Importance of Tracking Child Fatality

There are two options:

- Create a comprehensive child fatality review system
- Do not track child fatality occurrences

- Understand why our children are dying
- Child deaths go under-reported and often misclassified

- Learn how to prevent deaths and improve the health and safety of our children
- No knowledge of how to prevent child fatality

"Over 25 years of research has proven that prevention or significant reductions of child abuse and neglect fatalities, as well as other serious and fatal injuries, cannot be achieved without more complete information about how and why children are dying." (pg. 6)

Preventable Child Fatality Cases

In 2015 and 2016, there were a total of 21 cases of child fatality where the death was deemed preventable.¹

- Of the 21 preventable child fatality cases in 2015 and 2016, 38% were due to SUIDS* or unsafe sleep practices.¹

Unsafe sleep was the #1 cause of death in Vanderburgh County¹

What is the Vanderburgh County Health Department doing to educate caregivers on safe sleep practices?

- Provides safe sleep classes to expectant mothers and caregivers
- Designed a Safe Sleep campaign with a local university
- Created educational banners for community distribution
- Collaborates with local community providers to distribute safe sleep sacks

June 2017

¹The Child Fatality Review Team reviews all cases of death ages 18 and under that reside in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, under the direction of the county prosecutor.

* Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths

2014-2016 Number of Child Fatality Review Cases in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 Child Fatalities by Mechanism of Death for Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties

- SUIDS*: 6
- Seizures: 3
- Menigitis/Sepsis: 2
- GSW: 1
- Falling TV: 1
- Fall: 1
- Drowning: 1
- Medical: 4

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