

# WISCONSIN CHILD DEATH REVIEW AT A GLANCE

DATA FROM JAN. 1 - DEC. 31, 2022



In 2022, 163 cases were reviewed and entered into the Child Death Review (CDR) Case Reporting System (CRS). The year of death for these cases ranged from 2019-2022, demonstrating that teams are starting to catch up with the backlog of cases created from the pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 1/4 OF CASES

Natural and accidental deaths each accounted for a quarter of cases entered into the CRS.

## MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

The most common cause of accidental death was motor vehicle crash, which accounted for nearly a third of accidental deaths.

## 1/3 OF CASES

More than a third of cases reviewed through CDR resulted in prevention recommendations.

## PREVENTION

The most common topics of prevention that were discussed in 2022 included sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs), homicides, motor vehicle crashes, drownings, and suicide prevention. We have highlighted three prevention activities that teams across the state are working on:

### ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Langlade County's CDR team reviewed the death of a child that occurred on a highly traveled road located south of a major town. The child's vehicle was hit from behind while the driver was waiting to turn into an area business, resulting in the vehicle being pushed into oncoming traffic and being struck again. Reviewing this case led the team to write a letter of recommendation to the county's Traffic Safety Committee, urging the creation of a center median turn lane being added to the road this incident occurred on. The city police captain presented the letter of recommendation at a local traffic safety meeting and community education was done, and continues to be done, through Facebook and media outlets.



### DROWNING PREVENTION

After reviewing a drowning that occurred on the shores of Lake Michigan, Racine County's CDR team decided to take a number of measures to decrease the incidence of drownings in their county. As a result, the county purchased and set up electronic boards which indicate swimming and water conditions, increased the number of lifeguard positions at the beaches, purchased three-person jet-skis for rescue attempts, and purchased drones equipped with water-activated floatation devices. The county also purchased "Emily Buoys" which are remote controlled buoys designed to reach distressed swimmers in rip currents and provide floatation.



### SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AFTER A DEATH

The Outagamie County CDR team reviewed two cases in two months where the child had not been marked as deceased in the EPIC electronic medical record, and this could result in re-traumatization for the family if appointment reminders are being sent to the family in the years following the death. One solution that the team came up with was to create a checklist for parents and caregivers with actions to take following the death of a child, including notifying the primary care provider. This document is being finalized and the team is planning on distributing it to their Victim Crisis Response team, funeral homes, and other agencies that may be able to lend support to the loved one while working through the checklist items.



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