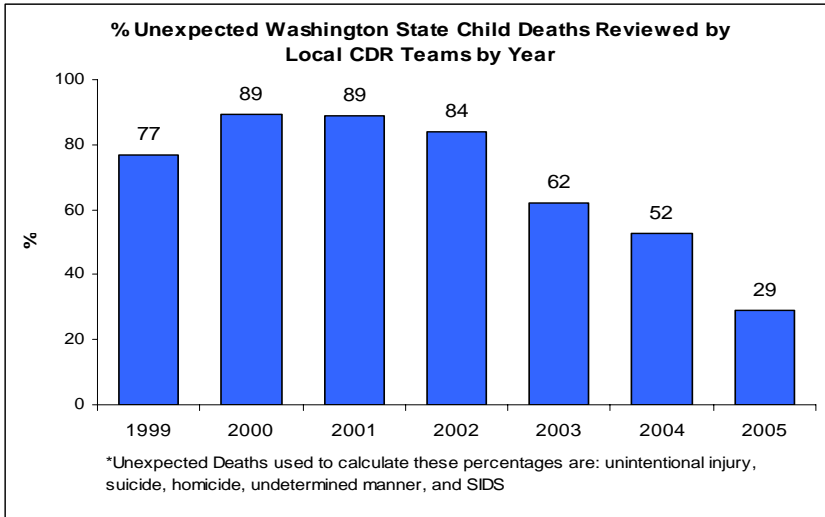
¹ <http://www.astho.org/pubs/CDRIssueBrief.pdf>

Where do Child Deaths Occur in Washington?

Numbers and Rates of Child Deaths by County of Residence, WA 2003-2005			
County	# Deaths 2003-2005	Rate per 100,000	% of Total Child Deaths in the state
State Total	2234	48.8	
Adams	18	108.8	0.8%
Asotin	7	46.3	0.3%
Benton	69	51.9	3.1%
Chelan	28	54.9	1.3%
Clallam	19	45.9	0.9%
Clark	139	43.9	6.2%
Columbia	*		
Cowlitz	37	37.9	1.7%
Douglas	14	48.3	0.6%
Ferry	7	124.6	0.3%
Franklin	28	48.9	1.3%
Garfield	*		
Grant	51	70.5	2.3%
Grays Harbor	26	51.0	1.2%
Island	24	43.8	1.1%
Jefferson	6	39.9	0.3%
King	497	42.8	22.2%
Kitsap	78	42.4	3.5%
Kittitas	14	66.8	0.6%
Klickitat	6	40.0	0.3%
Lewis	32	59.4	1.4%
Lincoln	7	95.9	0.3%
Mason	26	75.9	1.2%
Okanogan	23	73.3	1.0%
Pacific	8	62.4	0.4%
Pend Oreille	*	11.1	0.0%
Pierce	325	55.6	14.5%
San Juan	*	36.8	0.1%
Skagit	42	51.1	1.9%
Skamania	5	64.8	0.2%
Snohomish	203	39.6	9.1%
Spokane	158	49.4	7.1%
Stevens	31	92.5	1.4%
Thurston	79	49.5	3.5%
Wahkiakum	*	39.3	0.0%
Walla Walla	14	35.1	0.6%
Whatcom	44	35.9	2.0%
Whitman	8	37.4	0.4%
Yakima	152	72.8	6.8%

Data Source: Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health

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



The percent of unexpected deaths of Washington Children that local CDR teams reviewed has decreased since state funding of local CDR teams was discontinued in July 2003. In 2005, about 29% of the unexpected deaths of children were reviewed by local CDR teams.

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