

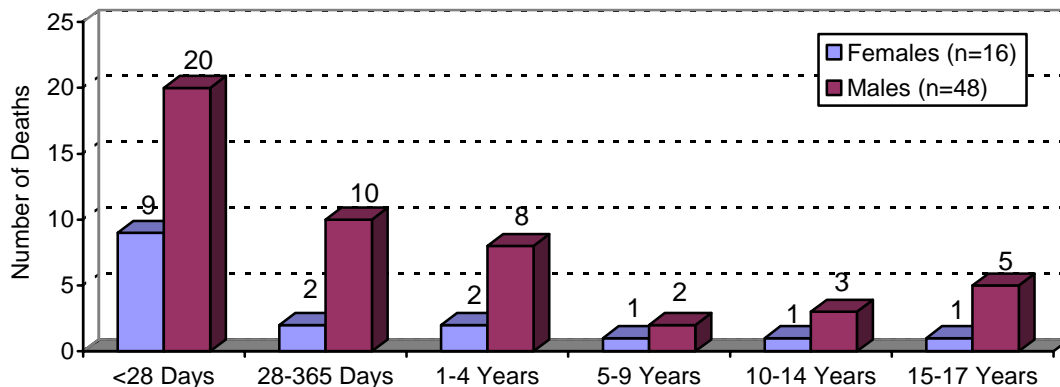


2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PINAL COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Pinal County. During 2007, there were 64 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in Pinal County. Males accounted for 75 percent of child deaths (n=48) and females accounted for 25 percent (n=16). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Pinal County, Arizona 2007 (n=64)

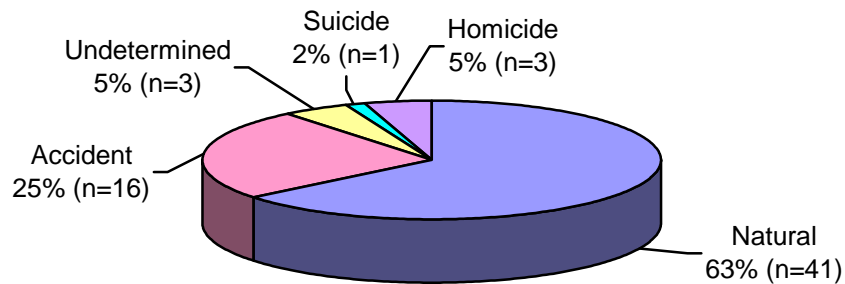


Deaths were over-represented among White, Non-Hispanic and American Indian children in Pinal County. White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 46 percent of the population in this county but 48 percent of the fatalities (n=31). American Indian children comprised ten percent of the population, but 13 percent of the child fatalities (n=8). Hispanic children comprised 37 percent of the population but 27 percent of the fatalities (n=17). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (13 percent, n=8).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-three percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=41). Twenty-five percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=16). There were three homicides and one suicide among Pinal County children in 2007. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pinal County, Arizona 2007 (n=64)



Eight children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 24 deaths were due to medical causes. Forty 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.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Pinal County, Arizona 2007 (n=64)

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Prematurity				18		18
Medical*				22	2	24
Motor vehicle crash	7		1			8
Suffocation	4					4
Drowning	3					3
Blunt force trauma		2				2
Fall/crush	1					1
Firearm injury	1					1
SIDS				1		1
Undetermined injury		1				1
Undetermined					1	1
Total	16	3	1	41	3	64

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the eight motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving the vehicle, four children were passengers, and two children were pedestrians. The position of one child

was unknown to the review team. Of the four child passengers, one child was in the front seat, and three children were in the backseat.

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 Pinal County children could have been prevented (n=22).

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 Pinal County, lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 13 deaths (20 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for 11 deaths (17 percent), and unsafe infant sleep environments contributed to six deaths (nine 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 Pinal County.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Lack of supervision	13	20%
Drugs/alcohol	11	17%
Excessive motor vehicle speed	6	9%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	6	9%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PINAL COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pinal County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2007, 64 children who were residents of Pinal County died, and 1,026 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Pinal County had a crude rate of 87.9 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remaining Arizona counties (63.4 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pinal County had a percentage of preventable deaths comparable to the remaining counties. About one third of the deaths among Pinal County children could have been prevented (34 percent, n=22), compared to about one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=340).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Pinal County (38 percent), and were also the leading cause of death in the remainder of Arizona (37 percent). Prematurity accounted for 28 percent of childhood deaths to Pinal County residents and was also the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 13 percent of deaths in Pinal County but ten percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pinal County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pinal County, Arizona 2007			
Pinal County (n=64)		Arizona, Excluding Pinal County (n=1,026)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	38%	Medical	37%
Prematurity	28%	Prematurity	29%
Motor vehicle crash	13%	Motor vehicle crash	10%

In Pinal County, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (25 percent), a higher percentage than in the remaining counties, where accidents accounted for 18 percent of child deaths. There was a lower percentage of natural deaths in Pinal County (63 percent), compared to the rest of the state (69 percent). Homicides accounted for six percent of child deaths in the remainder of Arizona, and five percent of the child deaths in Pinal County. Similarly, suicides accounted for three percent of child deaths in the 14 remaining Arizona counties, but only two percent of Pinal County deaths. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pinal County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pinal County, Arizona 2007			
Pinal County (n=64)		Arizona, excluding Pinal County (n=1,026)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	63%	Natural	69%
Accident	25%	Accident	18%
Undetermined	5%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	5%	Undetermined	5%
Suicide	2%	Suicide	3%