2020-2022 Child Death Review (CDR): Child Mortality Summary Leading Causes of Death Children 1-14

PARTNERS FOR FAMILY HEALTH LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#1 HOMICIDE



Homicides were predominantly due to firearms, blunt force trauma, abusive head trauma, asphyxia (suffocation), and poisoning.

PREVENTION:

Secure firearm storage: Encourage secure storage of firearms in children's homes and in relatives' homes. Safe storage includes locking up firearms and storing firearms and ammunition separately. Free resources can be found at BeSMART for Kids Louisiana.

Provide strategies and resources for managing stressful situations, such as excessive crying in infants or toddler meltdowns, including safe, age-appropriate methods of discipline.

#2 MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES



These are predominantly crashes involving motor vehicles, but they include all transport-related deaths, such as incidents involving All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and boats.

PREVENTION:

Pediatricians should regularly discuss the importance of appropriate child safety restraint use at each visit with both children and their caregivers. Refer families to the Louisiana Passenger Safety Taskforce for resources such as car seat check events and designated child restraint fitting stations that are available across the entire state.

#3 DROWNING



Lack of supervision, inability to swim, and no barriers to water were key risk factors in most drowning deaths of children.

PREVENTION:

Families need to know that active supervision of children in water involves a designated adult, no distractions, and keeping children within arm's reach.

The use of standard safety features around pools, such as barriers, gates, and covers, should be required and enforced.

Promote drowning prevention materials from sources such as poolsafely.gov or Safe Kids and increase public awareness of drowning as a major cause of preventable death in children.

RACIAL DISPARITIES



Black children in Louisiana were more likely than white children to die from all three of the top causes of child mortality in Louisiana.

PREVENTION:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that pediatric providers assess patients for stressors and social determinants of health often associated with racism (e.g., neighborhood safety, poverty, housing inequity) and connect families to resources.

QUICK FACTS

218
Louisiana's yearly average of child deaths among ages 1-14 from 2020-2022

77
fewer deaths per year from 2020-2022 if Louisiana had the same mortality rate as the rest of the U.S.

54%
of child deaths in Louisiana were from injury, and most are considered preventable

Ages 1 through 4
is the age group with the highest injury-related mortality rate among all children in Louisiana

118
infant and child deaths due to homicide from 2020-2022

86
infant and child deaths due to motor vehicle crashes from 2020-2022

63
infant and child deaths due to drowning from 2020-2022

Learn more in the 2020-2022 Child Death Review.