

Child (Ages 0-18 Years) Death Data Comparison Summary for Clark County

Nevada Death Records and Division of Child and Family Services Data Compared for Calendar Years 2001 - 2004 (Please review footnotes for clarifications on causes of death and numeric data.)

	2001				2002				2003				2004			
	Nevada Death Records	Child Known to System	Abuse Neglect Substantiation	Cases Needing Further Review	Nevada Death Records	Child Known to System	Abuse Neglect Substantiation	Cases Needing Further Review	Nevada Death Records	Child Known to System	Abuse Neglect Substantiation	Cases Needing Further Review	Nevada Death Records	Child Known to System	Abuse Neglect Substantiation	Cases Needing Further Review
Total Deaths (Clark County)	229	43	12	15	260	44	8	20	260	75	10	22	292	69	5	22
Cause of Death and Child Fatality Target Causes																
Homicide	15	10	6	2	13	4	3	0	11	9	1	3	9	2	0	0
Homicide involving firearms	2	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	2	2	0	0	4	6	0	0
Suicide	5	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	8	4	0	0	8	5	0	0
Motor vehicle accidents	18	0	0	0	31	3	0	0	34	9	0	0	28	9	0	1
Asphyxia	4	3	0	2	6	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	2	4	1	1
Asphyxia involving bedding	4	1	0	0	5	3	0	4	8	4	1	1	6	6	0	5
Drowning	6	0	0	0	5	3	0	2	9	6	2	2	4	1	1	0
Fire or smoke exposure	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	0
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Accident	1	5	0	4	2	2	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	3	0	1
Unknown accident	6	0	0	0	9	2	0	1	9	1	0	0	10	1	0	0
Unknown/Undetermined	23	6	0	1	22	4	2	1	10	5	1	2	16	1	0	1
Shaken baby syndrome	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Maternal drug use	0	3	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	11	3	9	0	10	2	9
SIDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1
Natural/other	142	12	2	3	157	16	0	7	163	17	0	4	199	16	0	3
Systems History																
Open CPS Case at Time of Death		10				10				7				18		
Prior Systems Cases (Closed at Time of Death)		21				23				15				34		
Prior Substantiation		9				13				9				8		
Deaths in Out-of-Home Placements																
Foster Care Placement		2				1				1				0		
Relative Care Placement		1				0				2				0		
Shelter care placement		0				0				0				1		
Other Placement		0				0				0				3		

DATA NOTES:

1. Total deaths are calculated for Clark County only, and represent fatalities based on the county of death, regardless of the county of residence.
2. Nevada Death Records source data includes child fatalities researched from the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) vital statistics data on death certificates issued in Clark County during each calendar year.
3. "Child known to system" data includes child fatalities researched from DCFS databases, child abuse and neglect registry, statewide child fatality review team, and CPS courtesy notifications. Datasets were compared to determine the most accurate cause of death, and researched to determine abuse and neglect findings.
4. Abuse and neglect substantiated deaths represent the subset of confirmed abuse and/or neglect related deaths out of the totals for Nevada death records and "child known to system" data.
5. Documented deaths represent the subset of deaths where allegations of abuse and/or neglect were present but unsubstantiated, circumstances of the death indicate a direct relationship to documented abuse and/or neglect, or where there is a significant family history of abuse and/or neglect.
6. Deaths resulting from shaken baby syndrome, maternal drug use, and SIDS are not determinable through NSHD data.
7. Natural/other deaths represent the balance of deaths not categorized in the target causes. Abuse and neglect may still be factors in this category of death. For example, a child may die of natural causes based on medical neglect, i.e., parents do not seek medical care or maintain doctor's appointments where required by a child's medical condition.
8. Open CPS Case at Time of Death represents where there is an open case with CPS or Child Welfare involvement at the time of the child's death on any member of the family. The open case is not necessarily specifically related to the victim, as there could be involvement related to the siblings.
9. Prior Systems Case (closed at time of death) represents where the system has had prior child protective services, state juvenile justice and/or mental health system involvement with the family, but the case was closed at the time of death. This number results in a duplicate count because the family or victim could have received services from multiple systems.
10. Prior Substantiation represents where there is at least one substantiated abuse or neglect entry in the registry prior to the child fatality. This includes substantiated abuse or neglect on sibling(s) of the deceased child, which may have occurred prior to the birth of the deceased child.
11. Foster Care Placement is a child's placement in a licensed foster home.
12. Relative Care Placement is a child's placement with a non-licensed caregiver who is related to the deceased child.
13. Shelter Care Placement is a child's placement in a Child Haven or any other licensed shelter care placement.
14. Other Placement includes placements such as hospitals, detention centers, children's mental health facilities.
15. Child fatality target causes represent the types of death focused on by regional CDR teams as required by NRS 432B.405 or based on fatalities commonly related to abuse and neglect.

Definitions of all categorized causes of death are provided below.

DEFINITIONS:

Homicide: Any killing of one human being by another.

Homicide involving firearms: See above. These types of deaths are tracked to provide data related to cases where firearms were unsecured in homes, giving access to children and adolescents.

Suicide: The act of killing oneself intentionally.

Motor vehicle accidents: Any death involving a motor vehicle including both passenger and pedestrian deaths. These deaths involve any type of motorized vehicle, including mopeds, ATVs, etc.

Asphyxia: Suffocation resulting in death from too little oxygen and too much carbon dioxide in the blood.

Asphyxia involving bedding: See above. These types of deaths are tracked to provide data related to cases where parents sleep with babies or too much bedding is present in the sleeping environment.

Drowning: Suffocation resulting in death from exposure to water or other liquids.

Fire or smoke exposure: Death resulting from burning by fire or asphyxiation/poisoning by breathing in harmful gases, vapors, and particulate matter contained in smoke.

Poisoning: Death resulting from ingestion, absorption, or other exposure to harmful substances.

Accident: Death resulting from known, non-motor vehicle accidents including falls and environmental exposure.

Unknown accident: Death resulting from unknown, non-motor vehicle accidents.

Unknown/Undetermined: Death resulting from unknown or undetermined causes.

Shaken baby syndrome: Death resulting from a severe form of head injury that occurs when a baby is shaken forcibly enough to cause the baby's brain to rebound (bounce) against his or her skull.

Maternal drug use: Death caused by prenatal substance use by the biological mother, which results in exposure to toxins transmitted to the baby.

SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome - the term used to describe the sudden, unexplained death of a baby under one year of age.