

A Guide to National Center Quick-Looks

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (National Center) is committed to providing support and technical assistance to fatality review programs across the U.S. and its territories and freely associated states. Fifty states have agreements which allow them to enter child death review (CDR) and/or fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) data into the Pediatric National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (Pediatric NFR-CRS). **Quick-Looks are intended to provide a brief overview of national data, highlight relevant risk and protective factors, and identify prevention partners and strategies.**

Child Death Review

Overview

CDR teams are active in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and within some tribes. The CDR process convenes a multidisciplinary team to review individual deaths to identify risk and protective factors that may have contributed to the death. CDR teams seek to help communities celebrate more birthdays by preventing future fatalities.

Limitations

- States review child deaths according to their governing statutes or program policies. Some states only review deaths known to their child protective services office; others review only unintentional deaths; and some choose deaths according to staff capacity. A few states review all child deaths. Because not all states review all deaths, these data may not be representative of all child deaths, and they cannot be used to calculate fatality rates or trends.
- When teams meet, they rely on representatives from multiple disciplines such as law enforcement, medical examiners/coroners, and first responders. Data are only as comprehensive as the information brought to the attention of the team.
- Reviews may happen years after the death, resulting in a loss of detail and the potential for high proportions of missing or unknown data elements.

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review

Overview

FIMR teams are active in more than half of states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Reviews include a multi-disciplinary team, medical record abstraction, and a family interview when possible. Recommendations from the review team are then taken to a Community Action Team to implement prevention activities in the community.

Limitations

- Death selection for review varies across jurisdictions. Death selection may be influenced by public health priorities, program capacity, cause/manner of death, and disparities.
- While attempted, not all deaths have a family interview, often due to difficulty in finding and engaging caregivers and program capacity.
- FIMR teams vary in their use of the Pediatric NFR-CRS.

Common Quick-Look Questions

Do these data represent all deaths?

Data contained in Quick-Looks represent 75% of total Pediatric NFR-CRS deaths. Deaths that were migrated into the Pediatric NFR-CRS from previous state reporting systems are excluded.

How do you calculate the percentages?

To address limitations, percentages are calculated on deaths in which a specific answer was indicated by the review team. The percentages are not reflective of the proportion reported, but of the proportion where a response is indicated. Missing responses and responses of “unknown” and “not applicable” are excluded from the denominator when calculating percentages.

Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding and small number suppression. Some percentages may total to more than 100% due to a question that has “select/check all that apply” as a response option in the Pediatric NFR-CRS.

How are you reporting race categories?

Beginning in June 2022, categories for race are determined by prioritizing American Indian (AI) or Alaska Native (AN) identity. Regardless of additional race selections, if a child has AI or AN selected as a race in the Pediatric NFR-CRS, they are included in the “AI/AN” category. This is due to an overrepresentation of AI/AN children in the multiracial category. Non-AI/AN children with a single race selected in the Pediatric NFR-CRS are categorized by that race (e.g., Asian, Black, white). Non-AI/AN children with more than one race selected in the Pediatric NFR-CRS are categorized as “multiracial.”

Where can I find more information?

- More information on fatality review is found on the [National Center's website](https://www.ncfrp.org) at www.ncfrp.org.
- Specific information about the Pediatric NFR-CRS, including limitations, can be found in the publications listed below:
 - Collier, A., Dykstra, H., Shaw, E., Fournier, R., & Schnitzer, P. (2024). National Fatality Review Case Reporting System: Twenty Years of Data

Collection. *Pediatrics*, 154(Supplement 3). <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2024-067043C>

- See the full *Pediatrics* supplement [here](#).
- Covington, T. M. (2011). The US National Child Death review case reporting system. *Injury prevention*, 17(Suppl 1), i34-i37. <https://doi.org/10.1136/ip.2010.031203>
 - See the full *Injury Prevention* supplement [here](#).
- Visit the [Pediatric NFR-CRS page](#) for more information on Reporting Tools.
- Information about accessing Pediatric NFR-CRS data for research opportunities can be found on the [Data Dissemination page](#).

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