

Invoking a Community Response: Linking CDR to Prevention

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“Autopsy planned in death of child at Menasha home”¹

MENASHA — Police are investigating and an autopsy is pending on a 6-month-old Appleton girl who died Saturday while at a babysitter's house in the 800 block of Sixth Street.

Emergency medical personnel were called shortly before 7:30 a.m. Saturday to the home on a report of a child not breathing. Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation efforts were under way by adults in the home but continued efforts by responders proved unsuccessful.

"We just don't know how the child died," said police Lt. Chuck Sahr, who said there were no signs of external injuries. "We have to look at everything right now."

Sahr said the child apparently spent the night at the babysitter's home.

"This child was either sleeping next to them or near them and they woke up and the child wasn't breathing," said Sahr.

Police said the child and mother reside in Appleton. The Winnebago County coroner's office said an autopsy was expected to take place in Fond du Lac either today or Monday.

1. Fond du Lac Reporter, September 14, 2008. Available at:
<http://www.fdlreporter.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080914/FON0101/80914007/1985&located=RSS>



What do we know from this news story?

- Who (victim, relatives, sources of information)
- What
- Where
- When
- How
- Is anything missing?

CDR Data Report²

A six month old girl residing in Appleton, WI died 9/15/08 at 7:30 AM. She resided with her mother in an apartment building, having 1 bedroom which the mother and child shared. The child was in the care of her 19 year old babysitter who resided with her boyfriend in a one-bedroom apartment. There was a pack and play in the apartment, however the child was found on the adult bed in the middle of the bed.

The child does not have a history of maltreatment, was seen for regular well-baby visits by her pediatrician. The child also has no medical complications, was delivered vaginally at 39 weeks. The mother had a healthy pregnancy, no alcohol, drugs or tobacco used. The mother is employed as a nurse working night shift, which is why the child was staying overnight with the babysitter. The babysitter has no criminal record and was certified in first aid. The mother remembered from a prenatal class that babies should sleep on their back, but did not remember any information on cosleeping. The babysitter has never received information on cosleeping, but did recall the mother indicating that the child should sleep on its back.

The child was discovered to be not breathing when the babysitter woke up. She called 911, EMS responded to the incident and CPR was performed before EMS arrived, with no success. The child and babysitter were sleeping prior to the incident. The temperature of the room was approximately 65 degrees and a fan was being used. The child did not have a history of seizures or sleep apnea. The child was put to sleep on her back, and found on her back, however the child was tangled in a sheet. The child usually sleeps in a crib at home. At the babysitter's house, a pack and play (provided by the mother) is usually used as the sleep surface.

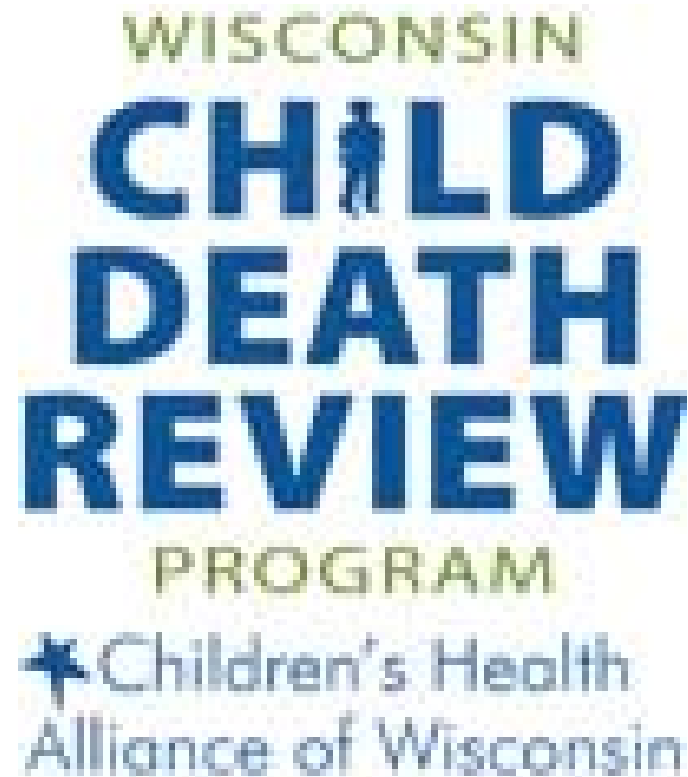


What do we know from the CDR Report?

- Who (victim, relatives, sources of information)
- What
- Where
- When
- How

Benefits of CDR Data Collection and Reporting

- Multidisciplinary Sources of information
- Local information
- Assists in discussion of prevention
- National Data System





CDR Reporting: Big Picture

- Collection of data may help in the development of local, state and national prevention strategies
- More information = More likely to have effective prevention policies and programs

Prevention Discussion³

1. What more do we need to know?
2. Are there services that should be provided to family members as a result of this death?
3. Are other children at risk of harm?
4. Are there any changes to agency practices or policies based on what we know?
5. What risk factors were involved in the death?
6. Could this death have been prevented? How so?

3. From Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin Child Death Review Team Guidelines. Available at: <http://www.chawisconsin.org/documents/CDRFinal10.13.08.pdf>

Prevention Strategies

Evidence-Based

- <http://depts.washington.edu/cdrreview/main.php>
- <http://www.childdeathreview.org/preventing.htm>

