

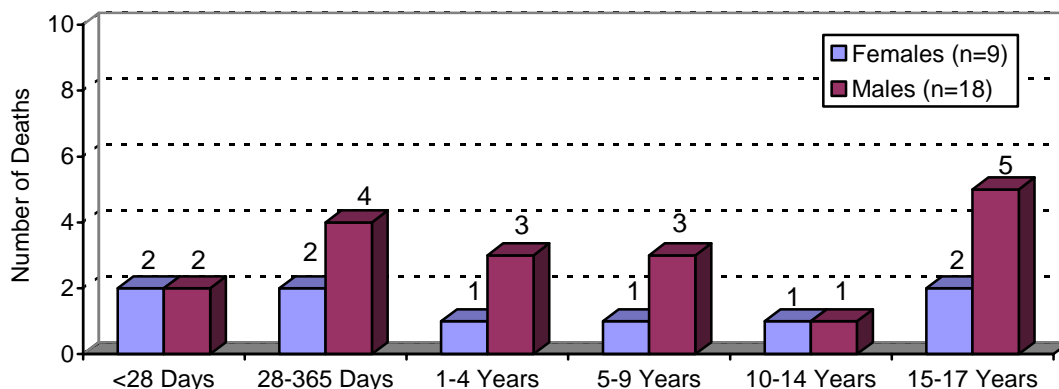


2008 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties. During 2008, there were 27 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Gila (n=15), Graham (n=11), and Greenlee (n=1). Males accounted for 67 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=18) and females accounted for 33 percent (n=9). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

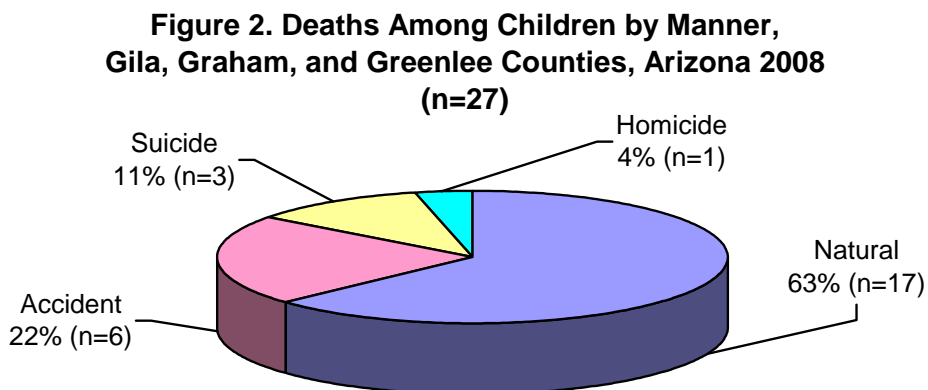
Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2008 (n=27)



Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic and American Indian children in these counties. Hispanic children comprised 26 percent of the population but 30 percent of the fatalities (n=8). American Indian children comprised 20 percent of the population in these counties but 30 percent of the fatalities (n=8). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 52 percent of the population and 37 percent of the fatalities (n=10). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (four percent, n=1).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-three percent of child deaths were due to natural manners (n=17) and 11 percent were due to suicides (n=3). Twenty-two percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=6). There was one child homicide in these three counties in 2008. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.



Fifteen deaths were due to medical causes. Seventeen of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including two deaths due to prematurity. Three children drowned, and two children died due to firearm injuries. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

**Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner,
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2008 (n=27)**

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				15		15
Drowning	3					3
Prematurity				2		2
Firearm			2			2
Motor vehicle crash	1					1
Hanging			1			1
Suffocation/strangulation	1					1
Poisoning	1					1
Other injury		1				1
Total	6	1	3	17	0	27

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

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 37 percent of the deaths among Gila, Graham, and Greenlee 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 Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, lack of supervision was a contributing factor for four deaths (15 percent), and drugs and/or alcohol use was a contributing factor for three child 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 Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2008		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Lack of supervision	4	15%
Drugs/alcohol	3	11%
Excessive vehicle speed	1	4%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN GILA, GRAHAM, AND GREENLEE COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 12 Arizona counties. During 2008, 27 children who were residents of Gila, Graham, or Greenlee Counties died, and 967 children died who were residents of the other 12 counties. Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties had a crude rate of 101.4 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the state as a whole (58.1 deaths per 100,000 residents).

The percentage of preventable deaths among children in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties was similar to the remaining counties. Thirty-seven percent of the deaths of Gila County, Graham County, and Greenlee County children could have been prevented (n=10), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=315).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (55 percent) and for the remainder of Arizona (40 percent). Drowning accounted for 11 percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties but only two percent for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for four

percent of deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties but seven percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2008			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=27)		Arizona, Excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=967)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	55%	Medical	40%
Drowning	11%	Prematurity	27%
Prematurity	7%	Motor vehicle crash	7%
Motor vehicle crash	4%	Drowning	2%

In Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (22 percent), the same as the remaining counties. There was a similar percentage of natural deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (63 percent), compared to the rest of the state (68 percent). Eleven percent of the child deaths in Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties were suicides, and only three percent of deaths were suicides in the remainder of Arizona. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties, Arizona 2008			
Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=27)		Arizona, excluding Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties (n=967)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	63%	Natural	68%
Accident	22%	Accident	15%
Suicide	11%	Undetermined	7%
Homicide	4%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	0%	Suicide	3%