

STARK COUNTY CHILD FATALITY REVIEW & FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW

2021 Recommendations



CFR Board & FIMR Team Member Agencies

Aultman Hospital
Canton City Health Department
Canton City Police Department
Community Healthcare
Pediatrics
Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital
My Community Health Center
Plain Township Fire Department
Stark County Coroner
Stark County 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 infant and child deaths in Stark County through a detailed comprehensive local review of the circumstances surrounding the deaths to all infants and 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 children during 2021, the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board and the Stark County Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team would like to provide the community with their 2021 Recommendations for the prevention future deaths.

The Stark County Child Fatality Review Board and the Stark County Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team completed reviews of 27 deaths in 2021. The team also reviewed 7 cases from previous years.

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2021 Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NATURAL, ACCIDENTAL, AND HOMICIDE DEATHS

- Respite care of chronically ill children
- Utilizing viral respiratory panels for children acutely ill seeking medical care. Additionally, including viral respiratory panel during autopsies for children who died of acute illness or SUIDI/SDY cases
- Continuing safe sleep education into toddler years
- Bicycle safety- including use of helmet and traffic education
- Adequate adult supervision
- "Child at Play" signage on roads
- Home visiting and social services returning to "in person", rather than virtual/phone visits
- If obtained driver's license during the Covid-19 pandemic, consider training review. Add blinking light at dangerous intersections
- Mental Health Services
- Seat belt education, driver's education on speeding and passing on double yellow lines
- Parent education with dysphagia diagnosis
- Help Me Grow program returning to "in person", rather than virtual/phone visits

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
- Higher dose folic acid-specifically for women with previous neural tube defects.

Education on the following topics:

- Infant Safe Sleep- specifically for continuing safe sleep when staying with relative or friend
- Education on how to care for sick infant in terms of feeding, soothing, and continued safe sleep practices
- Signs of preterm labor
- Signs and symptoms of urinary tract infections and the risk for preterm labor if not treated
- 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
- Education on the proper use of infant swings
- Infant feeding techniques and appropriate food choices for first year of life



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT DEATHS (Continued)

- Higher dose folic acid specifically for women with previous severe neural tube defects
- Home-visiting programs for pregnant and postpartum women
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) enrollment for all eligible families.
- High dose folic acid prior to pregnancy and during pregnancy for women of childbearing age
- Chronic disease home-visiting programs during pregnancy for mothers with high risk medical concerns
- More services accessible for women and families that experience language barriers
- Education on effectiveness of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)
- Genetic testing/screenings specifically for women with a history of miscarriages
- Diabetes management education-pre-pregnancy and during
- Education on importance of early prenatal care
- Pregnancy counseling/Reproductive Life Plan education to be given pre-pregnancy
- Importance of prenatal vitamins
- Early cerclage placement in pregnancy if mother has history of cerclage in past pregnancies

Recommendations for prevention of deaths 2019

- Keep guns locked up in a safe or equivalent safety device
- Alcohol education for adolescents
- Swim At Your Own Risk" signage in areas with bodies of water

Recommendations for prevention of deaths 2020

- Screen all children/adolescents with anxiety, as well as all well visits, for suicidal *ideation
- Increased support for chronically ill patients. Seek medical attention quickly
- Home care/respite care for all income brackets
- Cribs/Pack & Plays in hotels and motels
- Follow safe sleep environment beyond 12 months



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*"Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community."*

