

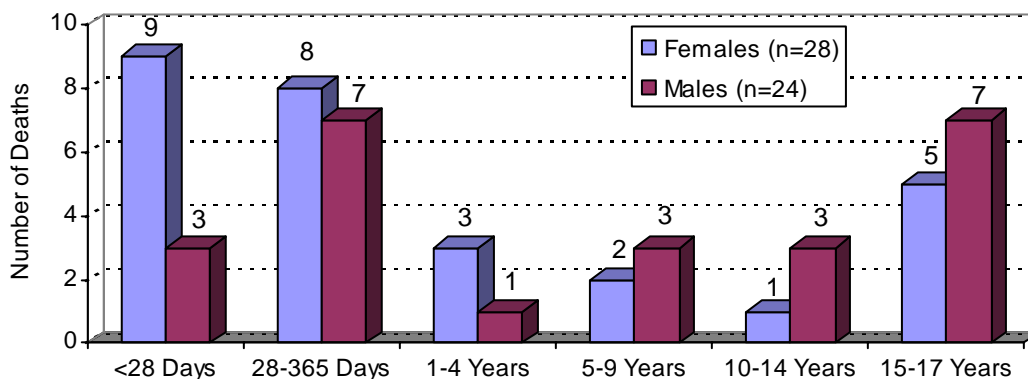


2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties. During 2007, there were 52 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Apache (n=13) and Navajo (n=39). Males accounted for 46 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=24) and females accounted for 54 percent (n=28). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=52)

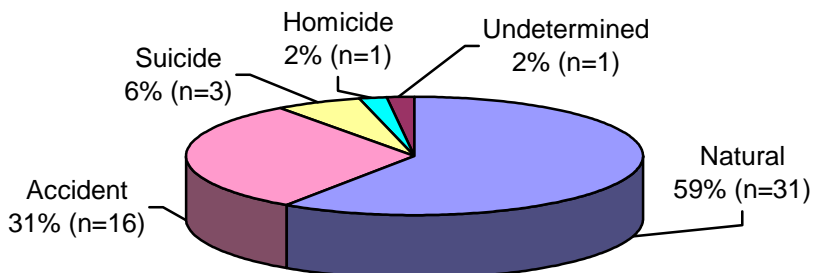


Deaths were over-represented among American Indian and Hispanic children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 68 percent of the population in these counties but 73 percent of the fatalities (n=38). Hispanic children comprised six percent of the population but ten percent of the fatalities (n=5). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 25 percent of the population but 13 percent of the fatalities (n=7). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (four percent, n=2).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-nine percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=31), two percent were due to homicides (n=1), six percent were due to suicides (n=3), and two percent were of undetermined manner (n=1). Thirty-one percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=16). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=52)



Twelve children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 21 deaths were due to medical causes. Twenty-eight 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
Medical*				21		21
Motor vehicle crash	11	1				12
Prematurity				7		7
Suffocation/strangulation	3		1			4
SIDS				3		3
Firearm Injury	1		1			2
Fire/burn	1					1
Hanging			1			1
Undetermined					1	1
Total	16	1	3	31	1	52

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the 12 motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving, seven children were passengers, and two children were pedestrians. The position in the vehicle was unknown for two children. Both of the pedestrians were struck by vehicles while in driveways or adjacent areas. Of the seven vehicle passengers who died in crashes, two children were in front seats and two were *in utero* at the time of the collisions. For

three children, the location in the vehicle was unknown. Two of the 12 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 could have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 38 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (n=20).

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 may 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 Apache and Navajo Counties, lack of supervision was a contributing factor for seven deaths (13 percent), and six deaths involved a supervisor impaired by drugs and/or alcohol (12 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for 17 deaths (33 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 Apache and Navajo Counties.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	17	33%
Lack of supervision	7	13%
Supervision impaired by drugs/alcohol	6	12%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2007, 52 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 1,038 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a crude rate of 84.5 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the remaining Arizona counties (63.7 deaths per 100,000

residents). Apache and Navajo Counties also had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Nearly 40 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (38 percent, n=20), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=342).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (40 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (37 percent). Prematurity accounted for 13 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 23 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but only nine percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2007			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=52)		Arizona, Excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=1,038)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	40%	Medical	37%
Motor vehicle crash	23%	Prematurity	29%
Other injury	15%	Motor vehicle crash	9%

In Apache and Navajo Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (31 percent), but in the remaining counties, accidents only accounted for 18 percent of child deaths. There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (60 percent), compared to the rest of the state (69 percent). Homicides accounted for two percent of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties and six percent in the remaining counties. Six percent of the child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties were suicides, and two percent of deaths in the rest of Arizona were due to suicides. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2007			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=52)		Arizona, excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=1,038)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	59%	Natural	69%
Accident	31%	Accident	18%
Suicide	6%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	2%	Undetermined	5%
Undetermined	2%	Suicide	2%