



# Child Deaths in Idaho, 2013

All 182 deaths to children under age 18 occurring in Idaho in 2013 were initially screened by a subcommittee. A case was selected for full review when it met one or more of the following criteria:

1. Death was due to an external cause
2. Cause of death was unexplained
3. Death was due to a cause with identified risk factors

	Screened by CFR Subcommittee	Reviewed by CFR Team
Perinatal Conditions/Congenital Malformations	76	5
Unintentional Injuries (Accidents)	41	41
Suicide	14	14
Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)	18	18
Assault (Homicide)	3	3
Malignancies	5	0
Flu/Pneumonia	5	5
Cerebrovascular/Heart Disease	2	0
Non-ranking/All Other Causes	18	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>92</b>

## Findings from the Idaho Child Fatality Review Team

May 2016

### Top 10 Actions for Preventing Child Deaths

1. Follow American Academy of Pediatrics infant safe sleep practices (on back, infant's own crib, avoid thick bedding/bumpers/pillows)
2. Do not smoke during pregnancy or around children of any age
3. Use age appropriate safety restraints in vehicles
4. Be attentive when driving (avoid distractions such as multiple passengers and electronic devices) and maintain a safe speed for conditions.
5. Do not drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs
6. Closely supervise children of all ages when swimming or playing near the water
7. Enroll children in formal swimming lessons that include water safety techniques
8. Store guns safely and securely
9. Know the signs of suicide risk and take action
10. Get your child immunized (including an annual flu vaccine)

## Unintentional Injuries

There were 20 motor vehicle accident deaths to children and teens in 2013. Distracted driving, speeding and driver error were leading causes. More than half of the victims of traffic accidents were not properly restrained with a seat belt or safety seat.

Two fatalities were to pedestrians who were struck by backing vehicles. Two children died while riding in the bed of a pick-up.

Other accident fatalities to children in 2013 included drowning (8), fires (3), crush injuries (2), firearms (2) and accidents to infants in the sleeping environment (4).

# Sudden Unexplained Infant Death

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is the sudden death of an infant under one year of age, which remains unexplained after a comprehensive investigation.

There were 14 SUID cases and 4 infant deaths of undetermined cause in 2013. The team identified a need for ongoing education directed at parents and caretakers stressing the importance of a safe sleeping environment and the dangers of tobacco smoke exposure to infants.



## Intentional Injuries

Idaho's rate of suicide continues to be higher than for the U.S. overall. There were 14 youth suicides in Idaho in 2013. While the majority of victims were teens, 3 of the victims were elementary or middle school aged.

Most of the victims had a history of mental health concerns and nearly half had expressed suicide ideation prior to the act.

The team reviewed 3 assault deaths which occurred in Idaho. Each of these victims was under the age of 5 years-old. A family history of neglect and/or domestic violence are often seen in studying child homicides nationally and the CFR Team also found evidence of this in the Idaho reviews. The fact that children who die from physical abuse have often been abused over time provides opportunities for early intervention.

*"The fact that children who die from physical abuse have often been abused over time provides opportunities for early intervention."*

## Preventable Natural Manner Deaths

The team subcommittee reviewed 5 influenza or pneumonia deaths which occurred during the 2012-13 flu season. The age range was between 1 month and 7 years of age. The team recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone over the age of 6 months, especially those who care for infants.

In 2013, the CFR Team identified 5 deaths to children from families whose religious beliefs prevented them from seeking medical intervention. All of these 2013 deaths were to newborn infants. Causes included meconium aspiration, intestinal blockages, and sepsis. The CFR Team determined that each of these deaths may have been prevented with proper and timely medical treatment.

FOR METHODOLOGY and COMPLETE REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SEE: [www.idcartf.org](http://www.idcartf.org)

