

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CHILD DEATH REVIEW

2020-2022 REPORT

MISSION

Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child deaths, we will better understand how and why these deaths occur and use our findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health and safety of our community.



About Us

The death of a child should invoke a community response, but in order to do so, we must understand the circumstances and risk factors contributing to the incident. Death certificate information is limited, so the Child Death Review (CDR) team convenes to learn and understand what happened. The information gathered informs prevention recommendations and strategies at the local, state, and national levels.

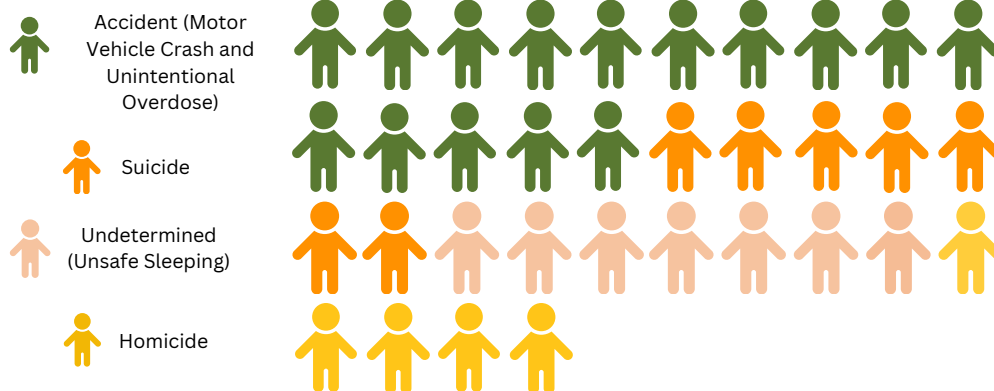


What We Are Seeing

Cases reviewed by the CDR team must meet the following criteria:

- Jurisdiction: Resident of Outagamie County
- Age: 0-18 years of age
- *Manner of death*: Accident, Homicide, Suicide, Undetermined
- Investigations and Court proceedings concluded

Cases by Manner of Death for Outagamie County 2019-2022*



*Notice the graphic includes 2019 data to increase values to 5 or above for confidentiality purposes. The following recommendations are from 2020-2022 cases only.

Supporting Organizations

Appleton Area School District
Ascension Wisconsin
Black Creek Rescue
Boys & Girls Club
Center for Grieving Children
Bureau of Early Care Regulation
Catalpa Health
Children's Health Alliance of WI
Children's Hospital of WI
Child Advocacy Center
City of Appleton
Fire Department
Health Department
Police Department
Community Action for Healthy Living
Diverse & Resilient
Family Services - Parent Connection
Fox Valley Metro Police Department
Gold Cross Ambulance
Grand Chute Police Department
Victim Crisis Response
Grand Chute Fire Department
Greenville Fire Department
Harbor House
Hortonville Police Department
Hortonville School District
Kaukauna Fire Department
Kaukauna Police Department
Outagamie County
Aging & Disability Resource Center
Public Health
Mental Health
Children, Youth and Families
Youth & Family Services
Coroner Office
District Attorney Office
Family Court Commissioner
Sheriff's Office
Citizen Review Panel
Prevent Suicide Fox Cities
Samaritan Counseling
Seymour Police Department
Seymour School District
ThedaCare



We Need Your Help

The ultimate purpose of our CDR team is to prevent future injuries and death among children in our community. However, we alone cannot put these prevention recommendations into action. This effort takes a village. Please review our recommendations below to see where you can help:

Motor Vehicle Crash



Motorcycle, ATV and Snowmobile Safety

- Send out short PSAs on school message boards and in newsletters regarding snowmobile and ATV safety, especially in rural areas.
- Partner with the DNR to promote ATV and snowmobile safety courses. Bring DNR or law enforcement into schools and communities to provide refresher safety presentations to children and families.
- Consider having health care providers complete an ADHD assessment for teens and young adults with risky driving behaviors. At wellness visits, ask about traffic citations and family history of mental health/ ADHD diagnoses.
- Advocate for a Class M (motorcycle) probationary period with restrictions on passengers and requirements for helmet use.
- Advocate for state legislation that requires motorcycle passengers to be of a certain height (ex: able to reach foot pegs)
- Partner with motorsports retailers to increase education and awareness on proper fit for helmets at the time of a motorcycle, ATV, and snowmobile purchase.
- Educate the public to ensure child passengers are riding in the safest way possible.

Car Seat Safety

- Promote that Child Passenger Safety Technicians, public safety, and coalitions educate the public on the state law and safest practice regarding booster seat use, and when it is appropriate to transition to a seat belt only.

Pedestrian and Driveway Safety

- Promote driveway safety including: assigning an adult as a spotter, having a discussion with kids regarding safety in and around vehicles, and making driveways toy-free zones.
- Reinforce that Child Passenger Safety Technicians educate on safety in and around vehicles during car seat installations.

Unintentional Overdose

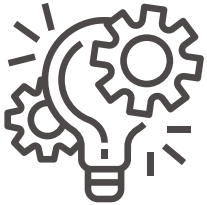


Agency Collaboration

- Support the implementation of a local Drug Endangered Children (DEC) alliance.
- Encourage hotel locations to coordinate with law enforcement and fire departments to provide CPR and Narcan training for hotel staff and have Narcan available on-site.
- Promote the Narcan Direct program through Public Health to organizations and community members for free access to Narcan and training on administration.
- Incorporate people who use substances into community conversations and decision making.

Prevention Programs

- Equip peers through evidence-based programs such as Sources of Strength, Hope Squad, and Teen Mental Health First Aid to connect friends who are struggling with substance use or mental health to resources and assistance.
- Encourage local organizations to incorporate principles, tools, and skills to implement Trauma-Informed practices.
- Educate parents in the community on Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences, and how these events can shape downstream health and behavior.
- Educate and encourage families to utilize non-court ordered support and interventions through the county Youth Justice System.



Planning to work on one of these interventions or already are?

We would love to hear about your efforts! Contact the CDR facilitator, Stephanie Thiede, at stephanie.thiede@outagamie.org or 920-832-5101.

Suicide



Firearm Safety

- Promote Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for medical professionals.
- Partner with mental health organizations to distribute gun locks and firearm safety materials directly to high risk families.
- Distribute gun locks and firearm safety materials at Safety Days, health fairs, and schools.
- Assess gun retailer practices for sales and gun raffles, whether they include gun locks and educational material on suicide prevention and firearm safety.

Mental Health

- Assess how parents are engaged while their child receives mental health services and whether they are specifically given information on signs of suicide.
- Educate youth on the different types of counseling services available and what to expect.
- Provide a checklist to families with notifications, arrangements, and resources after the death of a child.
- Encourage communication and warm handoff between schools when students transfer.

Homicide



Trauma and Mental Health

- Encourage opportunities for Law Enforcement staff and EMS responders to receive ongoing, long term mental health assessment and support following traumatic scenes and investigations.
- Promote statewide and local programs that provide mental health support for jurors during a trial and debriefing opportunities after the trial is concluded.
- Explore third-party options for family members who are tasked with cleaning a crime scene.
- Remind agencies to request assistance from the Victim Crisis Response team to provide on-scene support and follow up services for family and community members who are a victim or witness of a crime or other traumatic event.
- Help youth get connected to healthy prosocial activities that foster positive emotions, behaviors and relationships.

Agency Collaboration

- Encourage increased communication and sharing of information between agencies involved in situations of family discord.

Unsafe Sleeping

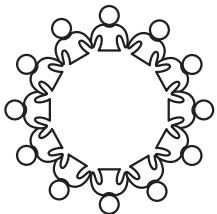


Consistent Messaging

- Provide Sleep Baby Safe training and educational materials from Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin to local health care systems, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Material Distribution

- Promote distribution and use of sleep sacks instead of having blankets in the sleep environment.



Thank you for your commitment to help the children of our community!