

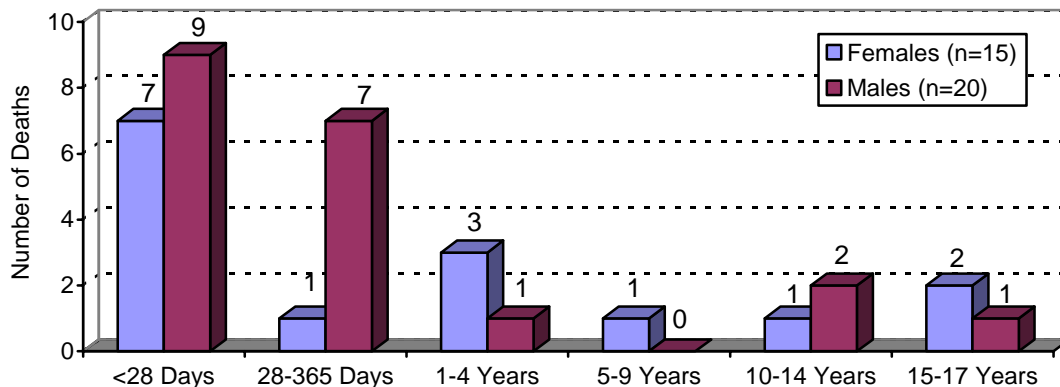


## 2007 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR YUMA COUNTY

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Yuma County. During 2007, there were 35 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in Yuma County. Males accounted for 57 percent of child deaths (n=20) and females accounted for 43 percent (n=15). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Yuma County, Arizona 2007 (n=35)**

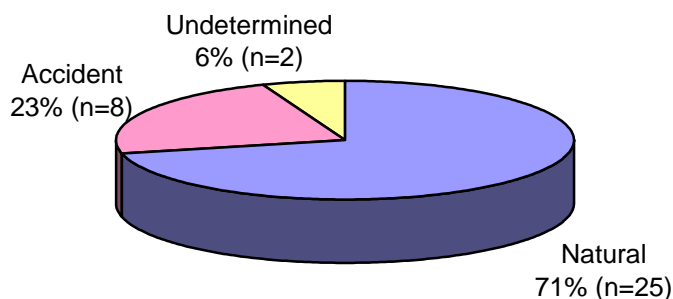


Deaths were over-represented among White, Non-Hispanic children in this county. White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 21 percent of the population in this county but 26 percent of the fatalities (n=9). Hispanic children comprised 72 percent of the population but 69 percent of the fatalities (n=24). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (six percent, n=2).

## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Seventy-one percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=25). Twenty-three percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=8). There were no homicides or suicides among Yuma County children in 2007. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Yuma County, Arizona 2007 (n=35)**



Five children died in motor vehicle crashes, and seven deaths were due to medical causes. Twenty-two of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. There were three deaths 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				15		15
Medical*				7		7
Motor vehicle crash	5					5
SIDS				3		3
Fire/burn	2					2
Undetermined					2	2
Suffocation	1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>

\*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the five motor vehicle crash deaths, three children were driving vehicles, one child was a front seat passenger, and the position of one child 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 23 percent of the deaths among Yuma County children could have been prevented (n=8).

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 Yuma County, lack of supervision was a contributing factor for four deaths (11 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for three deaths (nine percent), and unsafe infant sleep environments contributed to four deaths (11 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 Yuma County.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Lack of supervision	4	11%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	4	11%
Drugs/alcohol	3	9%
<b>*More than one factor may have been identified for each death</b>		

## CHILD FATALITIES IN YUMA COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Yuma County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2007, 35 children who were residents of Yuma County died, and 1,055 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Yuma County had a crude rate of 59.9 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a lower rate than the remaining Arizona counties (64.7 deaths per 100,000 residents). Yuma County also had a smaller percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Less than one quarter of the deaths among Yuma County children could have been prevented (23 percent, n=8), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (34 percent, n=354).

Medical conditions were the second leading cause of child deaths in Yuma County (20 percent), but were the leading cause of death in the remainder of Arizona (38 percent).

Prematurity accounted for 43 percent of child deaths to Yuma County residents but was only the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 14 percent of deaths in Yuma County but ten percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Yuma County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Yuma County, Arizona 2007			
Yuma County (n=35)		Arizona, Excluding Yuma County (n=1,055)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Prematurity	43%	Medical	38%
Medical	20%	Prematurity	28%
Motor vehicle crash	14%	Motor vehicle crash	10%

In Yuma County, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (23 percent), the same as for the remaining counties, where accidents accounted for 18 percent of child deaths. There was a higher percentage of natural deaths in Yuma County (71 percent), compared to the rest of the state (68 percent). Though homicides accounted for six percent and suicides accounted for three percent of the child deaths in the remainder of Arizona, there were no homicides or suicides among Yuma County children. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Yuma County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Yuma County, Arizona 2007			
Yuma County (n=35)		Arizona, excluding Yuma County (n=1,055)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	71%	Natural	68%
Accident	23%	Accident	18%
Undetermined	6%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	0%	Undetermined	5%
Suicide	0%	Suicide	3%