

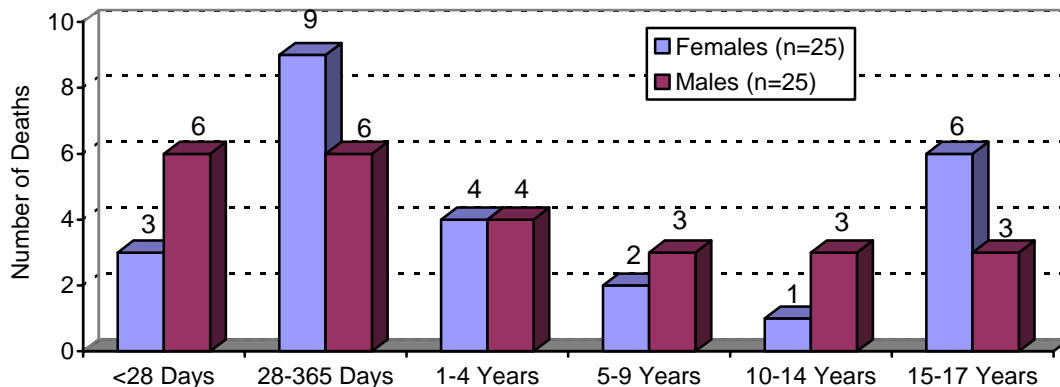


2008 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties. During 2008, there were 50 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Apache (n=20) and Navajo (n=30). Males accounted for 50 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=25) and females accounted for 50 percent (n=25). 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 2008 (n=50)

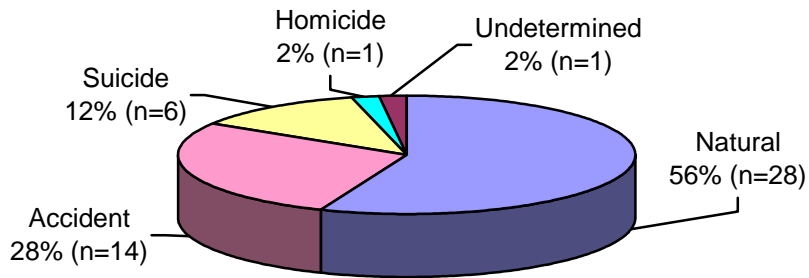


Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic children in these counties. Hispanic children comprised six percent of the population but 12 percent of the fatalities (n=6). American Indian children comprised 67 percent of the population in these counties and 66 percent of the fatalities (n=33). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 25 percent of the population and 22 percent of the fatalities (n=11).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-six percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=28), 12 percent were due to suicides (n=6), two percent were due to homicides (n=1), and two percent were of undetermined manner (n=1). Twenty-eight percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=14). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2008 (n=50)



Nine children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 23 deaths were due to medical causes. Twenty-eight deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. Six deaths were due to hangings. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				23		23
Motor vehicle crash	9					9
Hanging			5		1	6
Prematurity				4		4
SIDS				1		1
Firearm			1			1
Fire/burn	1					1
Drowning	1					1
Poisoning	1					1
Exposure	1					1
Fall/crush	1					1
Other injury		1				1
Total	14	1	6	28	1	50

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the nine motor vehicle crash deaths, five children were passengers and four children were pedestrians. The position in the vehicle was unknown for three children. Of the five vehicle passengers who died in crashes, one child was in the front seat and one was in the back seat at the time of the collisions. The locations of the other three children were unknown.

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 50 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (n=25).

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 eight deaths (16 percent), and five deaths involved a supervisor impaired by drugs and/or alcohol (10 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for 16 deaths (32 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.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2008		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	16	32%
Lack of supervision	8	16%
Supervisor impaired by drugs/alcohol	5	10%
Lack of vehicle restraint	4	8%
*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 2008, 50 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 944 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a crude rate of 81.4 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the state as a whole (58.1 deaths per 100,000 residents). Apache and Navajo Counties also had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Half of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (50 percent, n=25), compared to nearly one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (32 percent, n=300).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (46 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (41 percent). Prematurity accounted for eight 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 18 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 2008			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=50)		Arizona, Excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=944)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	46%	Medical	41%
Motor vehicle crash	18%	Prematurity	27%
Other injury	15%	Motor vehicle crash	9%

In Apache and Navajo Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (28 percent), but in the remaining counties, accidents only accounted for 14 percent of child deaths. There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (56 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. Twelve percent of the child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties were suicides, and only three 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 2008			
Apache and Navajo Counties (n=50)		Arizona, excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=944)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	56%	Natural	69%
Accident	28%	Accident	14%
Suicide	12%	Undetermined	8%
Homicide	2%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	2%	Suicide	3%