

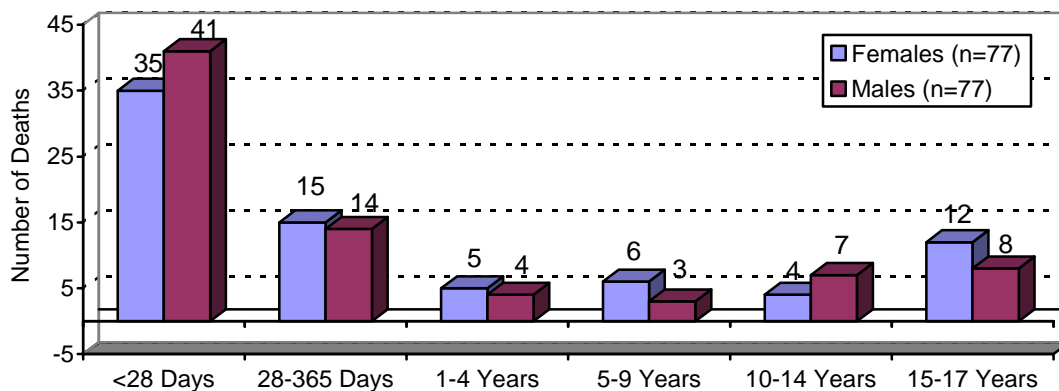


2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Pima or Santa Cruz Counties. During 2007, there were 154 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Pima (n=148) and Santa Cruz (n=6). Males accounted for 50 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=77) and females accounted for 50 percent (n=77). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=154)

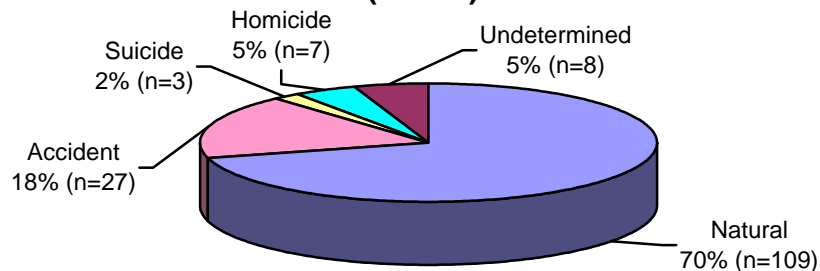


Deaths were over-represented among American Indian, African American, and Hispanic children in these counties. American Indian children comprised five percent of the population in these counties but seven percent of the fatalities (n=11). African American children comprised five percent of the population but eight percent of the fatalities (n=12). Hispanic children comprised 47 percent of the population but 53 percent of the fatalities (n=82). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 41 percent of the population but 31 percent of the fatalities (n=48). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (one percent, n=1).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Seventy percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=109), five percent were due to homicides (n=7), two percent were due to suicides (n=3), and five percent were of undetermined manner (n=8). Eighteen percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=27). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=154)



Eighteen children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 51 deaths were due to medical causes. One hundred of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. Nine deaths were due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=154)						
Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				51		51
Motor vehicle crash	18					18
Prematurity				49		49
SIDS				9		9
Other injury	1	2			5	8
Firearm injury	1	3	1			5
Drowning	3					3
Undetermined					3	3
Blunt force trauma		2				2
Fall/crush	2					2
Hanging			2			2
Poisoning	2					2
Total	27	7	3	109	8	154

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the 18 motor vehicle crash deaths, four children were driving, nine children were passengers, two children were pedestrians, and two children were on bicycles. The position in the vehicle was unknown for one child. Both of the pedestrians were struck

by vehicles while in driveways. Of the nine vehicle passengers who died in crashes, three were in front seats, four were in back seats, and one was *in utero* at the time of the collision. For one child passenger, the location in the vehicle was unknown. Five of the 18 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 caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 30 percent of the deaths among Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=46).

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 Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, lack of vehicle restraints was a contributing factor for nine child deaths (six percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for fifteen deaths (ten percent). Drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for 21 deaths (14 percent), and unsafe infant sleep environment contributed to 15 deaths (ten 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 Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	21	14%
Lack of supervision	15	10%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	15	10%
Co-sleeping	11	7%
Lack of vehicle restraints	9	6%
Excessive driving speed	8	5%
Supervision impaired by drugs/alcohol	6	4%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2007, 154 children who were residents of Pima or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 936 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a crude rate of 59.9 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remaining Arizona counties (65.3 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties also had a slightly lower percentage of preventable deaths compared to the remaining counties. Thirty percent of the deaths of Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=46), compared to just over one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (34 percent, n=316).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (33 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (38 percent). Prematurity accounted for 32 percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and was also the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona (28 percent). Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 12 percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties but only nine percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=154)		Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=936)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	33%	Medical	38%
Prematurity	32%	Prematurity	28%
Motor vehicle crash	12%	Motor vehicle crash	9%

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (18 percent), but in the remaining counties, accidents accounted for 19 percent of child deaths. There was a larger percentage of natural deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (71 percent), compared to the rest of the state (68 percent). Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a slightly smaller percentage of both homicides and suicides compared to the remaining Arizona counties. Homicides accounted for five percent of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and six percent in the remaining counties. Two percent of the child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties were suicides, and three percent of deaths in the remainder of Arizona. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner,
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2007

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=154)		Arizona, excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=936)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	71%	Natural	68%
Accident	18%	Accident	19%
Homicide	5%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	5%	Undetermined	4%
Suicide	2%	Suicide	3%