

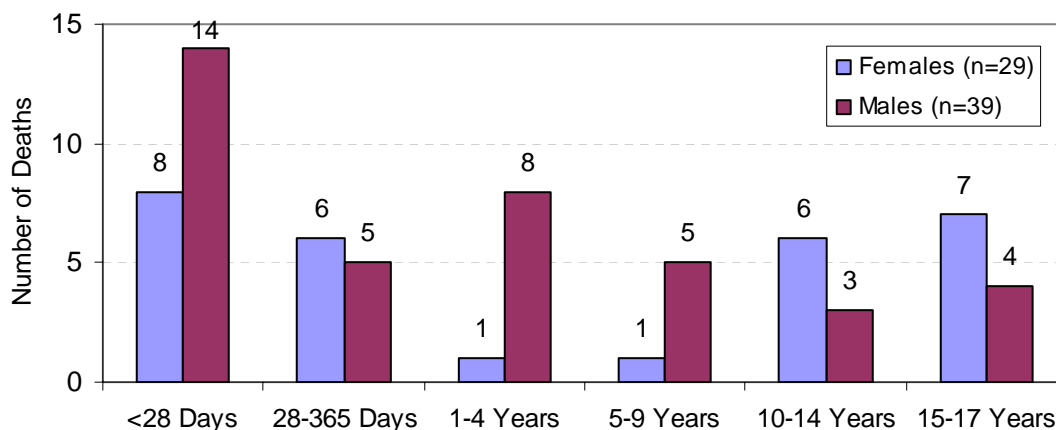


2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR GILA AND PINAL COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Gila or Pinal Counties. During 2006, there were 68 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Gila and Pinal. Males accounted for 57 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=39) and females accounted for 43 percent (n=29). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, Gila and Pinal Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=68)

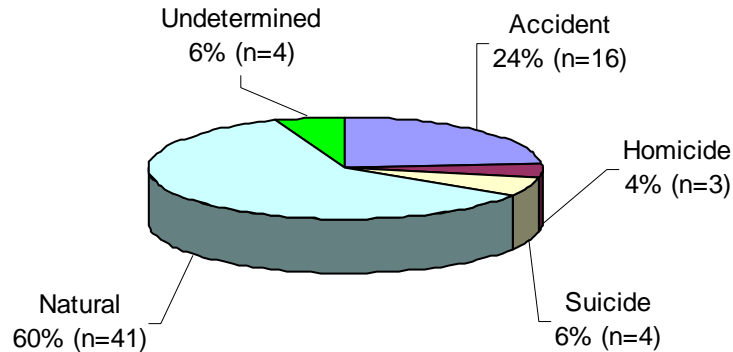


Deaths were over-represented among American Indian children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 14 percent of the population in these counties but 22 percent of the fatalities (n=15). Non-Hispanic White children comprised 46 percent of the population and 40 percent of the fatalities (n=27), and Hispanic children comprised 35 percent of the population and 32 percent of the fatalities (n=22). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (six percent, n=4).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty percent of deaths were natural (n=41); 24 percent were due to accidents (n=16); six percent were suicides (n=4); four percent were homicides (n=3); and six percent were of undetermined manner (n=4). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Gila and Pinal Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=68)



Forty-one child deaths were determined to have been natural, including 29 from medical causes, 11 from prematurity, and one from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Nine children died in motor vehicle crashes, and four children committed suicide by hanging. There were two drowning fatalities. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				29	1	30
Prematurity				11		11
Motor vehicle crash	9					9
Hanging			4			4
Undetermined	1				3	4
Blunt force trauma		2				2
Drowning	2					2
Fall/crush	2					2
Suffocation/strangulation	1					1
Stabbing		1				1
Fire/burn	1					1
SIDS				1		1
Total	16	3	4	41	4	68

*Excluding SIDS and prematurity

Among the nine motor vehicle crash deaths, two children were driving and seven children were passengers. During 2006, there were no deaths among child pedestrians who resided in Gila or Pinal Counties. Of the seven vehicle passengers who died in crashes, one was in the back seat, two were in front seats, and one was killed while riding in a truck bed. For three children, the location in the vehicle was unknown. Four of the nine motor vehicle crashes were vehicle rollovers.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 37 percent of the deaths among Gila County and Pinal County children could have been prevented (n=25).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Gila and Pinal Counties, lack of vehicle restraints was a contributing factor in eight child deaths (12 percent), and drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor in eight deaths (12 percent). Unsafe infant sleeping environments was a contributing factor in six deaths (nine percent), and lack of supervision contributed to four deaths (six percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Gila and Pinal Counties.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Lack of vehicle restraint	8	12%
Drugs/alcohol	8	12%
Infant unsafe sleep environment	6	9%
Lack of supervision	4	6%
Excessive driving speed	4	6%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN GILA AND PINAL COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Gila and Pinal Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2006, 68 children who were residents of Gila or Pinal Counties died, and 1,022 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Thirty-seven percent of the deaths of Gila County and Pinal County children could have been prevented (n=28), and 38 percent of the child deaths in the remaining counties were determined to have been preventable (n=386).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties (43 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (39 percent). Prematurity accounted for 16 percent of deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties but comprised 27 percent of child deaths in the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 13 percent of deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties and 13 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Gila and Pinal counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Gila and Pinal Counties (n=68)		Arizona, Excluding Gila and Pinal Counties (n=1,022)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	43%	Medical	39%
Prematurity	16%	Prematurity	27%
Motor vehicle crash	13%	Motor vehicle crash	13%

In Gila and Pinal Counties, the largest percentage of deaths were natural (60 percent), and in the remaining counties, natural deaths accounted for 65 percent of child deaths. Accidents accounted for 24 percent of child deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties, and 21 percent in the remaining counties. There was a smaller percentage of homicides in Gila and Pinal Counties (four percent), compared to the rest of the state (six percent). Suicides accounted for six percent of child deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties, and four percent in the remaining counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Gila and Pinal Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Gila and Pinal Counties (n=68)		Arizona, excluding Gila and Pinal Counties (n=1,022)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	60%	Natural	65%
Accident	24%	Accident	21%
Suicide	6%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	6%	Suicide	4%
Homicide	4%	Undetermined	3%