



Child Deaths in Idaho, 2015

All 163 deaths to children under age 18 occurring in Idaho in 2015 were 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

	Total	Screened by CFR Subcommittee	Reviewed by CFR Team
Perinatal Conditions/Congenital Malformations	65	65	4
Unintentional Injuries (Accidents)	36	36	36
Suicide	17	17	17
Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)	15	15	15
Assault (Homicide)	2	2	2
Malignancies	6	6	0
Flu/Pneumonia	1	1	1
Non-ranking/All Other Causes	21	21	2
	163	163	77

Findings from the Idaho Child Fatality Review Team

June 2018

Top 10 Actions for Preventing Child Deaths

1. Follow American Academy of Pediatrics safe sleep practices (place infants on back, in room shared with parents, in own crib, with firm bedding, free of objects, return to crib after breastfeeding)
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. Store guns safely and securely
8. Know the signs of suicide risk and take action
9. Get your child immunized (including an annual flu vaccine)
10. Complete and prominently post a "Crying Plan" for reminders of how to cope with inconsolable, crying babies. (www.cryingbabyplan.org)

Unintentional Injuries

There were 21 fatal motor vehicle accident deaths to children. Excess speed and distracted driving were leading causes. The majority of the victims of traffic accidents were not properly restrained with a seat belt or safety seat. Five of the accidents were to children on off-road vehicles like ATVs. Two deaths were to pedestrians or bi-

cyclists who were struck by motor vehicles.

Other 2015 accident deaths included drowning (6), firearm shootings (3), overdose (2) and fire (1). There were 3 accidental deaths to infants or toddlers which occurred in the sleeping environment.

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 9 SUID cases and 6 infant deaths of “undetermined” cause. The team identified a need for ongoing education directed at parents and caretakers stressing American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) safe sleep guidelines, the dangers of tobacco smoke exposure, and the protective factors of breastfeeding. New parents and at-risk families may benefit from the support of home visiting programs.



Intentional Injuries

Idaho's rate of suicide is more than double that of the overall U.S. rate. There were 17 youth suicides in Idaho in 2015. Victims' ages ranged from 13 to 17 years and they were predominantly male. Firearms were the most commonly used injury mechanism, followed closely by hangings.

Mental health concerns, previous ideation/attempts, CPS history in family, and access to unsecured firearms were commonly observed risk factors.

The team reviewed 1 fatal assault to a child from 2015 along with 3 previously pending cases from 2014. All 4 events resulted in the death of a child under the age of 2 years. Causes included blunt force trauma and intentional poisoning. Substance abuse, mental health issues, and criminal history of the parent or caregiver are common risk factors in child homicides. Professionals who work with children should know the signs of abusive behavior and readily report concerns to legal authorities.

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Preventable Natural Manner Deaths

The CFR subcommittee reviewed 1 pneumonia death to a teen which occurred in 2015. The influenza virus was not positively identified but previous viral exposure may have played a role. The team recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone over the age of 6 months. Several other vaccines (e.g. pertussis, varicella, measles) prevent

bacterial and viral infections that may cause pneumonia. Proper hygiene habits can also prevent the spread of germs and viruses.

In 2015, the subcommittee identified 2 infants who died in families who refused medical treatment due to religious beliefs. The CFR Team determined that these deaths may have been prevented with timely medical treatment and/or proper prenatal care.



FOR METHODOLOGY and COMPLETE REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SEE: www.idcartf.org