

# CHILD FATALITIES IN TENNESSEE 2001



Tennessee Department of Health  
Maternal and Child Health Section  
Bureau of Health Services

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Special thanks to the child fatality review teams for their efforts in child death review and prevention.

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This report is also available on the internet:

<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/MCH/childfatalityreviewteam.htm>



# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Recommendations from the State Child Fatality Prevention Team</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Recommendations from Child Fatality Review Teams</b>                | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Accomplishments of Child Fatality Review Teams</b>                  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Child Fatality Review Districts and Child Fatality Team Leaders</b> | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Manner of Death</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| Manner of Death as determined by CFRT                                  | 9         |
| Manner of Death and Age  | 9         |
| Manner of Death and Sex  | 10        |
| Manner of Death and Race   | 10        |
| Manner of Death by Age, Sex and Race                                   | 10        |
| Manner of Death: Violence-related                                      | 11        |
| Homicide   | 12        |
| Suicide  | 12        |
| Manner of Death Undetermined   | 13        |
| Manner of Death by County  | 13        |
| <b>Cause of Death</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| Deaths Due to Non-Injury Causes  | 17        |
| Illness or Other Conditions  | 17        |
| Prematurity  | 18        |
| SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)                                    | 19        |
| Lack of Medical Care   | 20        |
| Deaths Due to Injury   | 20        |
| Vehicle-Related  | 22        |
| Firearms   | 22        |
| Suffocation/Strangulation  | 22        |
| Fire/Burns   | 23        |
| Inflicted Injury   | 23        |
| Drowning   | 24        |
| Poisoning/Overdose   | 24        |
| Undetermined Cause of Death  | 24        |
| Place of Death   | 25        |
| <b>Appendix</b>  |           |
| Child Fatality Review and Prevention Act                               | a         |
| State Child Fatality Prevention Team Members                           | e         |
| Child Fatality Review Team Leaders                                     | h         |
| 2001 Child Fatality Data Form  | j         |



## Executive Summary

### Childhood Fatality Review -- 2001

Child fatality review teams (CFRT) are active in all judicial districts in the state. During 2001, the 33 teams reviewed 1,027 (95%) of the 1082 fatalities of Tennessee resident children. Department of Health team leaders provided administration and coordination of the teams. The CFRT reviewed the way children died (manner of death) in Tennessee and what caused the deaths (cause of death).

### MANNER OF DEATH

The manner of death for 1,027 child fatalities in 2001, was determined by the CFRT to be natural causes for 72% of deaths (N=734); unintentional injury (accidental) causes for 21% (N=215); homicide for 4% (N=41); suicide for 2% (N=17); could not determine 1% (N=14); and undetermined due to suspicious circumstances 1% (N=6) (Table 1).

| Manner of Death (N=1,027)                    |        |         |      |
|--|--------|---------|------|
| Manner of Death                              | Number | Percent | Rate |
| Homicide                                     | 41     | 3.9     | 2.9  |
| Accidental                                   | 215    | 20.9    | 15.4 |
| Natural                                      | 734    | 71.5    | 52.5 |
| Suicide                                      | 17     | 1.7     | 1.2  |
| Could Not Be Determined                      | 14     | 1.4     | 1.0  |
| Undetermined due to suspicious circumstances | 6      | 0.6     | 0.4  |
| All Manner                                   | 1027   | 100     | 73.4 |

### CAUSE OF DEATH

The 1,027 child fatalities were divided into the following categories by cause of death: non-injury 72% (N=738); injury-related 26% (N=264); other cause not listed 1% (14); unknown 1% (N=11).

Overall, the causes of death was reported in 13 categories. The 738 deaths recorded as non-injury were reported in the categories of SIDS, lack of adequate care, prematurity, and illness/other natural cause. Injury related deaths (N=274) were reported in the categories of drowning, suffocation/strangulation, vehicular, firearm, inflicted injury, poison/overdose, and fire/burn. The remaining two categories were other cause not listed (N=11) and unknown cause (N=14) (Table 13).

| <b>Overall Cause of Death (N=1,027)</b> |               |                |             |
|---|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Cause of Death</b>                   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Rate</b> |
| SIDS                                    | 67            | 6.53           | 4.79        |
| Lack of Adequate Care                   | 2             | 0.20           | 0.14        |
| Prematurity                             | 322           | 31.35          | 23.02       |
| Illness/Other Natural Cause             | 347           | 33.79          | 24.81       |
| Drowning                                | 29            | 2.82           | 2.07        |
| Suffocation/Strangulation               | 31            | 3.02           | 2.22        |
| Vehicular                               | 128           | 12.46          | 9.15        |
| Firearm                                 | 31            | 3.02           | 2.22        |
| Inflicted Injury                        | 20            | 1.95           | 1.43        |
| Poison/Overdose                         | 7             | 0.68           | 0.50        |
| Fire/Burn                               | 18            | 1.75           | 1.29        |
| Other Cause Not Listed                  | 11            | 1.07           | 0.79        |
| Unknown Cause                           | 14            | 1.36           | 1.00        |
| All Causes                              | 1027          | 100.00         | 73.43       |

### **Deaths Due to Non-Injury Causes**

There were 738 deaths due to natural (non-injury) causes among Tennessee children in 2001, representing 72% of all child fatalities including those that were not determined. Of these, the greatest number of deaths due to non-injury resulted from illness (N=347) followed by prematurity (N=322). Of the deaths where gestational age was reported, 125 involved extremely premature infants (i.e., less than 23 weeks gestation) and 263 involved gestations of 23 to 39 weeks.

### **Deaths Due To Injury**

In 2001, there were 274 deaths (27% of all childhood fatalities) among children that were due to injury. The greatest number of childhood fatalities due to injuries resulted from vehicular incidents (127 or 46% of all injury-related fatalities). Firearm and suffocation/strangulation fatalities were the next most common cause of injury-related death resulting in 31 fatalities each (11.3% of all injury-related fatalities) (Figure 6). African-American children and children of races other than white were more likely to be involved in an injury-related fatality than white children (Tables 21-22; Figure 5). Overall, childhood fatalities due to unintentional injuries in 2001 occurred at a rate of 19.59 per 100,000.

## **Recommendations from the State Child Fatality Prevention Team**

The state child fatality prevention team discussed the recommendations submitted by the child fatality review teams and felt they were all important. The state team decided the main items that needed to be brought before the legislature were to:

1. Develop an expanded CFR data collection form based on the national child death review form to additionally include: all needed Tennessee specific information as on the current Tennessee form; educational information including grade level, special education status, and possibly truancy; parent/guardian information; ability to capture data related to emerging issues such as methamphetamine.
2. Establish a data workgroup to look at: presentation of the CFR data so that it is more available and useable for policymakers and the public; developing an expanded data collection form; the possibility of linking individual child death data to related fatalities.
3. Promote dissemination of information regarding disparity-related CFR data.
4. Promote public awareness around the signs of child abuse and the need to report it to proper authorities.

### **Child Fatality Review State Prevention Team, 2003**

Karen Alexander, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  
Stephanie Bailey, M.D., Director, Davidson County Health Department  
Bonnie Beneke, Tennessee Professional Society on Abuse of Children  
Andy Bennett, Chief Deputy Attorney General  
Senator Charlotte Burks  
Representative Dennis Ferguson  
Senator David Fowler  
Judge Betty Adams Green, Juvenile Court  
Bruce Levy, M.D., State Medical Examiner  
Representative Joe McCord  
Linda O'Neal, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
Theodora Pinnock, M.D., Director of Maternal and Child Health  
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Senator Larry Trail

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Nurse Consultant

## **Recommendations from Child Fatality Review Teams**

After reviewing the year's progress and concerns, the child fatality review teams (CFRT) submitted recommendations that were discussed and summarized by CFRT team leaders. Recommendations to the state child fatality prevention team follow:

### **Highest Priority**

1. Provide full reimbursement to county governments of the costs of an autopsy performed according to Department of Health rules and regulations on any child, birth to age 18, when the death is sudden and unexplained.
2. Develop strategies to reduce infant mortality and disparities related to it.
3. Increase school and community awareness of suicide prevention and risks.
4. Promote education for caregivers and public on safe sleeping practices for children.

### **High Priority**

5. Increase community awareness/ conduct public awareness campaign stressing that substance abuse, alcohol abuse, and inappropriate use of any drug (including prescriptions) during pregnancy lead directly and indirectly to childhood deaths and are harmful to the unborn child.
6. Boost education/awareness regarding the dangers of smoking during pregnancy.
7. Increase prevention of firearm related injury and death through education on the dangers of the combination of teenagers and firearms, the high-risk factor of the combination of teenagers and firearms and encourage use of gunlocks.
8. Establish a statute requiring a safety course before the purchase of an all terrain vehicle (ATV) and enact legislation to limit access to children less than 13 years of age from riding 4-wheeler type vehicles.
9. Provide additional training and support to Department of Children's Services staff in investigating abuse of children, particularly in sex abuse allegations/cases.
10. Ensure enforcement of underage sale of alcohol and curfews.
11. Intensify awareness regarding the signs and symptoms of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

### **Priority**

12. Identify and increase awareness of community programs/agencies/services that can assist women and children in crisis.
13. Support and provide funding for public education on fire and pool safety.
14. Establish a statute which makes it mandatory that children use a flotation device when playing in public bodies of water where there are no lifeguards on duty.

15. Investigate and address causes of motor vehicle accidents on rural roads including maintenance and sign.
16. Standardize drug testing for juveniles to incorporate all drugs and not just the drugs for which they are charged.
17. Share information regarding juvenile offenders and the limitations that are placed on their release among agencies.
18. Expand education on the importance of seeking genetic counseling whenever a child dies from a chromosomal abnormality.
19. Establish a statute requiring shatterproof glass in vehicle windows.
20. Increase education around the importance of strong families and offer parenting classes to parents with small children.

## **Accomplishments of Child Fatality Review Teams: 2001**

Child fatality review teams are active in all judicial districts in the state. During 2001, the 33 teams reviewed 1,027 (95%) of the 1082 fatalities of Tennessee resident children. Department of Health team leaders provide administration and coordination of the teams. Some specific examples of team accomplishments are given below by health department region.

### **Davidson:**

- Secured funding for *Project Blossom* to start the Baskets for Babies Program.
- Devised quicker method of providing counseling services to families who have lost children to SIDS.

### **Hamilton:**

- Attended death scene investigation training
- Reviewed CFRT Data Collection forms for use in PPOR data gathering

### **Knox:**

- Appointed a member of the Knox County Health Department's Epidemiology Department to CFRT to compile and analyze data and produce yearly reports.
- Developed SIDS questionnaire that is being used by local law enforcement agencies when investigating infant deaths.
- Improved the understanding of roles of different agencies involved in death scene investigation.

### **Mid-Cumberland:**

- Worked closely with the Department of Safety investigating motor vehicle accidents.

### **Shelby:**

- Launched campaign aimed at reducing the preventable causes of SIDS, shaken baby syndrome, and motor vehicle crashes.
- Created 'This Side Up' presentation about infant mortality and SIDS using statistics from CFRT.

### **South Central:**

- The District Health Officer participates in CPIT (child protective teams) and CART (child abuse review teams) as well as CFR.
- Participated in a trial in Maury County regarding charges against a man for the death of a child from shaken baby syndrome.

## Health Department Regions, Judicial Districts, and CFR Team Leaders

| Region           | CFR Team Leader, Judicial District (JD) and Counties   |
|------------------|--|
| Northeast        | Dr. Lawrence Moffatt; Dr. Barbara Skelton<br>JD 1: Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington<br>JD 3: Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins  |
| Sullivan         | Dr. Stephen May<br>JD 2: Sullivan  |
| East             | Dr. Paul Erwin/ Gail Harmon<br>JD 4: Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier<br>JD 5 : Blount<br>JD 7 : Anderson<br>JD 8 : Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union<br>JD 9 : Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane               |
| Knox             | Dr. Kelly Boggan<br>JD 6: Knox   |
| Southeast        | Dr. Jan Beville<br>JD 10: Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk<br>JD 12: Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie  |
| Hamilton         | Kaye Greer<br>JD 11: Hamilton  |
| Upper Cumberland | Dr. Don Tansil<br>JD 13: Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White<br>JD 15: Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson<br>JD 31: Van Buren and Warren   |
| South Central    | Dr. Langdon Smith<br>JD 14: Coffee<br>JD 17: Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore<br>JD 2101: Hickman, Lewis, and Perry<br>JD 2201: Giles, Lawrence, and Wayne<br>JD 2202: Maury  |
| Davidson         | Dr. Stephanie Bailey/ Brook McKelvey<br>JD 20: Davidson  |
| Mid Cumberland   | Sharon A. Woodard/ Dr. Alison Asaro<br>JD 16: Cannon, and Rutherford<br>JD 18: Sumner<br>JD 1901: Montgomery<br>JD 1902: Robertson<br>JD 2102: Williamson<br>JD 23: Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart             |
| West             | Dr. Shavetta Conner<br>JD 24: Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry<br>JD 25: Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton<br>JD 27: Obion and Weakley<br>JD 28: Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood<br>JD 29: Dyer and Lake |
| Madison +        | Dr. Tony Emison<br>JD 26: Chester, Henderson, and Madison  |
| Shelby           | Flo Patton<br>JD 30: Shelby  |

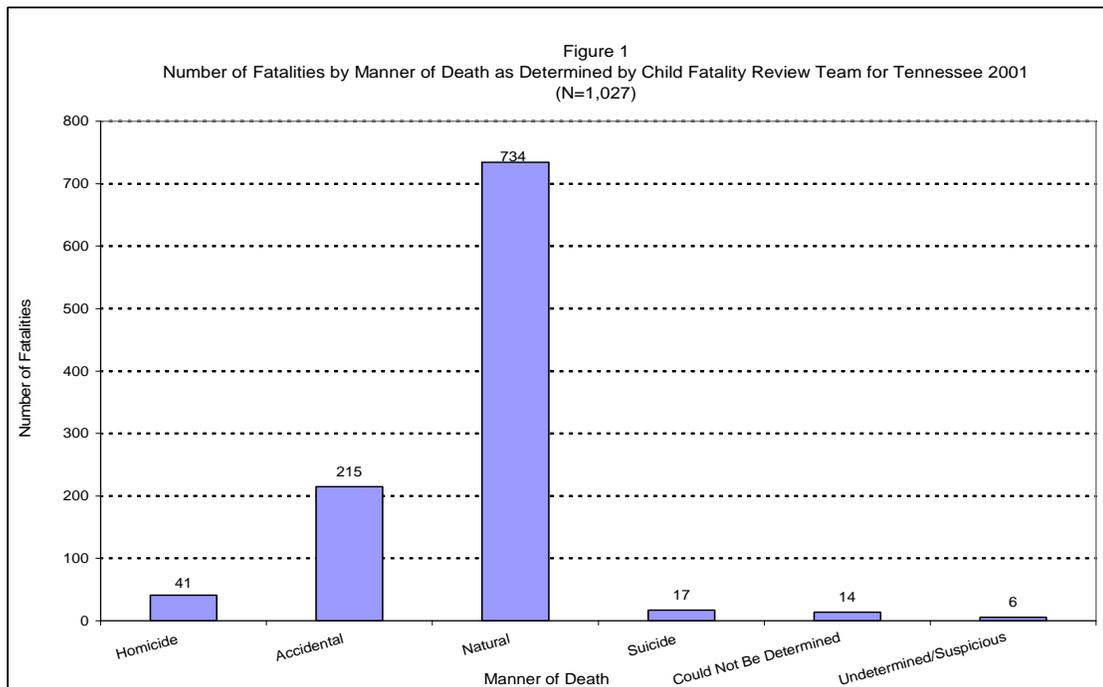
## MANNER OF DEATH

The manner of death for 1,027 child fatalities in 2001, was determined by the CFRT to be natural causes 72% (N=734); unintentional injury (accidental) causes for 21% (N=215); homicide for 4% (N=41); suicide for 2% (N=17); could not determine 1% (N=14); and undetermined due to suspicious circumstances 1% (N=6) (Table 1 and Figure 1).

When the death certificate indicated a manner of death, the CFRT agreed that the manner of death as declared on the death certificate was natural 81% of the time (734 vs 582); accidental 89% (215 vs 192); homicide 83% (41 vs 33); could not be determined 78% (14 vs 18); and agreed that the manner of death was suicide 94% (17 vs 16).

The overall rate of child fatalities for 2001 computed from the cases reviewed by the CFRT was 73.4 per 100,000. Fatality rates identified in this report were computed based on census data for Tennessee in 2000 and reported as the number of cases per 100,000 in the population of children less than 18 years of age.

| <b>Table 1: Manner of Death (N=1,027)</b>    |               |                |             |
|--|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Manner of Death</b>                       | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Rate</b> |
| Homicide                                     | 41            | 3.9            | 2.9         |
| Accidental                                   | 215           | 20.9           | 15.4        |
| Natural                                      | 734           | 71.5           | 52.5        |
| Suicide                                      | 17            | 1.7            | 1.2         |
| Could Not Be Determined                      | 14            | 1.4            | 1.0         |
| Undetermined due to suspicious circumstances | 6             | 0.6            | 0.4         |
| All Manner                                   | 1027          | 100            | 73.4        |



## Manner of Death as Determined by CFRT

Overall, the CFRT agreed with the manner of death indicated on the death certificate in 67.5% of deaths (N=693) (Table 2). The CFRT concluded 41 of the cases were homicides (versus 33 on death certificate); 215 were accidental (versus 192 on death certificate); 734 were natural deaths (versus 582 on death certificates); 17 suicides (versus 16 on death certificate); 14 could not be determined (versus 18 on death certificate). Six deaths were undetermined due to suspicious circumstances by the CFRT versus 31 deaths that listed pending investigation. All of the CFRT reports were marked, versus 155 death certificates that were blank or not listed. The CFRT noted differences with the death certificate in 32.5% (N=334) of cases.

|                                 | Death Cert.  | CFRT      | Death Cert.  | CFRT       | Death Cert.  | CFRT       | Death Cert.  | CFRT      | Death Cert.             | CFRT      | Death Cert.    | CFRT     | Death Cert.                        | CFRT     |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Age                             | Homicide     |           | Accidental   |            | Natural      |            | Suicide      |           | Could Not Be Determined |           | Blank/Unmarked |          | Pending Investigation/Undetermined |          |
| <1                              | 5            | 9         | 26           | 42         | 465          | 595        | 0            | 0         | 17                      | 10        | 126            | 0        | 19                                 | 2        |
| 1-2                             | 5            | 5         | 18           | 21         | 28           | 34         | 0            | 0         | 0                       | 2         | 7              | 0        | 4                                  | 0        |
| 3-5                             | 4            | 5         | 26           | 26         | 17           | 18         | 0            | 0         | 0                       | 0         | 2              | 0        | 0                                  | 0        |
| 6-8                             | 0            | 1         | 13           | 12         | 9            | 10         | 0            | 0         | 0                       | 0         | 1              | 0        | 0                                  | 0        |
| 9-11                            | 2            | 1         | 14           | 15         | 17           | 22         | 0            | 0         | 0                       | 1         | 5              | 0        | 1                                  | 0        |
| 12-14                           | 3            | 4         | 25           | 26         | 18           | 21         | 1            | 1         | 1                       | 0         | 4              | 0        | 4                                  | 3        |
| 15-17                           | 14           | 15        | 70           | 73         | 28           | 34         | 15           | 16        | 0                       | 1         | 10             | 0        | 3                                  | 1        |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>33</b>    | <b>40</b> | <b>192</b>   | <b>215</b> | <b>582</b>   | <b>734</b> | <b>16</b>    | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b>               | <b>14</b> | <b>155</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>31</b>                          | <b>6</b> |
| <b>%Agree</b>                   | <b>82.50</b> |           | <b>88.89</b> |            | <b>81.17</b> |            | <b>94.12</b> |           | <b>77.78</b>            |           | <b>0</b>       |          | <b>19.35</b>                       |          |
| <b>Average Agreement: 62.2%</b> |              |           |              |            |              |            |              |           |                         |           |                |          |                                    |          |

## Manner of Death and Age

Across all groups, the highest rate of fatalities in 2001 was during the first year of life (875.9 per 100,000). The second highest rate of fatalities occurred in youth aged 15-17 (60.3 per 100,000) (Table 3).

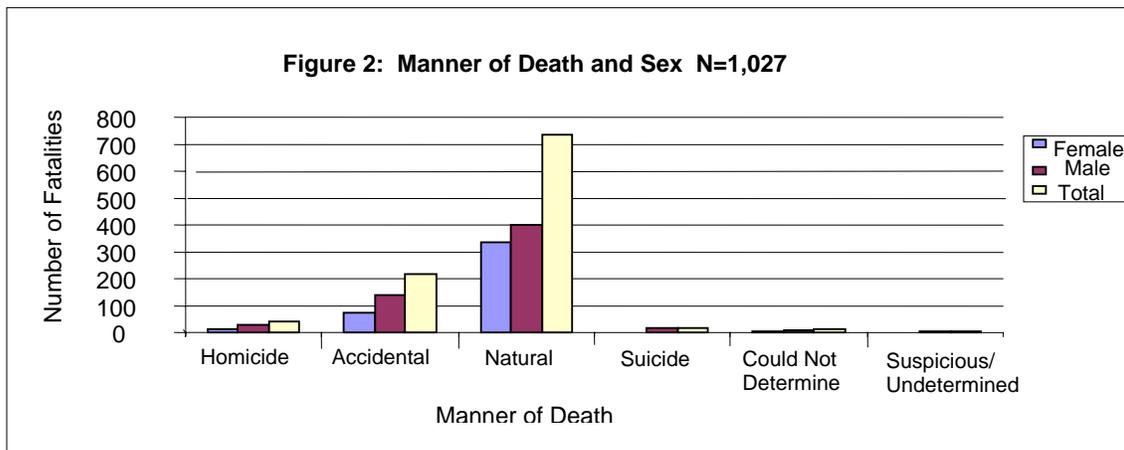
|                |       | Homicide  | Accidental | Natural    | Suicide   | Could Not Determine | Undetermined/Suspicious | Not Marked | Total       | Rate        |
|----------------|-------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Age</b>     | <1    | 9         | 42         | 595        | 0         | 10                  | 2                       | 0          | 658         | 875.9       |
|                | 1-2   | 5         | 21         | 34         | 0         | 2                   | 0                       | 0          | 62          | 41.4        |
|                | 3-5   | 5         | 26         | 18         | 0         | 0                   | 0                       | 0          | 49          | 21.6        |
|                | 6-8   | 1         | 12         | 10         | 0         | 0                   | 0                       | 0          | 23          | 9.7         |
|                | 9-11  | 1         | 15         | 22         | 0         | 1                   | 0                       | 0          | 39          | 15.9        |
|                | 12-14 | 5         | 26         | 21         | 1         | 0                   | 3                       | 0          | 56          | 24.0        |
|                | 15-17 | 15        | 73         | 34         | 16        | 1                   | 1                       | 0          | 140         | 60.3        |
| <b>Total</b>   |       | <b>41</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>734</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>14</b>           | <b>6</b>                | <b>0</b>   | <b>1027</b> | <b>73.4</b> |
| <b>Percent</b> |       | 3.9       | 20.9       | 71.5       | 1.7       | 1.4                 | 0.6                     | 0          | 100.00      |             |
| <b>Rate</b>    |       | 2.93      | 15.37      | 52.48      | 1.22      | 1.00                | 0.43                    |            | 73.43       |             |

\*Rate based on 100,000 population.

## Manner of Death and Sex

Fifty-eight percent of child fatalities were males (N=598) and 42% were females (N=429), which corresponded to rates of 83.08 per 100,000 for males and 63.08 per 100,000 for females. The largest number of fatalities for both sexes occurred by natural manner (Table 4 and Figure 2).

|              |        | Homicide  | Accidental | Natural    | Suicide   | Could Not Determine | Undetermined/Suspicious | Not Marked | Total       |
|--------------|--------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Sex</b>   | Female | 12        | 75         | 334        | 2         | 5                   | 1                       | 0          | 429         |
|              | Male   | 29        | 140        | 400        | 15        | 9                   | 5                       | 0          | 598         |
| <b>Total</b> |        | <b>41</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>734</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>14</b>           | <b>6</b>                | <b>0</b>   | <b>1027</b> |



## Manner of Death and Race

The highest category of manner of death was natural for all races (N=734). The total number of natural fatalities for white children was 410 (56%), for African-American children 283 (39%), and 34 for other races (5%). Race was not available for seven of the natural fatalities (Table 5).

|              |                  | Homicide  | Accidental | Natural    | Suicide   | Could Not Determine | Undetermined/Suspicious | Not Marked | Total       |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>RACE</b>  | African-American | 26        | 45         | 283        | 4         | 5                   | 0                       | 0          | 363         |
|              | White            | 14        | 162        | 410        | 12        | 9                   | 5                       | 0          | 612         |
|              | Other            | 1         | 7          | 34         | 1         | 0                   | 0                       | 0          | 43          |
|              | Missing          |           | 1          | 7          |           |                     | 1                       |            | 9           |
| <b>Total</b> |                  | <b>41</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>734</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>14</b>           | <b>6</b>                | <b>0</b>   | <b>1027</b> |

## Overall Manner of Death by Age, Sex, and Race

Of the 1,027 childhood fatalities, 612 (60%) were reported as white, 363 (36%) were reported as African-American, and 43 (4%) were reported as other races. Race was not available for nine cases. The rate of all fatalities for African-American children was 122.4 per 100,000 or more than twice the rate for white children of 58.9 per 100,000. The rate for other races was 68.0 per 100,000.

Across all races, the highest rate of fatalities was during the first year of life. Taking age, race, and sex into account, the highest fatality rate occurred among African-American males less than one year of age (1770.7 per 100,000), followed by African-American females under one year of age (1581.4 per 100,000). The rates for both male and female African-American children under one year of age were twice the rates for white males (686.2 per 100,000) and white females (628.6 per 100,000) in the first year of life (Table 6).

| Age          | Number      | Rate*        | Sex    | Number | Rate  | Race             | Number | Rate   |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|--------|
| <1           | 658         | 875.90       | Female | 429    | 63.09 | African-American | 363    | 122.42 |
| 1-2          | 62          | 41.40        | Male   | 598    | 83.23 | White            | 612    | 58.91  |
| 3-5          | 49          | 21.60        |        |        |       | Other            | 43     | 68.04  |
| 6-8          | 23          | 9.70         |        |        |       | Not Marked       | 9      | NA     |
| 9-11         | 39          | 15.90        |        |        |       |                  |        |        |
| 12-14        | 56          | 24.00        |        |        |       |                  |        |        |
| 15-17        | 140         | 60.30        |        |        |       |                  |        |        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1027</b> | <b>73.40</b> |        |        |       |                  |        |        |

\* Rate per 100,000 population

### **Manner of Death: Violence-Related**

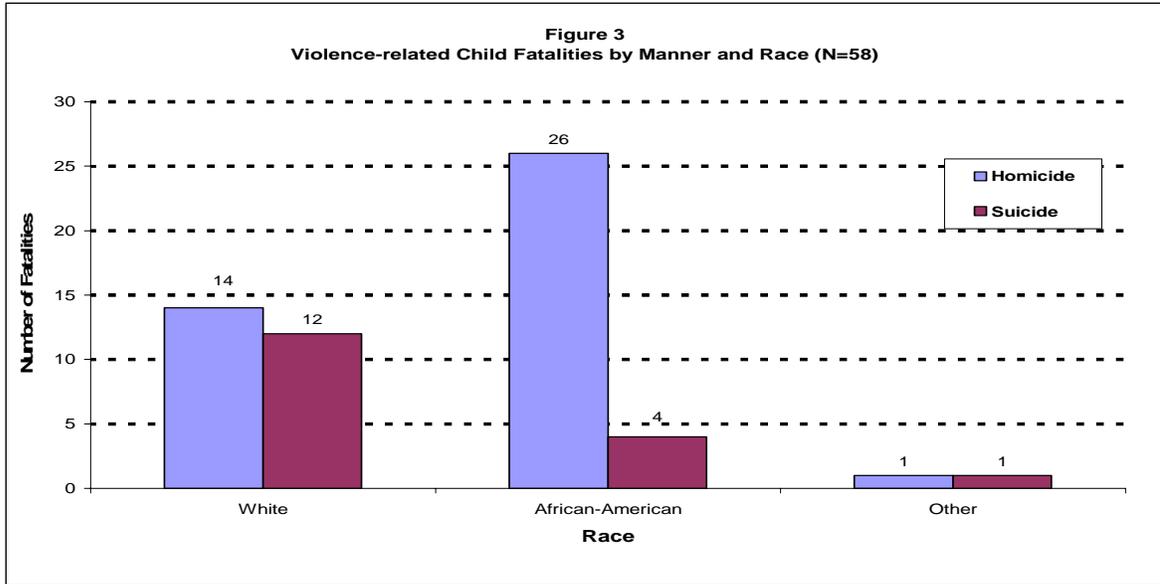
In 2001, there were 58 child fatalities due to violence-related injuries. These injuries were the result of either homicide (N=41) or suicide (N=17). This represents 6% of all child fatalities (Table 7, Figure 3).

Males (N=44; 5.8 per 100,000) were nearly three times more likely than females (N=14; 1.9 per 100,000) to die from violence-related injuries. African-American children (N=30; 10.1 per 100,000) were nearly five times more likely to die from violence-related injuries as white children (N= 26; 2.2 per 100,000) followed by children in the "other" racial category (N=2; 3.2 per 100,000).

Children in the 15-17 years age group had the highest rate of violence-related fatalities (N= 31; 12.8 per 100,000), followed by children less than one year (N=9; 10.6 per 100,000).

| Age          | Number    | Rate*      | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 9         | 10.6       | Female | 14     | 1.9  | African-American | 30     | 10.1 |
| 1-2          | 5         | 3.3        | Male   | 44     | 5.8  | White            | 26     | 2.2  |
| 3-5          | 5         | 2.2        |        |        |      | Other            | 2      | 3.2  |
| 6-8          | 1         | 0.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 6         | 2.1        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 31        | 12.8       |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>4.2</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\*Rate per 100,000 population.



## Homicide

In 2001, there were 41 child fatalities due to homicides. This represents 71% of all violence-related deaths and 4% of all child fatalities (Table 8).

Males (N=29; 3.9 per 100,000) were more likely than females (N=12; 1.6 per 100,000) to die from homicides. African-American children (N=26; 8.8 per 100,000) were most likely to die from homicides, followed by children of other races (N=1; 1.6 per 100,000). Least likely to die from homicides were white children (N=14; 1.2 per 100,000).

| Age          | Number    | Rate*      | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 9         | 10.6       | Female | 12     | 1.6  | African-American | 26     | 8.8  |
| 1-2          | 5         | 3.3        | Male   | 29     | 3.9  | White            | 14     | 1.2  |
| 3-5          | 5         | 2.2        |        |        |      | Other            | 1      | 1.6  |
| 6-8          | 1         | 0.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 5         | 1.7        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 15        | 6.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>2.9</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\*Rates per 100,000 population.

## Suicide

During 2001, 17 young people committed suicide. Youth aged 15 to 17 years old (N=16; 6.4 per 100,000) were more likely to commit suicide. One child in the 12 to 14 year-old age group committed suicide (0.4 per 100,000). Males (N=15; 1.9 per 100,000) were more likely than females (N=2; 0.3 per 100,000) to die from suicide. Slight racial differences emerged with African-American children having 1.3 suicides per 100,000, compared with 1.1 suicides per 100,000 for white children. Only one child in the "other" race category committed suicide (Table 9).

| Age          | Number    | Rate*      | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 0         | 0          | Female | 2      | 0.3  | African-American | 4      | 1.3  |
| 1-2          | 0         | 0          | Male   | 15     | 1.9  | White            | 12     | 1.1  |
| 3-5          | 0         | 0          |        |        |      | Other            | 1      | 1.6  |
| 6-8          | 0         | 0          |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 0         | 0          |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 1         | 0.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 16        | 6.4        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>1.1</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\* Rate per 100,000 population.

### **Manner of Death Undetermined Due to Suspicious Circumstances or Could Not Be Determined**

In 2001 there were 6 fatalities where the CFRT reported the manner of death to be undetermined due to suspicious circumstances and 14 that could not be determined (Table 10) for a total of 20. This represents 2% of all child fatalities reviewed in 2001. Children less than one year of age (N=12) were disproportionately represented in cases where the manner of death could not be determined and two deaths that were undetermined due to suspicious circumstances.

| Age          | Number    | Rate* | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 12        | 13.30 | Female | 6      | 0.70 | African-American | 9      | 3.04 |
| 1-2          | 2         | 1.30  | Male   | 14     | 1.95 | White            | 10     | 0.96 |
| 3-5          | 0         | 0     |        |        |      | Other            | 0      | 0    |
| 6-8          | 0         | 0     |        |        |      | Not Marked       | 1      |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.40  |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 3         | 1.30  |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 2         | 1.80  |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b> |       |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\* Rates per 100,000 population.

### **Manner of Death by County**

Sixty-five percent (N=642) of all childhood fatalities occurred in twelve counties with 15 or more deaths each (Table 11). In 2001, the highly populated counties of Shelby and Davidson reported a total of 368 fatalities and accounted for 36% of all childhood fatalities compared to 37% reported by Shelby and Davidson in 2000. Shelby County had the highest percentage of all childhood fatalities (N=253; 25%) followed by Davidson (N=116; 11%), Hamilton (N=54; 5%), and Knox (N=45; 4%). Of the 12 counties reporting the most child fatalities, all but one (Gibson) ranked in the top 13 counties with the highest population age 0-17 years (Table 12).

| County       | Child Fatalities | Rank in Population Ages 0-17 years |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Shelby       | 253              | 1                                  |
| Davidson     | 116              | 2                                  |
| Hamilton     | 54               | 4                                  |
| Knox         | 45               | 3                                  |
| Rutherford   | 30               | 5                                  |
| Madison      | 27               | 11                                 |
| Montgomery   | 27               | 6                                  |
| Sullivan     | 25               | 9                                  |
| Blount       | 18               | 10                                 |
| Sumner       | 17               | 8                                  |
| Gibson       | 15               | 28                                 |
| Washington   | 15               | 13                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>642</b>       |                                    |

|            | Accidental | Natural | Homicide/<br>Suicide | Could Not<br>Determine | Undetermined/<br>Suspicious | Total | Rate   |
|------------|------------|---------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Anderson   | 4          | 6       | 1                    | 0                      | 0                           | 11    | 66.53  |
| Bedford    | 1          | 4       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 5     | 51.62  |
| Benton     | 3          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 4     | 109.86 |
| Bledsoe    | 1          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 2     | 70.08  |
| Blount     | 4          | 11      | 1                    | 2                      | 0                           | 18    | 74.60  |
| Bradley    | 3          | 9       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 12    | 57.61  |
| Campbell   | 5          | 4       | 1                    | 0                      | 0                           | 10    | 109.57 |
| Cannon     | 0          | 3       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 3     | 92.05  |
| Carroll    | 2          | 5       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 7     | 102.34 |
| Carter     | 3          | 5       | 0                    | 1                      | 0                           | 9     | 74.26  |
| Cheatham   | 4          | 2       | 1                    | 0                      | 0                           | 7     | 70.49  |
| Chester    | 1          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 2     | 53.16  |
| Clay       | 2          | 0       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 2     | 116.69 |
| Cocke      | 1          | 0       | 1                    | 2                      | 0                           | 4     | 52.21  |
| Coffee     | 4          | 5       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 9     | 74.71  |
| Crockett   | 3          | 2       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 5     | 136.84 |
| Cumberland | 1          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 2     | 19.98  |
| Davidson   | 20         | 83      | 10                   | 3                      | 0                           | 116   | 90.95  |
| Decatur    | 0          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 1     | 39.23  |
| Dekalb     | 2          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 3     | 49.36  |
| Dickson    | 7          | 3       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 10    | 87.06  |
| Dyer       | 5          | 3       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 8     | 83.36  |
| Fayette    | 4          | 2       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 6     | 80.98  |
| Fentress   | 1          | 2       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 3     | 74.57  |
| Franklin   | 1          | 3       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 4     | 44.23  |
| Gibson     | 2          | 13      | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 15    | 130.01 |
| Giles      | 1          | 2       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 3     | 41.55  |
| Grainger   | 0          | 4       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 4     | 84.53  |
| Greene     | 3          | 7       | 1                    | 0                      | 0                           | 11    | 78.62  |
| Grundy     | 5          | 0       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 5     | 138.85 |
| Hamblen    | 2          | 10      | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 12    | 88.69  |
| Hamilton   | 5          | 43      | 5                    | 1                      | 0                           | 54    | 75.59  |
| Hancock    | 1          | 1       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 2     | 127.39 |
| Hardeman   | 2          | 4       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 6     | 89.26  |
| Hardin     | 1          | 6       | 0                    | 0                      | 0                           | 7     | 118.70 |

| <b>Table 12Continued</b> | <b>Accidental</b> | <b>Natural</b> | <b>Homicide/<br/>Suicide</b> | <b>Could Not<br/>Determine</b> | <b>Undetermined/<br/>Suspicious</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Rate</b>  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Hawkins                  | 2                 | 5              | 0                            | 0                              | 1                                   | 8            | 64.11        |
| Haywood                  | 1                 | 4              | 1                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 6            | 111.52       |
| Henderson                | 0                 | 5              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 5            | 80.49        |
| Henry                    | 3                 | 5              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 8            | 115.72       |
| Hickman                  | 0                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 2            | 36.34        |
| Houston                  | 0                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 33.21        |
| Humphreys                | 2                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 4            | 93.41        |
| Jackson                  | 2                 | 0              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 2            | 81.77        |
| Jefferson                | 2                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 6            | 59.17        |
| Johnson                  | 0                 | 3              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 86.98        |
| Knox                     | 11                | 28             | 2                            | 3                              | 1                                   | 45           | 52.88        |
| Lake                     | 0                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 70.87        |
| Lauderdale               | 3                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 7            | 104.18       |
| Lawrence                 | 0                 | 6              | 1                            | 1                              | 0                                   | 8            | 76.53        |
| Lincoln                  | 1                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 5            | 66.86        |
| Loudon                   | 2                 | 3              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 5            | 58.41        |
| Macon                    | 0                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 2            | 37.64        |
| Madison                  | 3                 | 20             | 2                            | 2                              | 0                                   | 27           | 113.84       |
| Marion                   | 2                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 45.50        |
| Marshall                 | 0                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 2            | 29.22        |
| Maury                    | 0                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 4            | 21.94        |
| McMinn                   | 1                 | 7              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 8            | 68.22        |
| McNairy                  | 2                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 4            | 68.67        |
| Monroe                   | 1                 | 5              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 6            | 62.25        |
| Montgomery               | 1                 | 22             | 0                            | 4                              | 0                                   | 27           | 70.44        |
| Morgan                   | 3                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 4            | 87.28        |
| Obion                    | 2                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 1                                   | 7            | 92.03        |
| Overton                  | 1                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 64.79        |
| Pickett                  | 1                 | 0              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 94.61        |
| Putnam                   | 3                 | 9              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 12           | 86.46        |
| Rhea                     | 1                 | 7              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 8            | 118.68       |
| Roane                    | 1                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 5            | 43.12        |
| Robertson                | 0                 | 6              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 6            | 41.15        |
| Rutherford               | 1                 | 27             | 1                            | 0                              | 1                                   | 30           | 62.36        |
| Sequatchie               | 0                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 35.82        |
| Sevier                   | 2                 | 6              | 2                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 10           | 61.08        |
| Shelby                   | 35                | 203            | 15                           | 0                              | 0                                   | 253          | 99.89        |
| Sullivan                 | 3                 | 21             | 0                            | 0                              | 1                                   | 25           | 74.83        |
| Sumner                   | 3                 | 8              | 5                            | 0                              | 1                                   | 17           | 49.51        |
| Tipton                   | 5                 | 4              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 9            | 59.90        |
| Trousdale                | 1                 | 0              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 56.92        |
| Unicoi                   | 3                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 4            | 110.34       |
| Union                    | 1                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 65.56        |
| Warren                   | 1                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 32.33        |
| Washington               | 1                 | 14             | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 15           | 65.68        |
| Wayne                    | 0                 | 1              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 1            | 27.79        |
| Weakley                  | 0                 | 3              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 3            | 39.73        |
| White                    | 0                 | 2              | 0                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 2            | 36.77        |
| Williamson               | 3                 | 7              | 1                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 11           | 29.45        |
| Wilson                   | 3                 | 7              | 2                            | 0                              | 0                                   | 12           | 51.49        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>215</b>        | <b>734</b>     | <b>58</b>                    | <b>14</b>                      | <b>6</b>                            | <b>1,027</b> | <b>73.44</b> |

Counties with no reported deaths: Claiborne, Lewis, Meigs, Perry, Polk, Scott, Smith, Stewart, and Van Buren

## Cause of Death

The 1,027 child fatalities were divided into the following categories by cause of death:

- Non-injury 738 (72%)
- Injury-related 264 (26%)
- Other cause not listed 14 ( 1%)
- Unknown 11 ( 1%)

Overall, the causes of death were reported in thirteen categories. The 738 deaths recorded as non-injury were reported in the categories of SIDS, lack of adequate care, prematurity, and illness/other natural cause. Injury related deaths (N=274) were reported in the categories of drowning, suffocation/strangulation, vehicular, firearm, inflicted injury, poison/overdose, and fire/burn. The remaining two categories were other cause not listed (N=11) and unknown cause (N=14) (Table 13).

| Cause of Death              | Number | Percent | Rate  |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| SIDS                        | 67     | 6.53    | 4.79  |
| Lack of Adequate Care       | 2      | 0.20    | 0.14  |
| Prematurity                 | 322    | 31.35   | 23.02 |
| Illness/Other Natural Cause | 347    | 33.79   | 24.81 |
| Drowning                    | 29     | 2.82    | 2.07  |
| Suffocation/Strangulation   | 31     | 3.02    | 2.22  |
| Vehicular                   | 128    | 12.46   | 9.15  |
| Firearm                     | 31     | 3.02    | 2.22  |
| Inflicted Injury            | 20     | 1.95    | 1.43  |
| Poison/Overdose             | 7      | 0.68    | 0.50  |
| Fire/Burn                   | 18     | 1.75    | 1.29  |
| Other Cause Not Listed      | 11     | 1.07    | 0.79  |
| Unknown Cause               | 14     | 1.36    | 1.00  |
| All Causes                  | 1027   | 100.00  | 73.43 |

A summary of cause of death by age, sex and race are reported in the next three tables (Tables 14, 15, and 16).

| Cause of Death              | <1  | 1-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | 9-11 | 12-14 | 15-17 | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| SIDS                        | 53  | 1   | 3   | 0   | 1    | 3     | 6     | 67    |
| Lack of Adequate Care       | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 2     |
| Prematurity                 | 249 | 14  | 10  | 4   | 6    | 10    | 29    | 322   |
| Illness/Other Natural Cause | 225 | 21  | 15  | 8   | 14   | 21    | 43    | 347   |
| Drowning                    | 19  | 0   | 1   | 1   | 2    | 2     | 4     | 29    |
| Suffocation/Strangulation   | 17  | 5   | 2   | 1   | 0    | 1     | 5     | 31    |
| Vehicular                   | 55  | 7   | 8   | 2   | 12   | 11    | 33    | 128   |
| Firearm                     | 7   | 5   | 2   | 1   | 1    | 3     | 12    | 31    |
| Inflicted Injury            | 8   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 1    | 1     | 2     | 20    |
| Poison/Overdose             | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0    | 2     | 2     | 7     |
| Fire/Burn                   | 8   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1    | 2     | 1     | 18    |
| Cause Not Listed            | 5   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1    | 0     | 1     | 11    |
| Unknown Cause               | 9   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0    | 0     | 2     | 14    |
| All Causes                  | 658 | 62  | 49  | 23  | 39   | 56    | 140   | 1027  |

| <b>Cause of Death</b>       | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Not Marked</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| SIDS                        | 25            | 42          | 0                 | 67           |
| Lack of Adequate Care       | 1             | 1           | 0                 | 2            |
| Prematurity                 | 134           | 187         | 1                 | 322          |
| Illness/Other Natural Cause | 172           | 175         | 0                 | 347          |
| Drowning                    | 10            | 19          | 0                 | 29           |
| Suffocation/Strangulation   | 7             | 24          | 0                 | 31           |
| Vehicular                   | 47            | 81          | 0                 | 128          |
| Firearm                     | 8             | 23          | 0                 | 31           |
| Inflicted Injury            | 6             | 14          | 0                 | 20           |
| Poison/Overdose             | 3             | 4           | 0                 | 7            |
| Fire/Burn                   | 7             | 11          | 0                 | 18           |
| Cause Not Listed            | 6             | 5           | 0                 | 11           |
| Unknown Cause               | 3             | 11          | 0                 | 14           |
| All Causes                  | 429           | 597         | 1                 | 1027         |

| <b>Cause of Death</b>       | <b>African-American</b> | <b>White</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>Not Marked</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| SIDS                        | 29                      | 38           | 0            | 0                 | 67           |
| Lack of Adequate Care       | 1                       | 1            | 0            | 0                 | 2            |
| Prematurity                 | 130                     | 170          | 20           | 2                 | 322          |
| Illness/Other Natural Cause | 119                     | 212          | 11           | 5                 | 347          |
| Drowning                    | 6                       | 23           | 0            | 0                 | 29           |
| Suffocation/Strangulation   | 14                      | 17           | 0            | 0                 | 31           |
| Vehicular                   | 31                      | 90           | 5            | 2                 | 128          |
| Firearm                     | 13                      | 16           | 2            | 0                 | 31           |
| Inflicted Injury            | 11                      | 7            | 2            | 0                 | 20           |
| Poison/Overdose             | 0                       | 6            | 1            | 0                 | 7            |
| Fire/Burn                   | 5                       | 12           | 1            | 0                 | 18           |
| Cause Not Listed            | 2                       | 9            | 0            | 0                 | 11           |
| Unknown Cause               | 2                       | 11           | 1            | 0                 | 14           |
| All Causes                  | 363                     | 612          | 43           | 9                 | 1027         |

### **Deaths Due to Non-injury Causes**

There were 738 deaths due to natural (non-injury) causes among Tennessee children in 2001, representing 72% of all child fatalities including those that were not determined. Of these, the greatest number of deaths due to non-injury resulted from illness (N=347) followed by prematurity (N=322). Of the deaths where gestational age was reported, 125 involved extremely premature infants (i.e., less than 23 weeks gestation) and 263 involved gestations of 23 to 39 weeks. Each of these is discussed in more detail in later sections of this report.

### **Illness or Other Conditions**

In 2001, 347 children died due to illness or other conditions. This represents 47% of all non-injury deaths and 34% of all childhood fatalities for 2001. More than half (N=225) of all fatalities due to illness involved children of less than one year of age (Table 17).

| Age          | Number     | Rate*        | Sex    | Number | Rate  | Race             | Number | Rate  |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|-------|
| <1           | 225        | 299.4        | Female | 172    | 25.29 | African-American | 119    | 40.13 |
| 1-2          | 21         | 14.03        | Male   | 175    | 24.36 | White            | 212    | 20.41 |
| 3-5          | 15         | 6.62         |        |        |       | Other            | 11     | 17.41 |
| 6-8          | 8          | 3.38         |        |        |       | Not Marked       | 5      |       |
| 9-11         | 14         | 5.72         |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 12-14        | 21         | 9.00         |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 15-17        | 43         | 18.48        |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>347</b> | <b>24.81</b> |        |        |       |                  |        |       |

\*Rates per 100,000 population.

## Prematurity

A total of 322 children were reported as dead from complications due to prematurity in 2001. Gestational age was not available for 76 of these cases. Of the 246 cases reporting gestational age, 84 of these deaths in 2001 occurred in infants with a gestational age of less than 23 weeks. This represents 26% of all deaths due to prematurity in 2001. One hundred twenty-four deaths due to prematurity occurred in infants with a gestational age of 23 to 37 weeks. Overall, prematurity was the manner of death for 44% of deaths due to non-injury and 31% of the remaining 38 deaths occurred in infants with a gestational age > 37 weeks (Table 18).

Of the 84 fatalities due to prematurity with less than 23 weeks of gestational age where age at death was known:

- Sixty eight (81%) died within 24 hours of birth
- Thirteen (16%) died within 1 and 6 days of birth
- Two (2%) died between 7 and 28 days
- One died between 29-364 days of birth

Of the 124 fatalities due to prematurity with 23-37 weeks of gestational age where age at death was known:

- Forty three (35%) died within 24 hours
- Thirty-six (29%) died between 1 and 6 days of age
- Fifteen (12%) died between 7 and 28 days
- Thirty (24%) died between 29 and 364 days of age

| <b>Gestational Age Less than 23 Weeks (N=84)</b> |           |            |        |           |            |                  |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age  | Number    | %          | Sex    | Number    | %          | Race             | Number    | %          |
| <1 day   | 68        | 81         | Female | 39        | 46         | African-American | 54        | 64         |
| 1-6 days   | 13        | 16         | Male   | 45        | 54         | White            | 26        | 31         |
| 7-28 days  | 2         | 2          |        |           |            | Other            | 3         | 4          |
| 29-364 days                                      | 1         | 1          |        |           |            | Not Marked       | 1         | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>84</b> | <b>100</b> |        | <b>84</b> | <b>100</b> |                  | <b>84</b> | <b>100</b> |

| Gestational Age 23-37 Weeks (N=124) |            |            |        |            |            |                  |            |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| Age                                 | Number     | %          | Sex    | Number     | %          | Race             | Number     | %          |
| <1 day                              | 43         | 35         | Female | 50         | 40         | African-American | 50         | 40         |
| 1-6 days                            | 36         | 29         | Male   | 74         | 60         | White            | 64         | 52         |
| 7-28 days                           | 15         | 12         |        |            |            | Other            | 9          | 7          |
| 29-364 days                         | 30         | 24         |        |            |            | Not Marked       | 1          | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>124</b> | <b>100</b> |        | <b>124</b> | <b>100</b> |                  | <b>124</b> | <b>100</b> |

| Gestational Age More than 37 Weeks (N=38) |           |            |        |           |            |                  |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age                                       | Number    | %          | Sex    | Number    | %          | Race             | Number    | %          |
| <1 day                                    | 5         | 13         | Female | 20        | 53         | African-American | 12        | 32         |
| 1-6 days                                  | 5         | 13         | Male   | 18        | 47         | White            | 22        | 58         |
| 7-28 days                                 | 7         | 18         |        |           |            | Other            | 4         | 10         |
| 29-364 days                               | 21        | 56         |        |           |            |                  |           |            |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>38</b> | <b>100</b> |        | <b>38</b> | <b>100</b> |                  | <b>38</b> | <b>100</b> |

\* Gestational age was not provided for 76 cases.

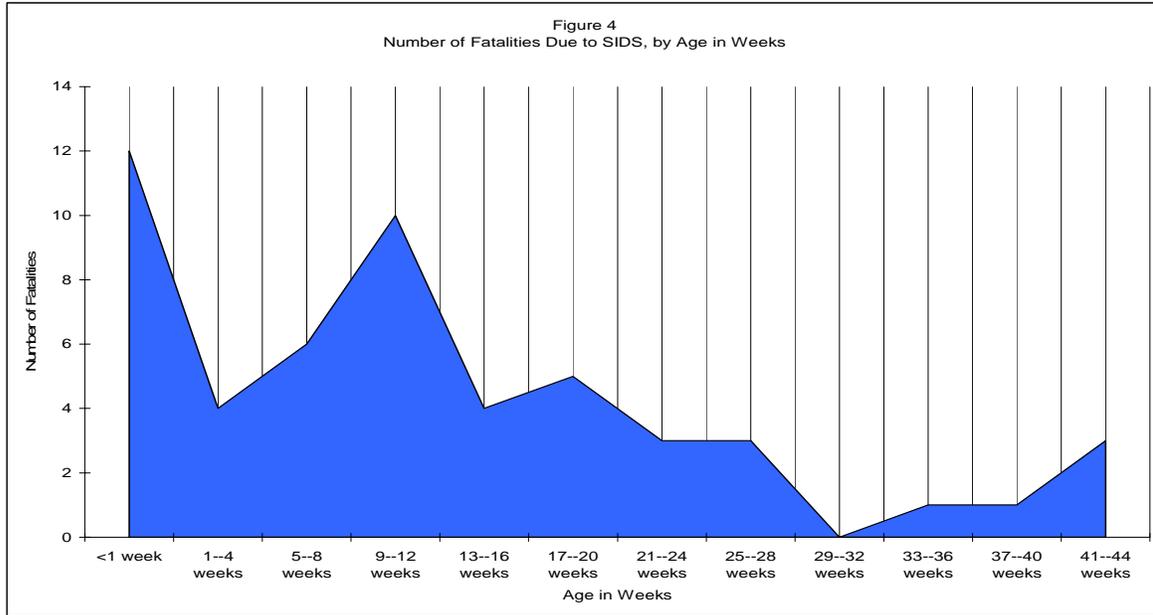
Among infants born at 22 weeks gestation or earlier, infant fatalities were most frequent among women whose age was reported between 31 to 40 years of age. Fatalities among infants born between 23 and 37 weeks of gestation were most frequent among mothers who were 31 to 40 years of age (Table 19).

| Table 19: Fatalities Due to Prematurity by Mother's Age and Gestational Age (N=195*) |           |            |              |            |            |                    |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than or equal to 22 weeks   |           |            | 23-37 weeks  |            |            | More than 37 weeks |           |            |
| Mother's Age   | Number    | Percent    | Mother's Age | Number     | Percent    | Mother's Age       | Number    | Percent    |
| 14-17  | 0         | 0          | 14-17        | 1          | 1          | 14-17              | 1         | 3          |
| 18-21  | 15        | 26         | 18-21        | 23         | 23         | 18-21              | 10        | 27         |
| 22-25  | 8         | 19         | 22-25        | 19         | 19         | 22-25              | 11        | 30         |
| 26-30  | 22        | 22         | 26-30        | 22         | 22         | 26-30              | 6         | 16         |
| 31-40  | 12        | 34         | 31-40        | 34         | 34         | 31-40              | 8         | 22         |
| 41-45  | 0         | 2          | 41-45        | 2          | 2          | 41-45              | 1         | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>57</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>101</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>Total</b>       | <b>37</b> | <b>100</b> |

### Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

In 2001, 67 deaths were reported as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). This represents 9% of deaths due to non-injury and 7% of all childhood deaths in 2001. The most frequently occurring age of death was less than 1 week (N=12). Seventy one percent (N=42) of all fatalities due to SIDS occurred between 5 and 16 weeks of age (Figure 4).

Of the 67 reported SIDS deaths, sleeping position for 21 (40%) was either not reported or unknown. Among the 25 whose position was reported, 15 (60%) were on their stomachs with face down, 1 (4%) was on his/her stomach with face to the side, 4 (16%) were on their side, and 5 (20%) were on their back.



### Fatalities Due To Lack of Medical Care

In 2001, two fatalities were attributed to delayed, inadequate, or lack of medical care (Table 20).

**Table 20: Fatalities Due To Lack of Care by Age, Sex and Race (N=2)**

| Age          | Number   | Rate*       | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 0        | 0           | Female | 1      | 0.10 | African-American | 1      | 0.30 |
| 1-2          | 1        | 0.70        | Male   | 1      | 0.10 | White            | 1      | 0.10 |
| 3-5          | 0        | 0           |        |        |      | Other            | 0      | 0    |
| 6-8          | 1        | 0.40        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 0        | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 0        | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 0        | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0.10</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\*Rates per 100,000 population.

### Deaths Due To Injury

In 2001 there were 274 deaths (27% of all childhood fatalities) due to injury among children. The greatest number of childhood fatalities due to injuries resulted from vehicular incidents (127) or 46% of all injury-related fatalities). Firearm and suffocation/strangulation fatalities were the next most common cause of injury-related death resulting in 31 fatalities each (11.3% of all injury-related fatalities) (Figure 6). African-American children and children from races other than white, were more likely to be involved in an injury-related fatality than white children (Tables 21-22; Figure 5). Overall, childhood fatalities due to unintentional injuries in 2001 occurred at a rate of 19.59 per 100,000.

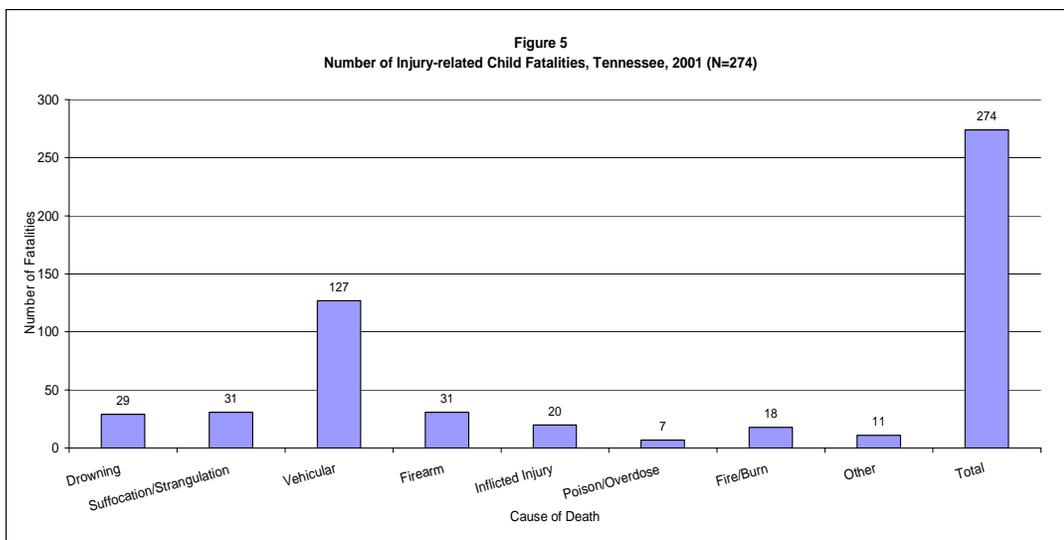
| Age          | Number     | Rate         | Sex    | Number | Rate  | Race*            | Number | Rate  |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|-------|
| <1           | 120        | 160.00       | Female | 94     | 13.82 | African-American | 81     | 27.32 |
| 1-2          | 24         | 16.03        | Male   | 180    | 25.05 | White            | 180    | 17.33 |
| 3-5          | 20         | 8.82         |        |        |       | Other            | 11     | 17.41 |
| 6-8          | 10         | 4.23         |        |        |       | Not Marked       | 2      |       |
| 9-11         | 18         | 7.36         |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 12-14        | 22         | 9.43         |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 15-17        | 60         | 25.80        |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>274</b> | <b>19.59</b> |        |        |       |                  |        |       |

Childhood fatalities due to injuries were more prevalent among males (N= 180; 25 per 100,000) than females (N= 94; 13.8 per 100,000).

Infants less than one year of age had the greatest injury-related death rate at 160 per 100,000. Children ages 15 to 17 had the next highest incidence of unintentional injury deaths (N=60; 25.8 per 100,000).

Fatalities due to injuries were most prevalent among African-American children (N=81; 27.32 per 100,000). There were 180 (17.33 per 100,000) white children and 11 (17.41 per 100,000) children of other races whose deaths were due to unintentional injuries. The races for two vehicular deaths were not marked.

|                           | African-American | White      | Other     | Missing  | Total      |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Drowning                  | 6                | 23         | 0         |          | 29         |
| Suffocation/Strangulation | 14               | 17         | 0         |          | 31         |
| Vehicular                 | 31               | 90         | 5         | 2        | 128        |
| Firearm                   | 13               | 16         | 2         |          | 31         |
| Inflicted Injury          | 11               | 7          | 2         |          | 20         |
| Poison/Overdose           | 0                | 6          | 1         |          | 7          |
| Fire/Burn                 | 5                | 12         | 1         |          | 18         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>80</b>        | <b>171</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>264</b> |
| Rate                      | 27.3             | 17.3       | 17.4      |          | 19.6       |



## Vehicle-Related Deaths

In 2001, 128 children died in vehicle-related incidents. This represents 46% of all injury-related deaths and 12.5% of all child fatalities for 2001. Infants less than one year (N=54; 6.7 per 100,000 in the population) was most likely to die in a vehicle related incident. Males (11.7 per 100,000 in the population) were nearly twice as likely to die in a vehicle related death than females (6.9 per 100,000 in the population). African-Americans had a slightly higher rate of vehicle related deaths than whites (10.1 versus 8.7 respectively) (Table 23).

| Age          | Number     | Rate*       | Sex    | Number | Rate  | Race             | Number | Rate  |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|-------|
| <1           | 55         | 6.70        | Female | 47     | 6.91  | African-American | 31     | 10.12 |
| 1-2          | 7          | 3.30        | Male   | 81     | 11.69 | White            | 90     | 8.66  |
| 3-5          | 8          | 6.20        |        |        |       | Other            | 5      | 7.90  |
| 6-8          | 2          | 2.10        |        |        |       | Not Marked       | 2      |       |
| 9-11         | 12         | 3.70        |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 12-14        | 11         | 7.70        |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| 15-17        | 33         | 25.80       |        |        |       |                  |        |       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>128</b> | <b>8.30</b> |        |        |       |                  |        |       |

\*Rates per 100,000 population.

## Firearms

Firearm injuries were responsible for the deaths of 31 children in 2001. This represents 24% of all injury deaths and 3% of all childhood fatalities (Table 24). Males (N=23; 3.8 per 100,000) were significantly more likely to die due to firearm injuries than females (N=3; 2.2 per 100,000). Seventy-seven (N=24) percent of all firearm deaths occurred in age groups of 15-17 years old and less than 2 years of age. Half of these deaths (N=12) occurred in 15-17 year old age group.

| Age          | Number    | Rate*       | Sex     | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 7         | 1.20        | Female  | 3      | 2.20 | African-American | 13     | 4.40 |
| 1-2          | 5         | 0.70        | Male    | 23     | 3.80 | White            | 16     | 1.50 |
| 3-5          | 2         | 0.40        | Missing | 5      |      | Other            | 2      | 3.20 |
| 6-8          | 1         | 0.80        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.40        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 3         | 2.60        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 12        | 7.30        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>2.00</b> |         |        |      |                  |        |      |

\*Rates per 100,000 in population.

## Suffocation or Strangulation

In 2001 there were 31 child fatalities due to suffocation or strangulation. This represents 24% of all injuries and 3% of all child fatalities in 2001. Among these deaths, 55% (N=17) involved a child less than one year old (Table 25).

| Age          | Number    | Rate*       | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race             | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1 day       | 6         |             | Female | 7      | 1.03 | African-American | 14     | 4.72 |
| 1-6 days     | 2         |             | Male   | 24     | 3.51 | White            | 17     | 1.64 |
| 7-28 days    | 2         |             |        |        |      | Other            | 0      | 0    |
| 29-364 days  | 7         |             |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| < 1 year     | 17        | 22.60       |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 1-2 years    | 5         | 1.30        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 3-5 years    | 2         | 0.40        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 6-8 years    | 1         | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11 years   | 0         | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14 years  | 1         | 0.90        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17 years  | 5         | 2.60        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>2.00</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

\*Rates per 100,000 population.

## Fire/Burns

Fire or burn injuries were the reported cause of 18 child fatalities in 2001. This represents 14% of all injury fatalities and 2% of all child fatalities in 2001 (Table 26).

| Age          | Number    | Rate        | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 8         | 10.77       | Female | 7      | 1.03 | African-American | 5      | 1.69 |
| 1-2          | 3         | 2.00        | Male   | 11     | 1.61 | White            | 12     | 1.16 |
| 3-5          | 2         | 1.60        |        |        |      | Other            | 1      | 9.58 |
| 6-8          | 1         | 0.80        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.80        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 2         | 0.90        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 1         | 1.30        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>1.10</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

## Inflicted Injury

In 2001 there were 20 child fatalities due to inflicted injuries. This represents 7% of all injury-related fatalities and 2% of all child fatalities in 2001.

Children under one year of age were the most likely to die from inflicted injuries (N=8; 10.65 per 100,000 in the population) and males N=14; 1.95 per 100,000 in the population). African-American children (N=11; 3.71 per 100,000 in the population) were more likely to die from inflicted injuries than white children (N=7; 0.67 per 100,000 in the population) or children of other races (N=2; 3.16 per 100,000 in the population) (Table 27).

| Age          | Number    | Rate        | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 8         | 10.65       | Female | 6      | 0.88 | African-American | 11     | 3.71 |
| 1-2          | 3         | 2.05        | Male   | 14     | 1.95 | White            | 7      | 0.67 |
| 3-5          | 3         | 1.32        |        |        |      | Other            | 2      | 3.16 |
| 6-8          | 2         | 0.85        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.45        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 1         | 0.43        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 2         | 0.86        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>1.43</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

## Drowning

Accidental drowning was the cause of 29 child deaths in 2001. This represents 10.4% of all injury-related deaths and 2.8% of all child fatalities in 2001. White children (23; 2.21 per 100,000 in the population) were more than twice as likely to die due to drowning than African-American children (N=6; 2.02 per 100,000 in the population) (Table 28).

| Age          | Number    | Rate        | Sex     | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 19        | 25.29       | Female  | 11     | 1.47 | African-American | 6      | 2.02 |
| 1-2          | 0         | 0           | Male    | 16     | 2.64 | White            | 23     | 2.21 |
| 3-5          | 1         | 0.44        | Missing | 2      |      | Other            | 0      | 0    |
| 6-8          | 1         | 0.48        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 2         | 0.82        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 2         | 0.86        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 4         | 1.72        |         |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>2.07</b> |         |        |      |                  |        |      |

## Poisoning or Overdose

In 2001, there were seven child fatalities due to poisoning or overdose. This represents 5% of all injury deaths and 1% of all child fatalities in 2001. Males (N=4; 0.58 per 100,000 in the population) were more likely than females (N=3; 0.44 per 100,000 in the population) to die from poisonings or overdose (Table 29).

| Age          | Number   | Rate        | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 2        | 2.66        | Female | 3      | 0.44 | African-American | 0      | 0    |
| 1-2          | 0        | 0           | Male   | 4      | 0.56 | White            | 6      | 0.60 |
| 3-5          | 1        | 0.44        |        |        |      | Other            | 1      | 1.58 |
| 6-8          | 0        | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 0        | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 2        | 0.86        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 2        | 0.86        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>0.50</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

## Cause of Death: 'Other' or 'Undetermined'

In 2001, there were 25 total fatalities where the cause of death was undetermined (N=11) or listed as "other" or "unknown" cause (N=14) (Tables 30 and 31). The 25 fatalities represent 2% of all child fatalities in 2001.

| Age          | Number    | Rate        | Sex    | Number | Rate | Race*            | Number | Rate |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| <1           | 5         | 6.66        | Female | 6      | 0.88 | African-American | 2      | 0.67 |
| 1-2          | 1         | 0.67        | Male   | 5      | 0.70 | White            | 9      | 0.87 |
| 3-5          | 1         | 0.44        |        |        |      | Other            | 0      | 0    |
| 6-8          | 2         | 0.85        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 9-11         | 1         | 0.41        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 12-14        | 0         | 0           |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| 15-17        | 1         | 0.43        |        |        |      |                  |        |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>0.79</b> |        |        |      |                  |        |      |

| <b>Age</b>   | <b>Number</b> | <b>Rate</b> | <b>Sex</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Rate</b> | <b>Race*</b>     | <b>Number</b> | <b>Rate</b> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <1 year      | 9             | 11.98       | Female     | 3             | 0.44        | African-American | 2             | 0.67        |
| 1-2 years    | 2             | 1.34        | Male       | 11            | 1.53        | White            | 11            | 1.06        |
| 3-5 years    | 1             | 0.44        |            |               |             | Other            | 1             | 1.58        |
| 6-8 years    | 0             | 0           |            |               |             |                  |               |             |
| 9-11 years   | 0             | 0           |            |               |             |                  |               |             |
| 12-14 years  | 0             | 0           |            |               |             |                  |               |             |
| 15-17 years  | 2             | 0.86        |            |               |             |                  |               |             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>14</b>     | <b>1.00</b> |            |               |             |                  |               |             |

### **Place of Death**

When asked to mark the place of death, the CFR team indicated most deaths occurred as hospital inpatients (N=592) with deaths at the child’s residence (N=157) and in a hospital emergency room (N=153). Seventy six deaths occurred at the scene with only one occurring at a child care facility (Table 32).

| <b>Place of Death</b>       | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Hospital Inpatient          | 592           | 57.64          |
| Hospital Emergency Room     | 153           | 14.90          |
| In Transit                  | 6             | 0.58           |
| Institutional Setting       | 4             | 0.39           |
| At Scene of Incident        | 76            | 7.40           |
| Child’s Residence           | 157           | 15.29          |
| Relative’s/Friend’s House   | 9             | 0.88           |
| Child Care                  | 1             | 0.10           |
| Not Marked, Blank, or Other | 29            | 2.82           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1027</b>   | <b>100.00</b>  |

# Appendix

# Child Fatality Review and Prevention Act

## Section

### 68-142-101. Short title

### 68-142-102. Child fatality prevention team

### 68-142-103. Composition

### 68-142-104. Voting members-Vacancies

### 68-142-105. Duties of state team

### 68-142-106. Local teams-Composition-Vacancy-Chair-Meetings

### 68-142-107. Duties of local teams

### 68-142-108. Powers of local team-Limitations-Confidentiality of state and local team records

### 68-142-109. Staff and consultants

### 68-142-101. Short title

The chapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Child Fatality Review and Prevention Act of 1995."

[Acts 1995, ch.511,§ 1.]

### 68-142-102. Child fatality prevention team

There is hereby created the Tennessee child fatality prevention team, otherwise known as the state team. For administrative purposes only, the state team shall be attached to the department of health.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 1.]

### 68-142-103. Composition

- (1) The state team shall be composed as provided herein. Any ex officio member, other than the commissioner of health, may designate an agency representative to serve in such person's place. Members of the state team shall be as follows:
- (2) The commissioner of health, who shall chair the state team;
- (3) The attorney general and reporter;
- (4) The commissioner of children's services;
- (5) The director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation;
- (6) A physician nominated by the state chapter of the American Medical Association;
- (7) A physician to be appointed by the commissioner of health who is credentialed in forensic pathology, preferably with experience in pediatric forensic pathology;
- (8) The commissioner of mental health and mental retardation;
- (9) A member of the judiciary selected from a list submitted by the chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court;
- (10) The executive director of the commission of children and youth;
- (11) The president of the state professional society on the abuse of children
- (12) A team coordinator, to be appointed by the commissioner of health;
- (13) The chair of the select committee on children and youth;

- (14) Two members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house, at least one of whom shall be a member of the house health and human resources committee; and
- (15) Two senators to be appointed by the speaker of the senate at least one of whom shall be a member of the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 152.]

#### **68-142-104. Voting members-Vacancies**

All members of the state team shall be voting members. All vacancies shall be filled by the appointing or designating authority in accordance with the requirements of § 68-142-103.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 1.]

#### **68-142-105. Duties of state team**

The state team shall:

- (1) Review reports from the local child fatality review teams;
- (2) Report to the governor and the general assembly concerning the state team's activities and its recommendations for changes to any law, rule, and policy that would promote the safety and well-being of children;
- (3) Undertake annual statistical studies of the incidence and causes of child fatalities in this state. The studies shall include an analysis of community and public and private agency involvement with the decedents and their families prior to and subsequent to the deaths;
- (4) Provide training and written materials to the local teams established by this chapter to assist them in carrying out their duties. Such written materials may include model protocols for the operation of local teams;
- (5) Develop a protocol for the collection of data regarding child deaths;
- (6) Upon request of a local team, provide technical assistance to such team, including the authorization of another medical or legal opinion on a particular death; and
- (7) Periodically assess the operations of child fatality prevention efforts and make recommendations for changes as needed.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 2.]

#### **68-142-106. Local teams-Composition-Vacancy-Chair-Meetings**

- (a) There shall be a minimum of one local team in each judicial district;
- (b) Each local team shall include the following statutory members or their designees;
  - (1) A supervisor of social services in the department of children's services within the area served by the team;
  - (2) The regional health officer in the department of health in the area served by the team or such officer's designee, who shall serve as interim chair pending the election by the local team;
  - (3) A medical examiner who provides services in the area served by the team;
  - (4) A prosecuting attorney appointed by the district attorney general;
  - (5) The interim chair of the local team shall appoint the following members to the local team:
    - (a) A local law enforcement officer;
    - (b) A mental health professional;
    - (c) A pediatrician or family practice physician;
    - (d) An emergency medical service provider or firefighter; and
    - (e) A representative from a juvenile court.
- (c) Each local child fatality team may include representatives of public and nonpublic agencies in the community that provide services to children and their families;
- (d) The local team may include non-statutory members to assist them in carrying out their duties. Vacancies on a local team shall be filled by the original appointing authority;
- (e) A local team shall elect a member to serve as chair;
- (f) The chair of each local team shall schedule the time and place of the first meeting, and shall prepare the agenda. Thereafter, the team shall meet no less often than once per quarter and often enough to allow adequate review of the cases meeting the criteria for review.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 3; 1996, ch. 1079, § 152.]

#### **68-142-107. Duties of local teams**

- (a) The local child fatality review teams shall:
  - (1) Be established to cover each judicial district in the state;
  - (2) Review, in accordance with the procedures established by the state team, all deaths of children seventeen (17) years of age or younger;
  - (3) Collect data according to the protocol developed by the state team;
  - (4) Submit data on child deaths quarterly to the state team;
  - (5) Submit annually to the state team recommendations, if any, and advocate for system improvements and resources where gaps and deficiencies may exist; and
  - (6) Participate in training provided by the state team.
- (b) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a local team from providing consultation to any team member conducting an investigation.
- (c) Local child fatality review teams may request a second medical or legal opinion to be authorized by the state team in the event that a majority of the local team's statutory membership is in agreement that a second opinion is needed.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 4.]

**68-142-108. Powers of local team-Limitations-  
Confidentiality of state and local team records**

- (a) The local team shall have access to and subpoena power to obtain all medical records and records maintained by any state, county or local agency, including, but not limited to, police investigations data, medical examiner investigative data and social services records, as necessary to complete the review of a specific fatality.
- (b) The local team shall not, as part of the review authorized under this chapter, contact, question or interview the parent of the deceased child or any other family member of the child whose death is being reviewed.
- (c) The local team may request that persons with direct knowledge of circumstances surrounding a particular fatality provide the local team with information necessary to complete the review of the particular fatality; such persons may include the person or persons who first responded to a report concerning the child.
- (d) Meetings of the state team and each local team shall not be subject to the provisions of title 8, chapter 44, part 1. Any minutes or other information generated during official meetings of state or local teams shall be sealed from public inspection. However, the state and local teams may periodically make available, in a general manner not revealing confidential information about children and families, the aggregate findings of their reviews and their recommendations for preventive actions.
- (e) (1) All otherwise confidential information and records acquired by the state team or any local child fatality review team in the exercise of the duties are confidential, are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any proceedings, and may only be disclosed as necessary to carry out the purposes of the state team or local teams.  
(2) In addition, all otherwise confidential information and records created by a local team in the exercise of its duties are confidential, are not subject to discovery or introduction in evidence in any proceedings, and may only be disclosed as necessary to carry out the purposes of the state or local teams. Release to the public or the news media of information discussed at official meetings is strictly prohibited. No member of the state team, a local team nor any person who attends an official meeting of the state team or a local team, may testify in any proceeding about what transpired at the meeting, about information presented at the meeting, or about opinions formed by the person as a result of the meeting.  
(3) This subsection shall not, however, prohibit a person from testifying in a civil or criminal action about matters within that person's independent knowledge.
- (f) Each statutory member of a local child fatality review team and each non-statutory member of a local team and each person otherwise attending a meeting of a local child fatality review team shall sign a statement indicating an understanding of and adherence to confidentiality requirements, including the possible civil or criminal consequences of any breach of confidentiality.

[Acts 1995, ch. 511, § 5.]

**68-142-109. Staff and consultants**

To the extent of funds available, the state team may hire staff or consultants to assist the state team and local teams in completing their duties.

## State Child Fatality Prevention Team Members

7/30/2004

### **Dr. Theodora Pinnock, Chair**

Director of Maternal and Child Health  
425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Cordell Hull Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37247  
615-741-0322

Serves by request of the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health

### **Commissioner Kenneth S. Robinson, MD**

425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Cordell Hull Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37247  
615-741-3111

Serves by virtue of position as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health

### **Susan Steppe**

436 Sixth Avenue North  
Cordell Hull Building  
Nashville, TN 37243-1290  
615-741-9701

Serves as designee for the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services

### **Stephanie Bailey, M.D.**

Davidson County Health Department  
311 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615-340-5622

Serves as a physician selected from nominations submitted by the State chapter of the American Medical Association

### **Bruce Levy, M.D.**

Center for Forensic Medicine  
850 R.S. Gass Blvd.  
Nashville TN 37216  
615-743-1800 x 0  
blevy@forensicmed.com

Serves as a physician who has credentials in forensic pathology, preferably with experience in pediatric forensic pathology.

### **Bonnie Beneke**

TN Professional Society on Abuse of Children  
5819 Old Harding Road, Suite 204  
Nashville, TN 37205  
615-352-4439

Serves by virtue of position as the President of the Tennessee Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

**Senator Charlotte Burks**

Legislative Plaza, Room 9  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-741-3978

Appointed by: Tennessee Speaker of the Senate  
Serves by virtue of position as a member of the Tennessee Senate

**Senator David Fowler**

War Memorial Building, Room 304  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-741-1764

Appointed by: Tennessee Speaker of the Senate  
Serves by virtue of position as a member of the Tennessee Senate and as a member of the Senate General Welfare, Health, and Human Resources Committee

**Senator Larry Trail**

24 Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 741-1066

Serves by virtue of position as the Chair of the Select Committee on Children and Youth

**Representative Dennis Ferguson**

23 Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-741-7658

Appointed by: Tennessee Speaker of the House  
Serves by virtue of position as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and a member of the House Health and Human Resources Committee

**Representative Joe McCord**

207 War Memorial Building  
Nashville, TN 37243-0108  
Phone (615) 741-5481

Appointed by: Tennessee Speaker of the House  
Serves by virtue of position as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives

**Linda O'Neal**

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0800  
615-741-2633

Serves by virtue of position as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

**Paul G. Summers (designee is Andy Bennett – Chief Deputy Att. General)**

Attorney General  
John Sevier Building, Suite 114  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-741-3491

Serves by virtue of position as designee for the Attorney General and Reporter for Tennessee

**Karen Alexander**

Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  
901 R.S. Gass Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37215-2639  
615-744-4216; 24 hour: 744-4000; fax 744-4513

Serves by virtue of position as designee for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

**Dr. Judy Regan**

Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities  
425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Cordell Hull Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-532-6720

Serves as designee for the Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities

**Judge Betty Adams Green**

Juvenile Court  
100 Woodland St.  
Nashville, TN 37213  
862-8054. [elainefrey@jis.nashville.org](mailto:elainefrey@jis.nashville.org)

Appointed by: Commissioner of Health

Serves by virtue of position as member of the judiciary selected from a list submitted by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

**Other Participants**

**Kim Rush**

Program Director for Children and Youth Services  
Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute  
3411 Belmont Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37215  
615-741-3290

**TDH Central Office Staff**

**Joy Cook, Ed.D.**

Maternal and Child Health  
425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Cordell Hull Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37247-4701  
615-741-2452

Serves as Team Coordinator

**Pinky Noble-Britton, R.N.**

Nurse Consultant  
615-741-0355

## TENNESSEE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM LEADERS

| CFRT Leader   | Phone  | Judicial Districts (JD) and Counties   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Dr. Lawrence Moffatt</b><br>Washington County Health Dept.<br>415 State of Franklin<br>Johnson City, TN 37604                    | Phone: (423) 975-2200<br>Kathy Carver  | <b>JD 1:</b> Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties  |
| <b>Dr. Stephen May</b><br>Sullivan Co. Health Dept.<br>PO Box 630<br>(154 Blountville Bypass)<br>Blountville, TN 37617              | Dana Osborne<br>Phone: (423) 279-2794<br>Fax 423 279 2797                                | <b>JD 2:</b> Sullivan County   |
| <b>Dr. Barbara Skelton</b><br>Hawkins Co. Health Dept.<br>PO Box 488<br>201 Park Blvd.<br>Rogersville, TN 37857                     | Phone:<br>Rogersville (Base):<br>(423) 272-7641 x 129<br>Churchill<br>423-357-5341       | <b>JD 3:</b> Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties<br><br>(Sandy J. Malone, Admin.)   |
| <b>Dr. Paul Erwin</b><br>East TN Regional Health Office<br>PO Box 59019<br>1522 Cherokee Trail<br>Knoxville, TN 37950-9019          | Phone: (865) 549-5381<br>Fax 865 594 6008<br><br>Stefanie Hogle<br>Phone: (865) 549-5252 | <b>JD 4 –</b> Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties<br><b>JD 5 –</b> Blount County<br><b>JD 7 –</b> Anderson County<br><b>JD 8 –</b> Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties<br><b>JD 9 –</b> Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane Counties |
| <b>Dr. Kelly Boggan</b><br>Knox County Health Dept.<br>140 Dameron Ave.<br>Knoxville, TN 37917                                      | Phone: (865) 544-4259<br>Mary Campbell<br>Linda Weber (ASA)<br>865-215-5272              | <b>JD 6:</b> Knox County   |
| <b>Dr. Jan Beville</b><br>Southeast Regional Health Office<br>State Office Building<br>540 McCallie Avenue<br>Chattanooga, TN 37402 | Phone: (423) 634-3124<br>Eloise Waters   | <b>JD 10:</b> Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties<br><b>JD 12:</b> Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties   |
| <b>Kaye Greer</b><br>Chattanooga/Hamilton Health Dept.<br>921 East Third Street<br>Chattanooga, TN 37403                            | Phone: (423) 209-8155<br>Office 423-209-8155   | <b>JD 11:</b> Hamilton County  |
| <b>Dr. Don Tansil</b><br>Upper Cumberland Reg. Health Office<br>200 West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Cookeville, TN 38501-6067       | Phone: (931)-528-7531<br>Infirmary<br>931-372-3320                                       | <b>JD 13:</b> Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties<br><b>JD 15:</b> Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties<br><b>JD 31:</b> Van Buren and Warren Counties   |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Dr. Langdon Smith</b><br/>South Central Regional Health Office<br/>1216 Trotwood Avenue<br/>Columbia, TN 38401-4809</p>                         | <p>Phone:<br/>(931) 380-2532 x 146<br/>Brandy Fox, Sec.<br/>x 123</p>             | <p><b>JD 14:</b> Coffee County<br/><b>JD 17:</b> Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall,<br/>and Moore Counties<br/><b>JD 2101:</b> Hickman, Lewis, and<br/>Perry Counties<br/><b>JD 2201:</b> Giles, Lawrence, and<br/>Wayne Counties<br/><b>JD 2202:</b> Maury County</p>  |
| <p><b>Sharon A. Woodard /<br/>Dr. Alison Asaro</b><br/>Mid Cumberland Reg. Health Office<br/>710 Hart Lane<br/>Nashville, TN 37247-0801</p>           | <p>Phone: (615) 650-7015<br/><br/>Fax 262-6139<br/>Melissa Crook<br/>650-4008</p> | <p><b>JD 16:</b> Cannon and Rutherford<br/>Counties<br/><b>JD 18:</b> Sumner County<br/><b>JD 1901:</b> Montgomery County<br/><b>JD 1902:</b> Robertson County<br/><b>JD 2102:</b> Williamson County<br/><b>JD 23:</b> Cheatham, Dickson,<br/>Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart<br/>Counties</p>                             |
| <p><b>Dr. Stephanie Bailey/</b><br/>Brook McKelvey<br/>Metro/Davidson Co. Health Dept.<br/>311 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. North<br/>Nashville, TN 37203</p> | <p>Phone: (615) 340-0474</p>  | <p><b>JD 20:</b> Davidson County</p>   |
| <p><b>Dr. Shaveta Conner</b><br/>Regional Health Officer<br/>West TN Regional Health Office<br/>295 Summar Street<br/>Jackson, TN 38301</p>           | <p>Phone: (731) 423-6600</p>  | <p><b>JD 24:</b> Benton, Carroll, Decatur,<br/>Hardin, and Henry Counties<br/><b>JD 25:</b> Fayette, Hardeman,<br/>Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton<br/>Counties<br/><b>JD 27:</b> Obion and Weakley<br/>Counties<br/><b>JD 28:</b> Crockett, Gibson, and<br/>Haywood Counties<br/><b>JD 29:</b> Dyer and Lake Counties</p> |
| <p><b>Dr. Tony Emison, Director</b><br/>Jackson/Madison Co. Health Dept.<br/>544 Rowland Ave.<br/>Jackson, TN 38301</p>                               | <p>Phone: (731) 423-3020</p>  | <p><b>JD 26:</b> Chester, Henderson, and<br/>Madison Counties</p>  |
| <p><b>Flo Patton</b><br/>Shelby County Health Department<br/>814 Jefferson Avenue<br/>Memphis, TN 38105-5099</p>                                      | <p>Phone: (901) 544-7380</p>  | <p><b>JD 30:</b> Shelby County</p>   |



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM  
—2001 REVIEW/ DATA COLLECTION**

MCH 1/01

*This information is confidential*

This information was entered into the data system on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Judicial District No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Child Death Year/No.: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Race: White African American Asian Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Of Hispanic origin?  Yes  No  
 Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Census Tract: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Weight: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Clinical Estimate of Gestation (weeks): \_\_\_\_\_  
 kg gm lb oz  
 Abnormal Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_ Congenital Anomalies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prenatal Care Questions:  
 Specify Month Prenatal Care Began \_\_\_\_\_  No Prenatal Care  Unknown  
 Number of Prenatal Visits \_\_\_\_\_  No Visits  Unknown  
 Risk Factors: Tobacco Use:  Yes  No No. of cigarettes per day \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alcohol Use:  Yes  No No. of drinks per week \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chemical Substance Abuse:  Yes  No Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 To the best of the team's knowledge, is the Birth Certificate information correct/complete:  Yes  No

Death Certificate Number \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Death Certificate adequate/complete?  Yes  No  
 Manner of death on Death Certificate:  Homicide  Suicide  Accidental  Natural  
 Pending Investigation  Could not be determined  Blank  
 Place of Death:  Hospital Inpatient  At Scene of Incident  
 Hospital Emergency Room  Child's Residence  
 In Transit  Relative's/Friend's Home  
 Institutional Setting  Child Care  
 Was an autopsy performed?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 If Yes, location:  Medical Examiner \_\_\_\_\_  Hospital \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Review team comments/recommendations and prevention issues (for local team use):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended for additional review?  Yes  No  
 Which reports/records were requested for full review?  
 Law enforcement  Court  DA report  
 School  DHS  Health Dept.  
 Med. Exam autopsy  Hospital autopsy  
 Attending physician  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. CAUSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH**  
 (Complete on back)  
 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome  Firearm  
 Lack of adequate care  Inflicted Injury  
 Prematurity  Poisoning/overdose  
 Illness or other natural cause  Fire/burn  
 Drowning  Other cause not listed above  
 Suffocation/strangulation  Unknown cause  
 Vehicular  
**2. Family has prior child protective services involvement?**  
 Yes  No  
**3. Other public/private agency involvement?**  
 Yes  No  Unknown  
 If yes, name of agency:  
 Health Department:  Immunizations  CSS  WIC  
 Home visiting program  Other  
 DHS:  FF  Food Stamps  Other  
 Counseling/Mental Health  Police/Sheriff  
 TennCare  Juvenile Court  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
**4. Was there an apparent delay in seeking medical treatment?**  
 Yes  No  Unknown  
**5. Suspected child abuse/neglect fatality?**  
 Yes  No  Unknown  
**6. Overall was the investigation adequate?**  Yes  No  
 If no, was the problem with:  
 Autopsy  Police follow-up  
 Hospital review  Death Scene Investigation  
 Interagency Cooperation  CPS Follow-up  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
**7. Manner of death as determined by the CFRT team:**  
 Homicide  Accidental  Natural  Suicide  
 Could not be determined  
 Undetermined due to suspicious circumstances

Additional information for State office:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Review: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ | 2<sup>nd</sup> Review: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ | 3<sup>rd</sup> Review: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Date case closed by CFRT: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**CAUSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH**  
**Complete one of blocks 1-12 as applicable to indicate cause of death.**

**1. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**  
 A. Position of infant on discovery?  
 1.  On stomach, face down  
 2.  On stomach, face to side  
 3.  On back 4.  On side 5.  Unknown  
 B. Smoker in household?  
 Yes  No  Unknown

**2. Lack of Adequate Care**  
 A. Apparent lack of supervision?  Yes  No  
 B. Apparent lack of medical care?  Yes  No  
 C. If yes: 1.  Malnutrition or dehydration  
 2.  Oral water intoxication  
 3.  Delayed medical care  
 4.  Inadequate medical attention  
 5.  Out-of-hospital birth  
 6.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 7.  Unknown

**3. Prematurity** (less than 37 weeks gestation)  
 A.  Known Condition \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Illness or Other Natural Cause**  
 A.  Known condition \_\_\_\_\_  
 B.  Unknown

**5. Drowning**  
 A. Place of drowning?  
 1.  Creek, river, pond or lake  
 Location prior to drowning?  
 a.  Boat b.  Waters edge  
 c.  Other \_\_\_\_\_ d.  Unknown  
 2.  Well, cistern, or septic tank  
 3.  Bathtub 4.  Swimming pool  
 5.  Bucket 6.  Wading pool  
 7.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 8.  Unknown  
 B. Wearing flotation device?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown 4.  NA  
 C.  Circumstances Unknown

**6. Suffocation/Strangulation**  
 A. Circumstances of the event?  
 1.  Other person overlying or rolling over decedent?  
 2.  Caused by other person, not overlying or rolling over  
 3.  Self-inflicted by decedent  
 4.  Not inflicted by any person  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 6.  Unknown  
 B. Object impeding breath?  
 1.  Food 2.  Other person's hand(s)  
 3.  Small object or toy in mouth  
 4.  Object (e.g., plastic bag) covering victim's mouth/nose  
 5.  Object (e.g., rope) exerting pressure on victim's neck  
 6.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 7.  Unknown  
 C. Injury occurred in bed, crib, or other sleeping arrangement?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 D. If in bed/crib, due to:  
 1.  Hazardous design of crib/bed  
 2.  Malfunction/improper use of crib/bed  
 3.  Placement on soft sleeping surface (e.g. waterbed)  
 4.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 5.  Unknown 6.  NA  
 E. Due to carbon monoxide inhalation?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 F.  Circumstances unknown RDA-pending

**7. Vehicular**  
 A. # and type of vehicles involved:  
 1. Cars \_\_\_\_\_ 2. All-terrain vehicles \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Motorcycles \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Riding mowers \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Bicycles \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Farm tractors \_\_\_\_\_  
 7. Other farm vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Truck/RV \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. Other \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. Position of decedent?  
 1.  Driver 2.  Pedestrian  
 3.  Passenger 4.  Back of truck  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 6.  Unknown  
 C. Type vehicle in which decedent was occupant?  
 1.  Car 2.  All-terrain vehicle  
 3.  Motorcycle 4.  Riding mower  
 5.  Bicycle 6.  Farm tractor  
 7.  Other farm vehicle 8.  Truck/RV  
 9.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 10.  Unknown  
 D. Deceased's safety belt use?  
 1.  Present in vehicle, but not used  
 2.  None in vehicle 3.  Restraint used  
 4.  Unknown 5.  NA  
 E. Deceased's infant/toddler seat use?  
 1.  Present in vehicle, but not used  
 2.  None in vehicle  
 3.  Seat used correctly  
 4.  Seat used incorrectly  
 5.  NA  
 F. Deceased was wearing a helmet?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No  
 3.  Unknown 4.  NA  
 G. Vehicle in which decedent was occupant?  
 1. Age of driver \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown  
 2.  Operator driving impaired (alcohol/drug)  
 3.  Speed/recklessness indicated  
 4.  Other violation by operator  
 5.  Mechanical failure  
 6.  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 7.  Unknown 8.  NA  
 H. Vehicle in which decedent was not occupant?  
 1. Age of driver \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown  
 2.  Operator driving impaired (alcohol/drug)  
 3.  Speed/recklessness indicated  
 4.  Other violation by operator  
 5.  Mechanical failure  
 6.  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 7.  Unknown 8.  NA  
 I. Condition of road?  
 1.  Normal 2.  Loose gravel  
 3.  Wet 4.  Ice or snow  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 6.  Unknown  
 7.  NA  
 J.  Circumstances unknown

**8. Firearm**  
 A. Person handling the firearm?  
 1.  Decedent 2.  Parent  
 3.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 4.  Unknown  
 B. Type firearm involved?  
 1.  Handgun 2.  Rifle 3.  Shotgun  
 4.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 5.  Unknown  
 C. Age of person handling firearm:  
 1. years \_\_\_\_\_ 2.  Unknown  
 D. Use of firearm at time of injury?  
 1.  Shooting at other person 2.  Suicide  
 3.  Hunting 4.  Playing  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 6.  Unknown  
 E. Was decedent's home source of firearm?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 F.  Circumstances unknown

**9. Inflicted Injury** (NOT firearm or suffocation/strangulation)  
 A. Who inflicted the injury?  
 1.  Self-inflicted 2.  Parent  
 3.  Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ 4.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. Person inflicting injury?  
 1. Age \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown  
 2. Gender:  Male  Female  
 3. Race:  White  African American  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  Unknown

C. Manner in which injury was inflicted?  
 1.  Shaken 2.  Struck 3.  Thrown  
 4.  Cut/stabbed 5.  Sexual Assault  
 6.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 7.  Unknown  
 D. Injury inflicted with?  
 1.  Sharp object (e.g., knife, scissors)  
 2.  Blunt object (e.g., hammer, bat)  
 3.  Hot liquid or other substance  
 4.  Hands/feet 5.  Fire  
 6.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 7.  Unknown  
 E. Where did injury occur?  
 1.  Child's residence 2.  School  
 3.  Relative/friend's home  
 4.  Child care  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 6.  Unknown  
 F.  Circumstances unknown

**10. Poisoning/overdose**  
 A. Name of drug or chemical?  
 1.  Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 2.  Unknown  
 B.  Circumstances unknown

**11. Fire/burn**  
 A. If not a fire burn, its source?  
 1.  Hot water, etc. 2.  Appliance  
 3.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 4.  Unknown 5.  NA  
 B. If ignition/fire, what was source?  
 1.  Oven/stove explosion  
 2.  Cooking appliance used as heat source  
 3.  Matches 4.  Lit cigarette  
 5.  Lighter 6.  Space heater  
 7.  Furnace 8.  Explosives  
 9.  Fireworks 10.  Electrical wiring  
 11.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 12.  Unknown 13.  NA  
 C. Smoke alarm present at fire scene?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 D. If alarm present, did it sound?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 E. Was the fire started by a person?  
 1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Unknown  
 F. If started by a person, his/her age: \_\_\_\_\_ years  
 1.  Unknown 2.  NA  
 G. If started by a person, his/her activity  
 1.  Playing 2.  Smoking  
 3.  Cooking 4.  Suspected arson  
 5.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 6.  Unknown 7.  NA  
 H. Type of construction of building burned:  
 1.  Wood frame 2.  Brick/stone  
 3.  Trailer 4.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 5.  Unknown 6.  NA  
 I. Smoke inhalation death: 1.  Yes 2.  No  
 J.  Circumstances unknown

**12. Other Cause Not Listed Above:**  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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