

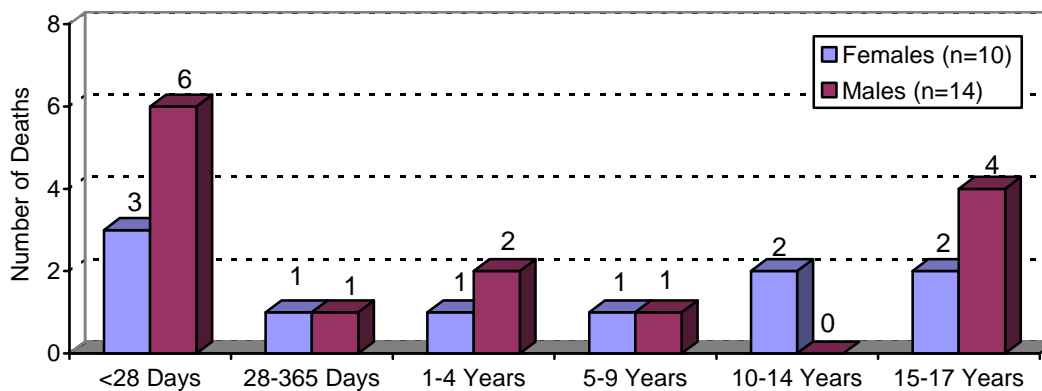


## 2008 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR COCHISE COUNTY

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Cochise County. During 2008, there were 24 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in Cochise County. Males accounted for 58 percent of child deaths (n=14) and females accounted for 42 percent (n=10). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Cochise County, Arizona 2008 (n=24)**

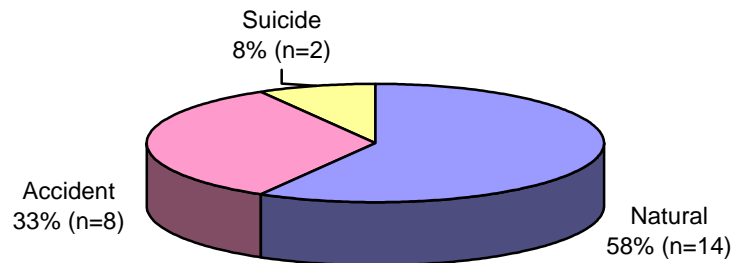


Deaths were over-represented among Non-Hispanic White children and African American children in this county. Non-Hispanic White children comprised 49 percent of the population but 54 percent of the fatalities (n=13). African American children comprised six percent of the population but 13 percent of the fatalities (n=3). Hispanic children comprised 42 percent of the population and 33 percent of the fatalities (n=8).

### CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-eight percent of deaths in Cochise County were due to natural manners (n=14) and eight percent were due to suicides (n=2). Thirty-three percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=8). There were no homicides among Cochise County children in 2008. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Cochise County, Arizona 2008 (n=24)**



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

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				8		8
Prematurity				6		6
Motor vehicle crash	4					4
Other injury	1		1			2
Fire/burn	1					1
Poisoning	1					1
Drowning	1					1
Firearm injury			1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

\*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the three motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving and three children were passengers. Two of the passengers were in front seats and one was in the back seat.

## 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 33 percent of the deaths among Cochise 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 Cochise County, lack of vehicle restraints was a contributing factor for four deaths (17 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol were contributing factors for eight 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 Cochise County.

Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	8	33%
Lack of vehicle restraint	4	17%
Supervisor impaired by drugs/alcohol	3	12%
Excessive driving speed	2	8%
Lack of supervision	2	8%
<b>*More than one factor may have been identified for each death</b>		

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

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Cochise County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2008, 24 children who were residents of Cochise County died, and 970 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Cochise County had a crude rate of 69.0 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the state as a whole (58.1 deaths per 100,000 residents). Cochise County had the same percentage of preventable deaths as the remaining counties. One-third of the deaths among Cochise County children could have been prevented (33 percent, n=8), compared to 33 percent of child deaths in the remaining counties (n=317).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Cochise County (33 percent), and they were the leading cause of death for the remainder of Arizona (41 percent). Prematurity accounted for 25 percent of deaths in Cochise County and was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 17 percent of deaths in Cochise County but only seven percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Cochise County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Cochise County, Arizona 2008			
Cochise County (n=24)		Arizona, Excluding Cochise County (n=970)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	33%	Medical	41%
Prematurity	25%	Prematurity	26%
Motor vehicle crash	17%	Motor vehicle crash	7%

In Cochise County, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (33 percent), but in the remaining counties, accidents only accounted for 15 percent of child deaths. There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Cochise County (58 percent), compared to the rest of the state (68 percent). Suicides accounted for eight percent of child deaths in Cochise County and only three percent in the remaining counties. Homicides accounted for six percent of the child deaths in the remainder of Arizona, but there were no homicides among children in Cochise County during 2008. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner in Cochise County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Cochise County, Arizona 2008			
Cochise County (n=24)		Arizona, excluding Cochise County (n=970)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	58%	Natural	68%
Accident	33%	Accident	15%
Suicide	8%	Undetermined	8%
Homicide	0%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	0%	Suicide	3%