

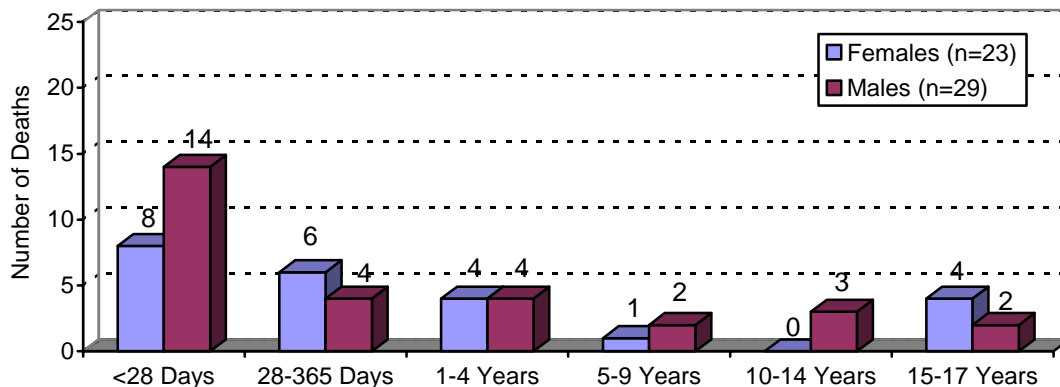


2008 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR PINAL COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Pinal County. During 2008, there were 52 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in Pinal County. Males accounted for 56 percent of child deaths (n=29) and females accounted for 44 percent (n=23). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group, Pinal County, Arizona 2008 (n=52)

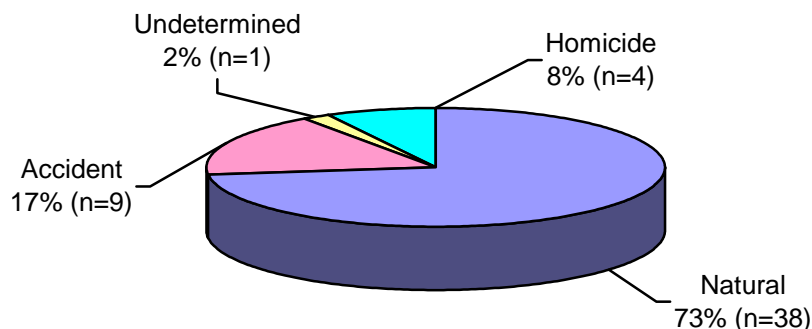


Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic and American Indian children in Pinal County. Hispanic children comprised 37 percent of the population in this county but 38 percent of the fatalities (n=20). American Indian children comprised 10 percent of the population, but 12 percent of the child fatalities (n=6). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 47 percent of the population and 46 percent of the fatalities (n=24). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (four percent, n=2).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Seventy-three percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=38). Seventeen percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=9). There were four homicides among Pinal County children in 2008. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pinal County, Arizona 2008 (n=52)



Five children died in motor vehicle crashes, and five children drowned. Eighteen deaths were due to medical causes. Thirty-eight of the deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. There were two 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
Medical*		1		18		19
Prematurity				18		18
Motor vehicle crash	5					5
Drowning	4	1				5
SIDS				2		2
Firearm injury		1				1
Other injury		1				1
Undetermined					1	1
Total	9	4	0	38	1	52

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the five motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving the vehicle, one was a passenger (in the front seat), and one was a pedestrian. The locations of two children were 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 25 percent of the deaths among Pinal County children could have been prevented (n=13).

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 Pinal County, drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for 12 deaths (23 percent), and for six deaths, the child’s supervisor was known to have been impaired by drugs and/or alcohol (11 percent). Lack of supervision was a contributing factor for five deaths (10 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 Pinal County.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Pinal County, Arizona 2008		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	12	23%
Supervisor impaired by drugs/alcohol	6	11%
Lack of supervision	5	10%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN PINAL COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Pinal County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2008, 52 children who were residents of Pinal County died, and 942 children died who were residents of the other 14 counties. Pinal County had a crude rate of 64.5 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the state as a whole (58.1 deaths per 100,000 residents).

Pinal County had a lower percentage of preventable deaths compared to the remaining counties. One-quarter of the deaths among Pinal County children could have been prevented (25 percent, n=13), compared to one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (33 percent, n=312).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Pinal County (36 percent), and were also the leading cause of death in the remainder of Arizona (41 percent). Prematurity accounted for 35 percent of child deaths among Pinal County residents but only 26 percent for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 10 percent

of deaths in Pinal County but seven percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Pinal County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Pinal County, Arizona 2008			
Pinal County (n=52)		Arizona, Excluding Pinal County (n=942)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	36%	Medical	41%
Prematurity	35%	Prematurity	26%
Motor vehicle crash	10%	Motor vehicle crash	7%

In Pinal County, the second largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (17 percent), a slightly higher percentage than in the remaining counties, where accidents accounted for 15 percent of child deaths. There was also a higher percentage of natural deaths in Pinal County (73 percent), compared to the rest of the state (68 percent). Homicides accounted for six percent of child deaths in the remainder of Arizona, and eight percent of the child deaths in Pinal County. There were no suicides among children who resided in Pinal County during 2008, but suicides accounted for four percent of child deaths in the 14 remaining Arizona counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Pinal County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Pinal County, Arizona 2008			
Pinal County (n=52)		Arizona, excluding Pinal County (n=942)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	73%	Natural	68%
Accident	17%	Accident	15%
Homicide	8%	Undetermined	8%
Undetermined	2%	Homicide	6%
Suicide	0%	Suicide	4%