What you can do to prevent child deaths in Arizona

In 2013, 811 children under the age of 18 died in Arizona. The responsibility to protect Arizona’s children belongs to everyone. It is with the dedication of parents, friends, neighbors, schools, health care providers and communities that reducing the number of child deaths in our state is becoming a reality. One child at a time. Make it your responsibility and take action!

92 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect
- Report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Child Safety at 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445).
- If feeling stressed or overwhelmed, parents and caregivers can seek assistance through National Parent Helpline at 1-855-427-2736, the Birth to Five Helpline at 1-877-705-KIDS, Fussy Baby Helpline at 1-877-705-KIDS ext. 5437 or Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

74 infants died of sleep related causes
- Always place babies to sleep on their backs during naps and at nighttime.
- Don’t place babies to sleep on adult beds, chairs, sofas, waterbeds, pillows, or cushions.
- Keep all soft objects out of a baby’s crib, including toys and crib bumpers.

128 child deaths were associated with substance use
- Educate children about the risks associated with prescription and over-the-counter drug use.
- Follow directions carefully and properly discard old or unused medications.
- Conduct community awareness campaigns regarding the risks and hazards to children of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

80 children died in transit
- Buckle up! When adults use a seat belt, 87% of children do too.
- Arizona law now requires children ages 5-8 to be restrained in a booster seat.
- Never drink and drive.

23 children died by drowning
- Obtain proper 4-sided fencing for pools where children live or play.
- During celebrations where family and friends are gathered, assign at least one responsible adult to monitor the pool area.
- Do not rely on flotation safety devices and always use “touch supervision.”

25 children took their own lives
- Treat all suicide threats as if they are real.
- Talk with children about firearm safety and limit youth access to any lethal means.
- Monitor your child’s social media for any talk about suicide and take immediate action.
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.

Fact sheet prepared by the
Office of Injury Prevention,
Bureau of Women’s and Children’s Health
November 2014