STARK COUNTY

Child Fatality Review & Fetal Infant Mortality Review 2019 Recommendations

CFR Board & FIMR Team

Member Agencies:

ACES (Academic and Community Emergency Specialists)

Aultman Hospital

Canton City Health Department

Canton City Police Department

Community Healthcare Pediatrics

Mercy Medical Center

My Community Health Center

Plain Township Fire Department

Stark County Coroner

Stark County Department of Jobs and Family Services

Stark County Education Service Center

Stark County Health Department

Stark County Sheriff's Office

Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery

THRIVE

The primary goal of the Child Fatality Review (CFR) process is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths in Stark County through a detailed comprehensive local review of the circumstances surrounding the deaths to all children in our community. These reviews are completed by a multidisciplinary team made up of representatives from the local agencies listed to the left. It's our hope that through this process of reviews and recommendations we can raise community awareness about the circumstances surrounding preventable child deaths and ultimately eliminate or decrease these deaths from continuing to occur.

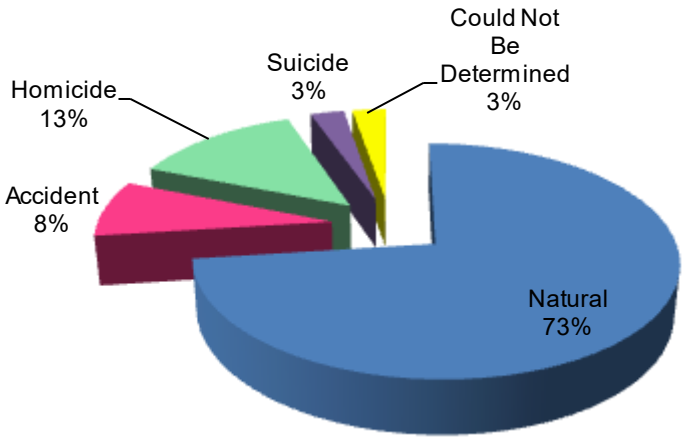
After a review of the infant and child deaths that occurred to Stark County infants and children during 2019, the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board and the Stark County Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team would like to provide the community with their 2019 Recommendations for the prevention of Infant and Child Deaths.

There were 37 deaths to infants and children who were residents of Stark County during 2019. Thirty of these 37 deaths were reviewed and additional data regarding these deaths will be available in our upcoming 2018/2019 Report. The seven deaths not reviewed were unable to be reviewed due to pending investigations.

As expected, Figure 1 below shows that 73% or the majority of these deaths were due to natural causes. However, it is important to note that during 2019 13% (5) of our child/infant deaths were due to homicide. This is an increase in the number of homicide deaths from previous years.

Of those 30 deaths that were able to be reviewed the team determined that 17% were preventable; 73% were probably not preventable and in 10% of the cases the team were unable to determine the preventability of the case.

Figure 1: 2019 Deaths



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE DEATHS

In the 2017/18 school year Stark County experienced a significant increase in the number of youth deaths by suicide. Due to this increased incidence our county convened a Coordinating Committee made up of members from a variety of agencies across the county including: education, mental health, public health, law enforcement and hospitals. These individuals worked hard to develop a response plan and make recommendations to the community. Below are the recommendations made as a result of the survey's implemented across the middle and high schools in our community. The Stark County Child Fatality Review Board fully supports and recommends the initiatives being implemented across the county as a result of the Coordinating Committee's efforts.

- **Recommendation #1-** Strengthen access to delivery of suicide care through the implementation of
  - County-wide Youth Mobile Response Team
  - 30 min response time for youth in crisis
  - Touchpoint follow-up: up to 30 days with parent permission (a Touchpoint is any psych visit to Akron Children's Hospital)
  - Increased school-based mental health access for 22 Stark County ESC School Districts
  - 14 Physical Health and Mental Health organizations are working on implementation of "Zero-Suicide" framework

16% of Stark County Youth reported an Inability to obtain mental health care

- **Recommendation #2-** Create protective environments by: reducing access to lethal means among persons at risk of suicide; community policies and culture; and community-based strategies to reduce youth substance abuse through the implementation of:
  - Safety and Security Task Force (Detect/Deter/Defend)
  - Monthly meetings with law enforcement (Sheriff's Office, FBI, Homeland Security, Local PD's, School Superintendents and SRO's)
  - Enhance Trauma-Informed Care and Resiliency Trainings within schools
  - Firearm Safety Programs & Locks
  - Partnering with 23 local Law Enforcement Agencies
  - Doubled School Resource Officers (SRO's)
  - 40 Hour SRO training to include mental health
  - Implemented Anti-Drug "Start Talking" Curriculum

23% of Stark County Youth reported having access to a gun

- **Recommendation #3-** Promote connectedness through community engagement activities; and parental engagement activities and by implementing the following goals:
  - Extra-Curricular Activities
    - Goal: Have every child participate in some form of extra-curricular activity
  - Teaming & Mentoring Programs
    - Goal: Have every child paired with a trusted adult
  - Multi-Agency Coordination for Parental Engagement and Education
    - Goal: Engage PTO's, Booster Clubs, and related Community Agencies on Mental Health

Stark County Youth reported feeling less connected to their school and home than national average

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- **Recommendation #4-** Teach coping and problem-solving skills with social-emotional learning programs and increasing youth resiliency through the implementation of the following:
  - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) training in every district
  - PAX-Behavior Game
    - Training students on Self-Regulation
  - Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs at earlier ages
    - "Every Moment Counts" training scheduled for August 2019
  - Increased age-appropriate PreK-12 Anti-Bullying, Conflict Management, Technology Safety, and Dating Violence Instruction through classroom instruction & counseling
  - Increased peer-mediation training/programs
  - Increased therapy dog availability in schools

60% of Stark County Youth reported experiencing at least 1 adverse childhood life experience

- **Recommendation #5-** Identify and support people at risk through the following:
  - Gatekeeper Training
  - Mental Health First Aid Training (over 1,000 staff trained)
  - See Something Say Something Anonymous Reporting System
    - Implemented in 20 districts
    - More than 1,000 tips received in first 5 months
    - Over 550 tips classified as life safety
  - Columbia Suicide Screen
    - Working towards individual screening
  - CARE Teams (in all 120 Buildings)
    - CARE Teams leverage community resources to wrap around students in need
    - Resources address needs for clothing, food, housing, hygiene and other social determinants of health

50% of Stark County Youth are aware of a friend's suicidal ideation

- **Recommendation #6-** Lessen harms and prevent future risk with postvention, responding to a death, safe reporting about suicide, and safe messaging about suicide through the implementation of:
  - Schoolwide education on response to a death
    - 21 Districts trained by Society for Prevention of Teen Suicide
  - Partnering with the local media on coverage of student tragedies
  - Social Media education for students, teachers and parents

- **Recommendation #7-** Administer on-going youth health and behavior surveys
  - Annual administration of the NOYHS

- **Recommendation #8-** Target both female and male students:
  - ROX Program (Ruling Our Experiences)
    - For Girls in Grades 5, 7, 9
    - Focuses on Building Leadership and Self-Advocacy

16% of Stark County Youth reported having lost a friend or family member to suicide in 2017-2018

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION NATURAL AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

- Community education on the need for home fire safety exit plans, and school based fire safety trainings for kids such as Safety Cities with the local fire and law enforcement agencies.
- Community education on the use of Space Heaters- no combustible items within 3 feet of a space heaters; working smoke detectors in all homes.
- Community gun safety programs, and the use of gun locks or locked gun cabinets in homes.
- Community education on Boating Safety including life jacket use for all children and reinforcement of Ohio Boating laws.
- Community education for children and families on water safety. Emphasizing the need to stay away from swift moving water and Dams, and the importance of life jacket use when swimming in natural bodies of water.
- Better oversight of long-term MRDD care facilities in regards to development and adherence of ISP for each patient. Assurance that ISP's for patients are detailed and accurate based on most recent physicians/hospital visits. Increase nurse to patient ratio in long-term MRDD facilities. Education for staff of long-term MRDD facilities regarding all care necessary for each client and what steps to do in-case of an emergency.
- Better transitional care management between hospital Emergency Departments and/or Urgent Care Facilities and a child's Primary Care Physicians Office.
- Education for teens on the dangers of the chocking game.
- Cardiac testing for family members if they have a sudden cardiac death of young in family.
- Community domestic violence prevention education.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT DEATHS

- Early and comprehensive prenatal care to include:
  - Depression screening for all Pregnant Women
  - Tobacco cessation programing
  - Progesterone in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters for women with previous preterm births or miscarriages
  - Education on the following topics:
    - *Infant Safe Sleep*
    - *Signs of preterm labor*
    - *Most effective forms of contraception*
    - *Birth spacing of at least 18 months from one live birth to the conception of the next child*
    - *Healthy body mass index (BMI) of 18.5- 24.9 prior to conception*
    - *Dangers of smoking around infants and young children*
- Reproductive Live Plan
- Home-visiting programs for pregnant and postpartum women
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

THRIVE
STARK COUNTY
EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY