2020-2022 Child Death Review: Report Summary

The mission of the Louisiana Child Death Review is to understand how and why children die unexpectedly in Louisiana in order to prevent as many future injuries and deaths as possible.

PARTNERS FOR FAMILY HEALTH LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

From 2020-2022, 1,941 children died in Louisiana, representing a yearly average of 647 infant and child deaths. During this time period, Louisiana ranked in the top ten states with the highest mortality rates for infants and children in almost all age groups.

More than one-third of all infant (less than one year old) **and child** (ages one to 14) **deaths in Louisiana are injury-related. Injury-related deaths are potentially preventable.**

RACIAL DISPARITIES

In Louisiana, Black children and Black infants are more than twice as likely to die as their white counterparts.

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. The American Academy of Pediatrics also encourages pediatric-serving organizations to conduct internal quality-assurance assessments that include analysis of quality of care and patient satisfaction by race to initiate improvement protocols needed to improve health outcomes and community trust.

PREVENTING CHILD DEATHS IN LOUISIANA

NEONATAL: BIRTH TO 27 DAYS

Improve Maternal Health

High stress, inadequate healthcare during pregnancy, and unmanaged chronic diseases like high blood pressure or diabetes can negatively affect maternal health, which in turn leads to higher rates of poor birth outcomes.

Access to healthcare before and during pregnancy allows time to assess risk factors in mom's health and to improve birth outcomes for the baby.

POSTNEONATAL: 28 DAYS TO 364 DAYS

Practice Safe Sleep

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is considered largely preventable by reducing risk factors such as sleeping with others, sleeping in areas or products not meant for prolonged sleep, and sleeping with loose toys or bedding, and by increasing protective factors such as consistently following safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, regular well-baby check-ups, and keeping infants up to date on immunizations.

Babies should sleep Alone, on their Back, and in a Crib.
Learn more at GiveYourBabySpace.org.

QUICK FACTS

682
Infants and children died due to injury between 2020-2022

429
Infants died before their first birthday from 2020-2022

218
Children over the age of one did not survive to the age of 15 from 2020-2022

115
Yearly average of infant deaths due to injury before their first birthday

3rd
Louisiana's ranking in overall child mortality in the United States

192
Fewer Child and Infant Deaths from 2020-2022 if Louisiana had the same child and infant mortality rates as the rest of the country

Learn more in the 2020-2022 Child Death Review.

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Prevention Through the Life Span

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CHILDREN AGES 1-14 YEARS

Top causes of Death:



Motor Vehicle Crash



Homicide



Drowning

Secure Firearms Safely

Homicides are the top cause of child death in Louisiana. 63% of child homicides were from firearms. Firearms also accounted for 62% of suicide deaths in children ages 1-14.

Securing firearms safely, including locking up firearms and storing ammunition separately, can save lives. Secure firearm storage resources can be found at BeSMART for Kids Louisiana.

Practice Motor Vehicle Safety

For the majority of child deaths due to motor vehicle crashes, child restraints (such as car seats and seat belts) were not used.

Children should be properly restrained in the right type of car seat for their size and age. 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.

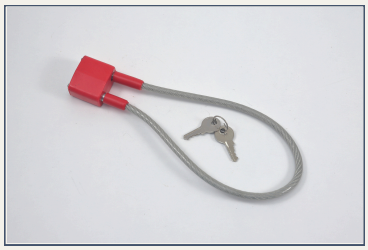
Learn and Teach Water Safety

Lack of supervision, inability to swim, and lack of barriers to water were key risk factors in most drowning deaths of children.

Parents, pool owners, and providers should encourage active supervision of children near water at all times, installation of fences and barriers around pools, and swim lessons for adults and children. Active supervision involves a designated adult, no distractions, and children being within arm's reach. Learn more at PoolSafely.gov.











Learn more in the 2020-2022 Child Death Review.