

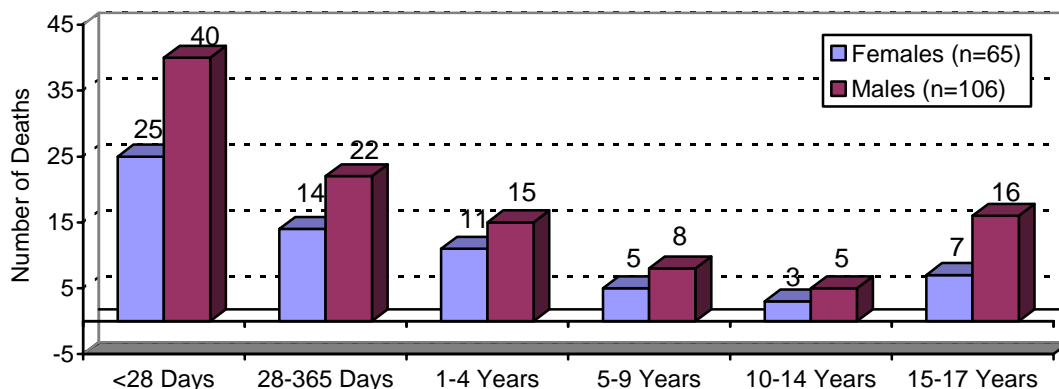


2008 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Pima or Santa Cruz Counties. During 2008, there were 171 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Pima (n=165) and Santa Cruz (n=6). Males accounted for 62 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=106) and females accounted for 38 percent (n=65). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

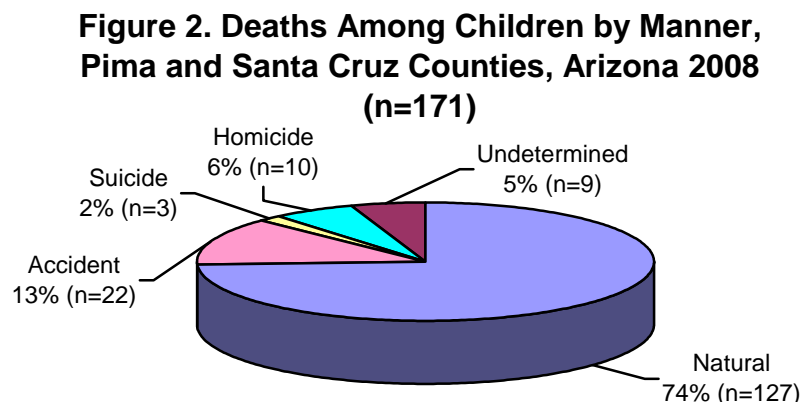
Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2008 (n=171)



Deaths were over-represented among African American and Hispanic children in these counties. African American children comprised five percent of the population but nine percent of the fatalities (n=15). Hispanic children comprised 47 percent of the population but 53 percent of the fatalities (n=91). American Indian children comprised five percent of the population in these counties and three percent of the fatalities (n=5). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 41 percent of the population and 33 percent of the fatalities (n=56). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (two percent, n=4).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Seventy-four percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=127), six percent were due to homicide (n=10), two percent were due to suicide (n=3), and five percent were of undetermined manner (n=9). Thirteen percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=22). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.



Twelve children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 78 deaths were due to medical causes. Eight children died due to firearm-related injuries and three children drowned. Ten deaths were 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, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2008 (n=171) | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Cause | Accident | Homicide | Suicide | Natural | Undetermined | Total |
| Medical* | | 1 | | 76 | 1 | 78 |
| Prematurity | | | | 48 | | 48 |
| Motor vehicle crash | 12 | | | | | 12 |
| SIDS | | | | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Firearm injury | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | 8 |
| Other injury | 3 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Drowning | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Poisoning | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Hanging | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Blunt force trauma | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Fall/crush | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Undetermined | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 22 | 10 | 3 | 127 | 9 | 171 |

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the 12 motor vehicle crash deaths, six children were passengers, two children were pedestrians, and two children were on bicycles. Of the six vehicle passengers who died in crashes, three were in front seats and three were in back seats at the time of the collisions. Three of the 12 motor vehicle crashes were vehicle rollovers.

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 26 percent of the deaths among Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=45).

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 Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for 35 deaths (20 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for 21 deaths (12 percent). Unsafe infant sleep environment contributed to 12 deaths (seven percent), and lack of vehicle restraints was a contributing factor for four child deaths (two 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 Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

| Factor* | Number | Percent |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Drugs/alcohol | 35 | 20% |
| Lack of supervision | 21 | 12% |
| Unsafe infant sleep environment | 12 | 7% |
| Supervisor impaired by drugs/alcohol | 11 | 6% |
| Co-sleeping | 5 | 3% |
| Lack of vehicle restraints | 4 | 2% |
| Excessive driving speed | 4 | 2% |
| *More than one factor may have been identified for each death | | |

CHILD FATALITIES IN PIMA AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2008, 171 children who were residents of Pima or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 823 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a crude rate of 66.0 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the state as a whole (58.1 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a lower percentage of preventable deaths compared to the remaining counties. Twenty-six percent of the deaths of Pima County and Santa Cruz County children could have been prevented (n=45), compared to just over one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (34 percent, n=280).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (46 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (40 percent). Prematurity accounted for 28 percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and was also the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona (26 percent). Motor vehicle crashes accounted for seven percent of deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and seven percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

| Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2008 | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=171) | | Arizona, Excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=823) | |
| Cause | Percent of Deaths | Cause | Percent of Deaths |
| Medical | 46% | Medical | 40% |
| Prematurity | 28% | Prematurity | 26% |
| Motor vehicle crash | 7% | Motor vehicle crash | 7% |

In Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (13 percent), and in the remaining counties, accidents accounted for 16 percent of child deaths. There was a larger percentage of natural deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (74 percent), compared to the rest of the state (67 percent). Pima and Santa Cruz Counties had a smaller percentage of suicides compared to the remaining Arizona counties. Two percent of the child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties were suicides, and four percent of deaths in the remainder of Arizona were due to suicides. Homicides accounted for six percent of child deaths in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties and six percent in the remaining counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

| Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona 2008 | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=171) | | Arizona, excluding Pima and Santa Cruz Counties (n=823) | |
| Manner | Percent of Deaths | Manner | Percent of Deaths |
| Natural | 74% | Natural | 67% |
| Accident | 13% | Accident | 16% |
| Homicide | 6% | Homicide | 6% |
| Undetermined | 5% | Undetermined | 8% |
| Suicide | 2% | Suicide | 4% |