

Child Fatality Review Report for Clermont County

Review of 2015 Child Deaths

2/14/2017

In 2000, the Ohio General Assembly established the Ohio Child Fatality Review Program as a way to better understand why young children die. The law mandates that Child Fatality Review (CFR) Boards be established in each county to review the deaths of all children under the age of 18 years. The review boards are comprised of community leaders from many different disciplines. The individuals who participated in the reviews of deaths that occurred in 2015 on the Clermont County Child Fatality Review Board are as follows:

2016

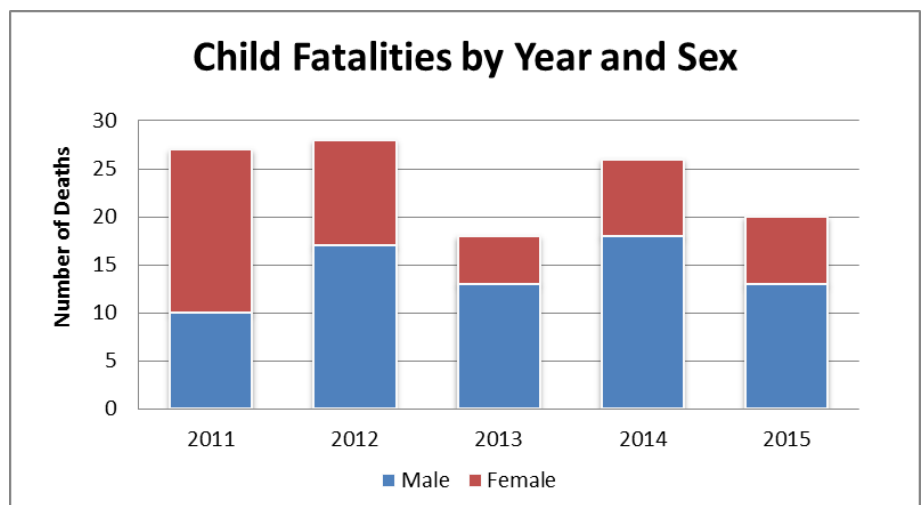
*Clermont
County Child
Fatality Review
Board
Members*

Julianne Nesbit, Chair – Clermont County Public Health
Susan Grabowski, Clermont County Children’s Protective Services
Sgt. Greg Moran, Clermont County Sheriff’s Office
Karen Scherra, Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board
Karen Crump, Clermont County Public Health
Dr. Joe Khan, ER Physician/ Board of Health Member
Denise Franer, Clermont County Public Health
Debbie Hawkins, Clermont County Coroner’s Office
Ginger Talerigo, Clermont Pediatric Clinic
Jackie Lindner, Clermont County Public Health
Gretchen Behimer, Clermont County Family and Children First
Carrie McIntyre, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

The mission of the Clermont County CFR Board is to reduce the incidence of preventable child deaths in Clermont County. This is accomplished by identifying those deaths that could have been prevented and identifying strategies that would help prevent the next such death from happening. This report summarizes deaths that occurred in 2015 and compares these deaths to those in the state and to prior years in Clermont County.

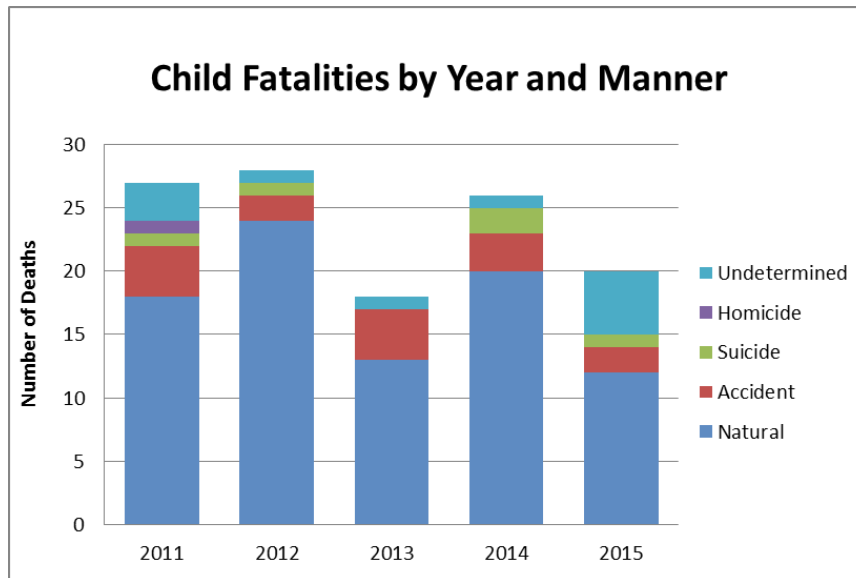
Number of Deaths

There were 20 child deaths in 2015. The number of deaths has changed over the past five years. The numbers increased slightly from 2011 to 2012 and then dropped from 28 deaths in 2012 to 18 deaths in 2013. The number of deaths increased to 26 in 2014. In each year since 2012 there were more male deaths than female deaths.



Manner and Causes of Death

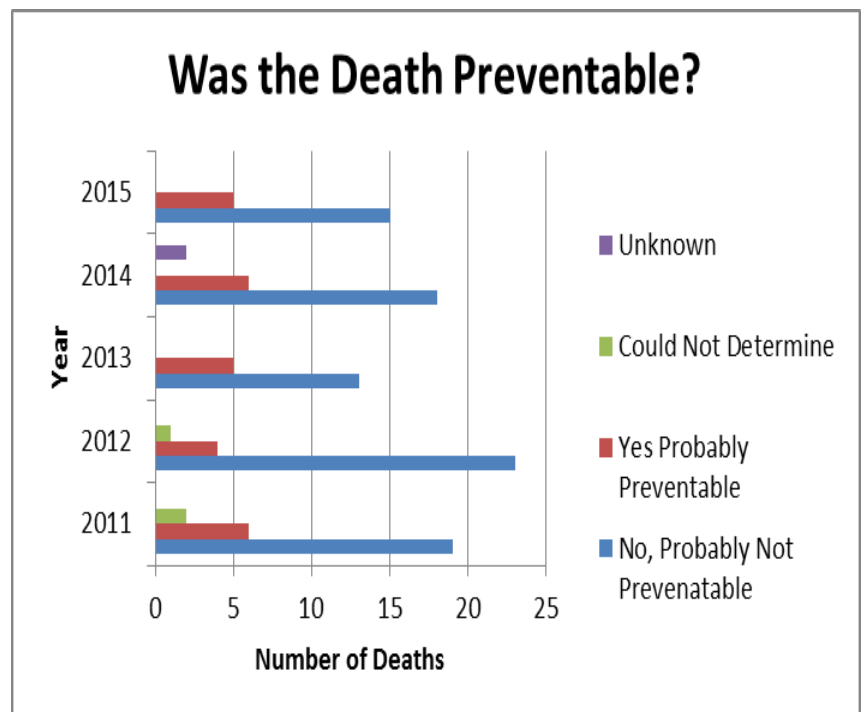
Deaths are categorized by manner and cause of death. The manner of death is based on the circumstances surrounding a cause of death. In Ohio there are five categories for manner of death: natural, accident, homicide, suicide or undetermined.



Of the 12 natural deaths in 2015, 10 were infants less than 1 month old. The majority of these infant deaths were the result of prematurity. Of the eight remaining 2015 deaths 1 (5%) of the total deaths were suicides, 2 (10%) of the total deaths were accidents, 0 (0%) was the result of a homicide and for 5 (25%) of the deaths the manner could not be determined.

Preventable Deaths

From 2011 through 2015, there were 119 deaths of children under the age of 18 in Clermont County. The Clermont County CFR Board has determined that 76% (n=91) of these deaths were probably not preventable and in 2% there was insufficient information to determine if the death could have been prevented. However, 26 children or 22% of the total deaths probably resulted from a cause that could have been prevented. Five of these deaths were suicides, six involved vehicle crashes, four involved co-bedding or unsafe sleeping situations with infants, six were from drowning, one was a homicide, one was accidental asphyxia and three were unknown or undetermined cause of death.



Clermont County Compared to Ohio

For the five-year period 2011 through 2015, local CFR Boards across Ohio deemed 24% of all deaths reviewed were probably preventable. The following tables display the percentage of deaths that were deemed preventable in Clermont County in comparison to all of Ohio according to manner of death, preventability by age, and total deaths that were identified as preventable in our Appalachian county in comparison to other Appalachian counties in Ohio.

Preventability by Manner of Death, 2011-2015										
Preventability	Natural		Accident		Suicide		Homicide		Pending/ Undetermined/ Unknown	
	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio
Yes, Probably	0%	3%	100%	88%	80%	60%	100%	90%	55%	47%
No, Probably Not	97%	81%	0%	4%	0%	12%	0%	3%	36%	10%
Could not Determine	1%	13%	0%	5%	20%	26%	0%	6%	9%	41%
Missing	2%	3%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Preventability by Age, 2011-2015												
Preventability	0-28 Days		29 Days- 364 Days		1-4 Years		5-9 Years		10-14 Years		15-17 Years	
	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio	Clermont	Ohio
Yes, Probably	0%	5%	30%	37%	55%	39%	50%	30%	50%	41%	50%	58%
No, Probably Not	100%	80%	55%	42%	45%	47%	50%	56%	50%	44%	42%	26%
Could not Determine	0%	12%	15%	20%	0%	12%	0%	11%	0%	12%	8%	14%
Missing	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%

Preventability by County Type, 2011-2015		
Preventability	Appalachian	
	Clermont	Ohio
Yes, Probably	21%	3%
No, Probably Not	74%	81%
Could not Determine	3%	13%
Missing	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%

It is not known how other CFR boards determine preventability. Certainly much discussion has been generated during Clermont County CFR Board reviews on whether suicides are preventable or not. After much debate, the CFR Board has defined a death as “preventable” if the community or an individual could reasonably have changed the circumstances that led to the death. This results in case specific discussions and strict attention to all of the details known about any individual case and occasional differences of opinion among Board members. When consensus simply cannot be reached the final designation of preventable or not preventable is left to a majority decision.

Turning Knowledge into Action



The Clermont County CFR Board did not make any recommendations as a result of any specific death from 2014 and 2015 although the number of deaths related to improper sleeping is a concern. The Clermont County CFR Board recommends continuing to provide education concerning co-sleeping and suicide prevention as a result of the 2014 and 2015 reviews.



Clermont County Public Health agreed to be a distributor of car seats for the Ohio Department of Public Safety/ Ohio Department of Health (ODPS/ODH) Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Program. While not a direct result of Clermont County's CFR, child injury was a consideration taken in agreeing to do the program. Existing efforts were also continued. These efforts include Family and Children First Council's continued support of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program into additional schools, the Mental Health and Recovery Board continued support of mental health services in schools, in addition to further support in local schools as a result of teen

suicides, and continuing efforts to increase awareness of the Crisis Prevention Hotline. Clermont County Public Health continues to educate Women Infant and Children (WIC), Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) and immunization clients on co-bedding/safe sleeping with young children, focus on the "Back to Sleep" message and safe places to sleep as well as providing literature to childcare centers. Clermont County Public Health continues to provide safe sleep presentations to a local pregnancy center.

Future Directions

The Clermont County Child Fatality Review Board will continue to review all child deaths to identify actual trends versus one-time unusual occurrences in order to make recommendations on actions that could possibly save the lives of children in the future. Although the information discussed and the specific decisions of the Board on preventability are not public records, summaries of the Board's findings including a summary of deaths, will be presented in yearly reports which will be made available to the public.