

## Child Fatality Review (CFR)

### Coordinator:

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**State Website:** [Child Fatality Review and Injury Prevention](#)

### Why is it used?

- [KRS 211.680](#), established in 1996, was created to form priorities and develop programs to prevent child fatalities and requires collection and analysis of data to identify trends, patterns and risk factors, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.
- A passive surveillance system that reviews all child deaths from birth to age 17.
- To monitor Healthy Kentuckians 2020 goals and KIDS NOW Initiatives on Early Childhood Development.
- Provides data for use in various projects.
- Provides data for the Annual CFR Report.
- To monitor select performance measures for the Title V Federal Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grants.
- To evaluate health disparities.
- To monitor trends of child deaths among specific populations, geographical areas and across the state.
- To monitor any cluster of specific causes of death.

### What data is collected?

The following information on all Kentucky resident children who die from any cause of death is collected:

- Personal identifying information.
- Cause of death codes.
- Circumstances surrounding the death.

### How is data collected?

- Vital records from the Electronic Death Reporting System (EDRS).
- MCH Rapid Response Child Death Reporting form.
- Coroner report forms and coroner's CFR reports.
- Medical examiner reports.
- Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDIRF).
- Obituary scans.
- Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect from the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).



**Data Strengths:**

- Provides data on cause of death and circumstances surrounding the death, as well as recommendations for prevention, education and awareness.
- Statewide program with data analysis and reporting occurring on an annual basis.
- Data is updated monthly and is readily accessible by two full-time staff members in the MCH Division.
- Vital records are reviewed monthly.

**Data Limitations:**

- Data must be presented in aggregate form in resolutions larger than the county level due to small numbers when dealing with individual causes of death.
- Due to the nature of the data, there cannot be a standardized release of data to all requestors.
- Not all Kentucky resident deaths which occur out of state are being captured in the CFR.

**How is the system evaluated?**

- Data collection is monitored on a quarterly basis with review of the MCH Rapid Response Child Death Reporting forms and the coroner reporting forms to ensure proper agency (e.g., local health departments, law enforcement and the Department for Community Based Services) notification when a child death occurs.
- Death certificates from vital records are also reviewed to determine any discrepancies or omissions.

**Data Set Availability:**

- Data from 2000 to the present is available to certain requestors with approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Staff reserves the right to deny any data request they deem would violate state and/or federal laws governing the data set.
- The data set is only available in aggregate form and no identifying information will be released to any requestor under any circumstances.

**Data Release Policy:**

- Kentucky CFR will only release a de-identified data set provided the requestor has received IRB approval and has been deemed to be HIPAA compliant.

**Data Publications:**

- Annual report that contains trend data on causes of death of children from birth to age 17.
- The report is produced in printed format as well as hosted on the CFR website.

**Suggested Citation:**

Kentucky Department for Public Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Child and Family Health Improvement Branch. Child Fatality Review Data. Frankfort, Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Department for Public Health, [date year].

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