



Child Deaths in Idaho, 2014

All 187 deaths to children under age 18 occurring in Idaho in 2014 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

	Total	Screened by CFR Subcommittee	Reviewed by CFR Team
Perinatal Conditions/Congenital Malformations	76	76	4
Unintentional Injuries (Accidents)	45	45	45
Suicide	18	18	18
Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)	21	21	21
Assault (Homicide)	5	5	4*
Malignancies	6	6	0
Flu/Pneumonia	3	3	3
Non-ranking/All Other Causes	13	13	8
	187	187	103

* Review postponed for 1 homicide case, pending criminal investigation

Findings from the Idaho Child Fatality Review Team

May 2017

Top 10 Actions for Preventing Child Deaths

1. Follow new 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 27 fatal motor vehicle accident deaths to children. Failure to maintain lane, speeding, and distracted driving were leading causes. Nearly half of the victims of traffic accidents were not properly restrained with a seat belt or safety seat. Four of the accidents were to children on off-road, recreational vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles or

motorcycles). Six deaths were to pedestrians or bicyclists who were struck by motor vehicles.

Other 2014 accident deaths included drowning (4), fire/carbon monoxide (4), and alcohol toxicity (1). There were 5 accidental deaths to infants 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 12 SUID cases and 9 infant deaths of “undetermined” cause in 2014. The team identified a need for ongoing education directed at parents and caretakers stressing American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) safe sleep guidelines, the importance of a hygienic and hazard-free home environment, and the dangers of tobacco smoke exposure to infants.



Intentional Injuries

Idaho's historical rate of suicide is consistently higher than the overall U.S. rate. There were 18 youth suicides in Idaho in 2014. The victims were all between the ages of 13 to 17, and predominantly male.

Having easy access to lethal methods (e.g. firearms or controlled medications) was often found as a commonality in suicides. Many victims had a documented history of mental health concerns.

The team reviewed 4 homicide deaths from 2014. Ages ranged from preschool through the teen years. One of the deaths classified as “homicide” was accidentally inflicted using an unsecured firearm. The remaining 3 were intentionally inflicted, violent assaults in families with a documented history of domestic abuse. Public awareness of the early warning signs of abusive behavior may prevent additional tragedies. Improved coordination between agencies can better identify and protect at-risk families.

“Public awareness of the warning signs of abusive behavior may prevent additional tragedies.”

Preventable Natural Manner Deaths

The CFR subcommittee reviewed 3 pneumonia deaths which occurred in 2014. Ages ranged from 25 days to 6 years. The influenza virus was not positively identified in any of these cases 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 2014, the CFR Team found no evidence of child deaths occurring in families that objected to medical intervention on the basis of religious beliefs.

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

