

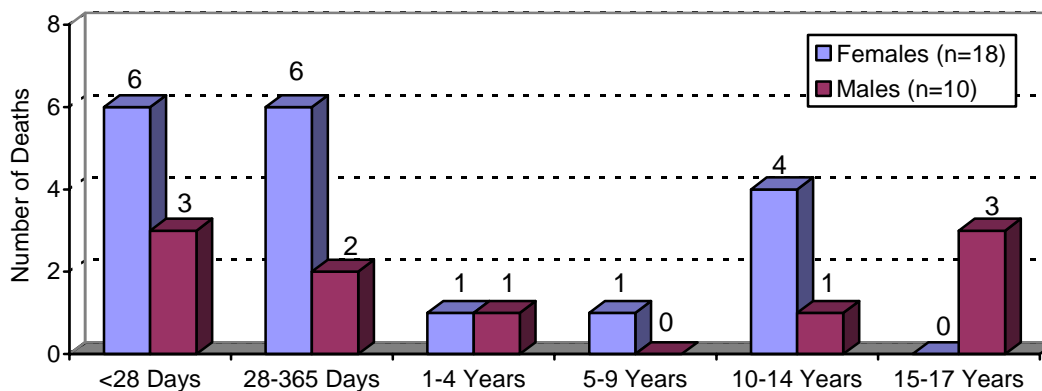


## 2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either La Paz or Mohave Counties. During 2007, there were 28 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of La Paz (n=1) and Mohave (n=27). Males accounted for 36 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=10) and females accounted for 64 percent (n=18). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=28)**

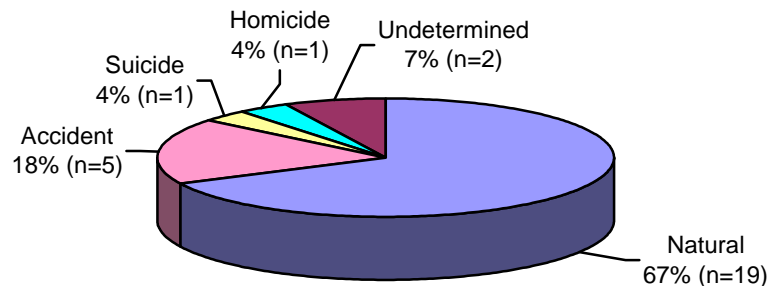


Deaths were over-represented among Asian and White, Non-Hispanic children in these counties. Asian children comprised one percent of the population in these counties but four percent of the fatalities (n=1). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 70 percent of the population but 86 percent of the fatalities (n=24). Hispanic children comprised 21 percent of the population but 11 percent of the fatalities (n=3).

## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-seven percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=19), four percent were due to homicides (n=1), four percent were due to suicides (n=1), and seven percent were of undetermined manner (n=2). Eighteen percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=5). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2007 (n=28)**



Three children died in motor vehicle crashes, and eight deaths were due to medical causes. Eighteen of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. There was one death 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*				8		8
Motor vehicle crash	3					3
Undetermined					2	2
Animal/Insect bite	1					1
Firearm Injury		1				1
Hanging			1			1
SIDS				1		1
Suffocation/strangulation	1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>

\*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the three motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving, one child was a front seat passenger, and one child was a pedestrian. The pedestrian was struck by a vehicle while on a city street. One of the three motor vehicle crashes was a vehicle rollover.

## 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 36 percent of the deaths among La Paz County and Mohave 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 La Paz and Mohave Counties, use of drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for six child deaths (21 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for three deaths (11 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 three deaths (11 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 La Paz and Mohave Counties.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	6	21%
Lack of supervision	3	11%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	3	11%
<b>*More than one factor may have been identified for each death</b>		

## CHILD FATALITIES IN LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in La Paz and Mohave Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2007, 28 children who were residents of La Paz or Mohave Counties died, and 1,062 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. La Paz and Mohave Counties had a crude rate of 56.8 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remaining Arizona counties (64.7 deaths per 100,000 residents).

La Paz and Mohave Counties had a slightly larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Thirty-six percent of the deaths of La Paz County and

Mohave County children could have been prevented (n=10), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=362).

Medical conditions were the second leading cause of child deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties (29 percent), but the leading cause for the remainder of Arizona (37 percent). Prematurity accounted for 36 percent of deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 11 percent of deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties but only ten percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for La Paz and Mohave Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2007			
La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=28)		Arizona, Excluding La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=1,062)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Prematurity	36%	Medical	37%
Medical	29%	Prematurity	28%
Motor vehicle crash	11%	Motor vehicle crash	10%

In La Paz and Mohave Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (18 percent), the same as the remaining counties. There was a slightly smaller percentage of natural deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties (68 percent), compared to the rest of the state (69 percent). Homicides accounted for only four percent of child deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties and six percent in the remaining counties. Four percent of the child deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties were due to suicides, and only two percent of deaths were suicides in the remainder of Arizona. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for La Paz and Mohave Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2007			
La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=28)		Arizona, excluding La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=1,062)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	68%	Natural	69%
Accident	18%	Accident	18%
Undetermined	7%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	4%	Undetermined	5%
Suicide	4%	Suicide	2%