

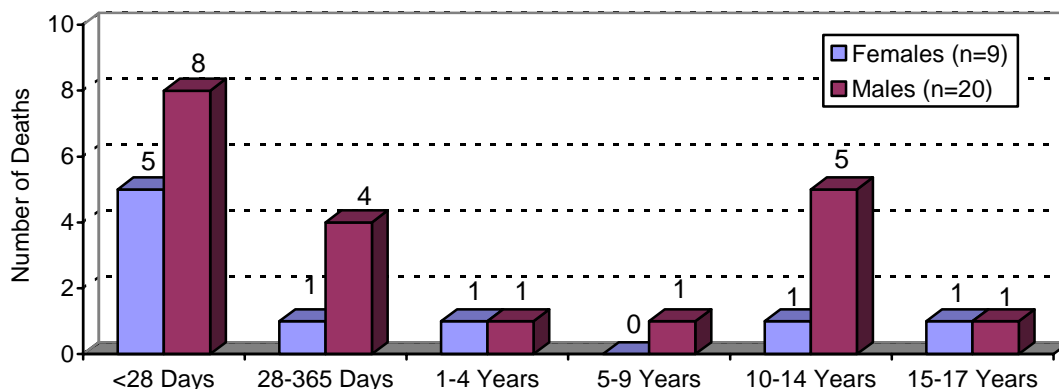


2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties. During 2007, there were 29 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Gila (n=17), Graham (n=12), and Greenlee (n=0). Males accounted for 69 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=20) and females accounted for 31 percent (n=9). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=29)

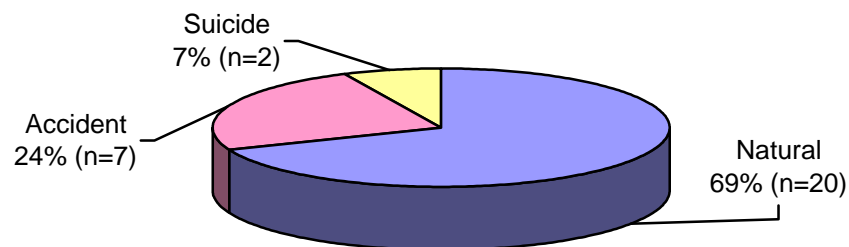


Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic children in these counties. Hispanic children comprised 26 percent of the population but 38 percent of the fatalities (n=11). American Indian children comprised 20 percent of the population in these counties but 14 percent of the fatalities (n=4). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 52 percent of the population but 45 percent of the fatalities (n=13). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (three percent, n=1).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-nine percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=20) and seven percent were due to suicides (n=2). Twenty-four percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=7). There were no child homicides in these three counties in 2007. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=29)



Five children died in motor vehicle crashes, and seven deaths were due to medical causes. Seventeen of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. Three deaths were due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Prematurity				10		10
Medical*				7		7
Motor vehicle crash	5					5
SIDS				3		3
Hanging	1		1			2
Firearm Injury			1			1
Suffocation/strangulation	1					1
Total	7	0	2	20	0	29

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the five motor vehicle crash deaths, two children were driving, and three children were passengers. One of the passengers was sitting in the front seat, one was sitting in the back seat, and one child's position in the vehicle was unknown to the review team.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 34 percent of the deaths among Gila, Graham, and Greenlee County children could have been prevented (n=10).

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, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, use of drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for three child deaths (ten percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for three deaths (ten percent). Unsafe infant sleep environments, including children placed to sleep on their sides or stomachs or infants placed to sleep on adult mattresses or couches was a contributing factor for four deaths (14 percent). Co-sleeping contributed to two deaths (seven 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, Graham, and Greenlee Counties.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Unsafe infant sleep environment	4	14%
Drugs/alcohol	3	10%
Lack of supervision	3	10%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 12 Arizona counties. During 2007, 29 children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties died, and 1,061 children died who were residents of the other 12 counties. Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties had a crude rate of 114.5 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the remaining Arizona counties (63.7 deaths per 100,000 residents).

The percentage of preventable deaths among children in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties was similar to the remaining counties. Thirty-four percent of the deaths of Gila County, Graham County, and Greenlee County children could have been prevented (n=10), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=352).

Medical conditions were the second leading cause of child deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (24 percent), but the leading cause for the remainder of Arizona (38 percent). Prematurity accounted for 34 percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 17 percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties but only ten percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2007			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=29)		Arizona, Excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=1,061)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Prematurity	34%	Medical	38%
Medical	24%	Prematurity	28%
Motor vehicle crash	17%	Motor vehicle crash	10%

In Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (24 percent), the same as the remaining counties. There was a similar percentage of natural deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (69 percent), compared to the rest of the state (69 percent). Seven percent of the child deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties were suicides, and only two percent of deaths were suicides in the remainder of Arizona. Though six percent of child deaths in the remaining 12 counties were due to homicide, there were no homicides to child residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties during 2007. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2007			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=29)		Arizona, excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=1,061)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	69%	Natural	69%
Accident	24%	Accident	18%
Suicide	7%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	0%	Undetermined	5%
Undetermined	0%	Suicide	2%