

Child Fatality Review Panel

Child Maltreatment Fatality Prevention Plan

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August 2023

NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services
Be Legendary.

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What is the Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP)?

Multidisciplinary team established by NDCC 50-25.1 and began reviewing deaths in 1996

Reviews deaths of all children under age 18, which occur in the state.

The Panel's purpose is to:

- Identify the cause of children's deaths,
- Identify the circumstances that contribute to children's deaths, and
- Recommend changes in policy, practices, and law to prevent child deaths



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Preventable Death

A preventable death is one which, in retrospective analysis, it is determined that a reasonable intervention (e.g. medical, educational, environmental, social, supervisory, legal, or psychological) might have prevented the death.

Reasonable is defined by taking into consideration the condition, circumstances, or resources available.



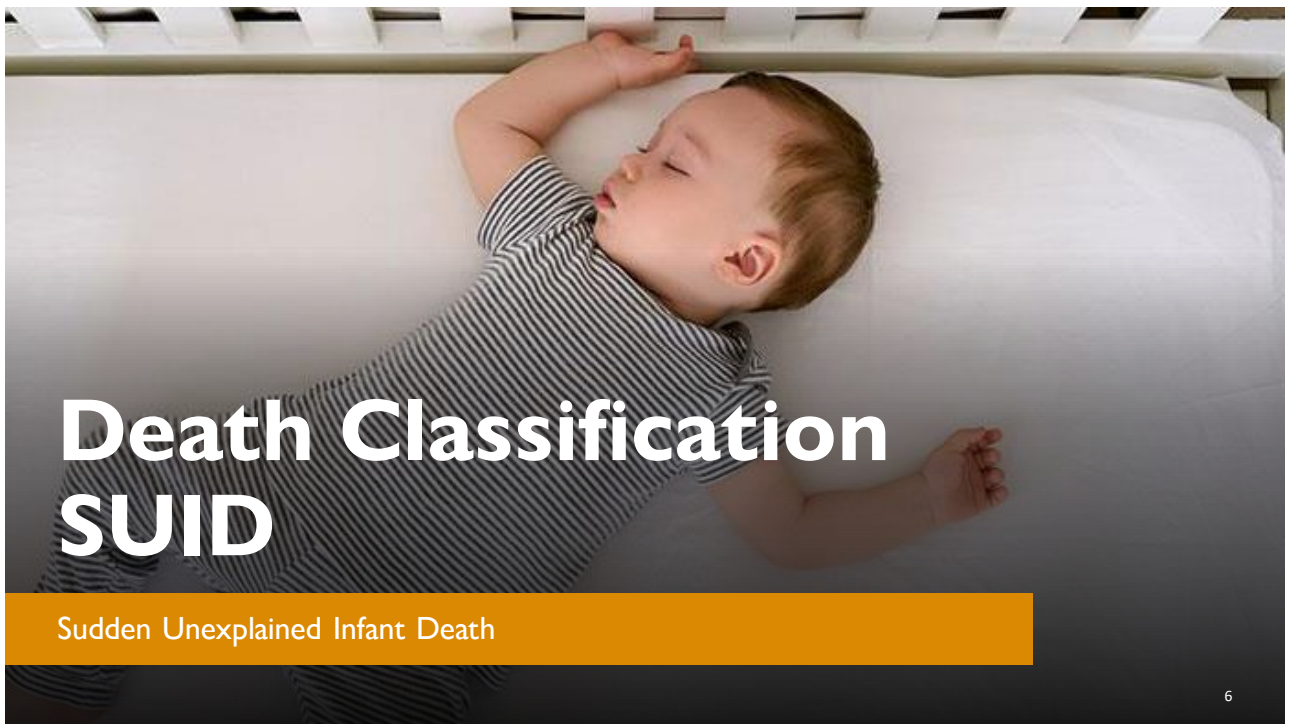
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How are children dying?

Figure 1. Number of Child Fatalities by Manner of Death, CY 2017-2019



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Death Classification SUID

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death

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Intrinsic Factors: Natural conditions or risk factors associated with abnormal physiology or anatomy that are concerning as contributors to death but are insufficient as a cause:

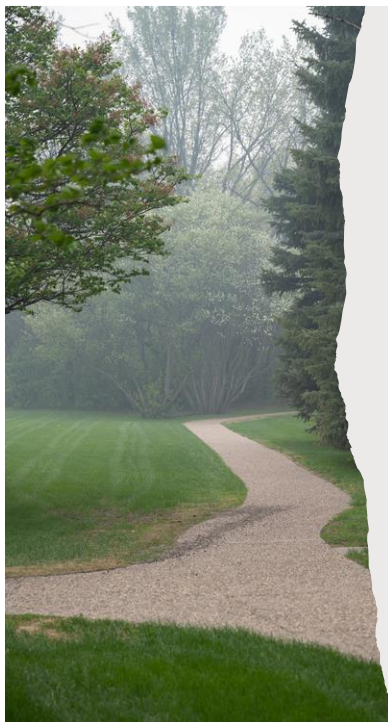
- > Low birth weight
- > Alcohol, drug, cigarette use in pregnancy
- > Prematurity
- > Illness
- > History of febrile seizure
- > Congenital condition



Extrinsic Factors: Conditions in the child's immediate environment that are a potential threat to life but cannot be deemed the cause of death with reasonable certainty

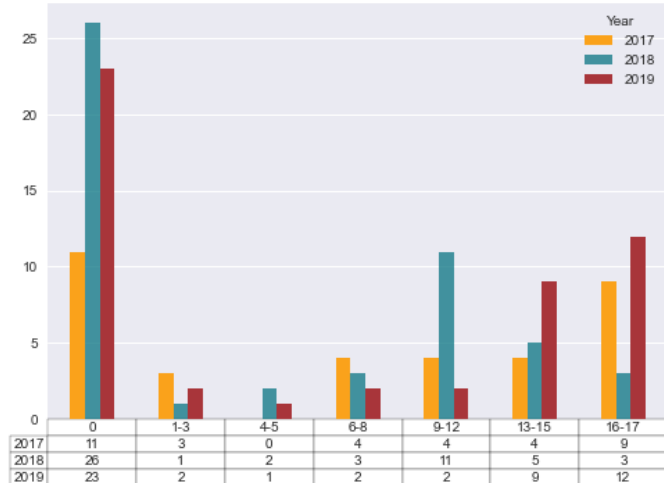
- > Side or prone (stomach) sleep position
- > Over-bundling
- > Objects in immediate sleep environment
- > Sleep environment not designed for infant sleep (bed, couch, swing)
- > Soft or excessive bedding
- > Sleep surface sharing
- > Injuries or toxicologic findings that are either non-lethal or of unknown lethality

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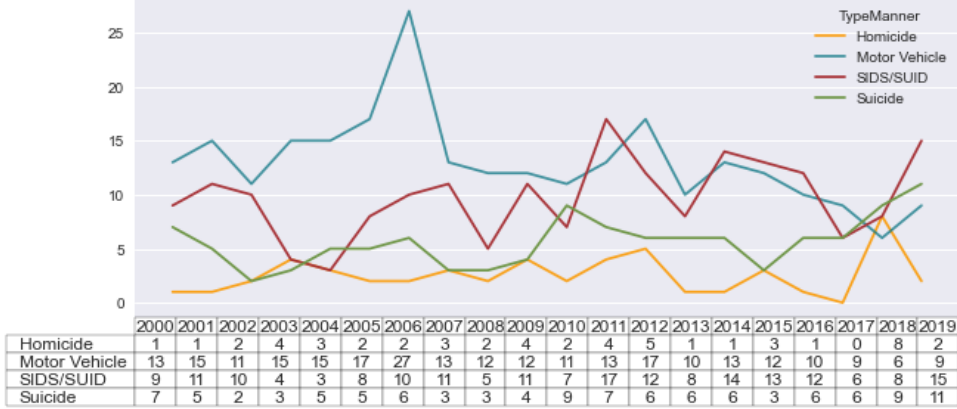
Child's Age

Figure 4. Count by Age in Child Fatality Cases that Received an In-Depth Review, CY 2017-2019



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Figure 10. Number of In-Depth Child Fatality Reviews by Selected Manner of Death for Years 2000-2019



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North Dakota Child Maltreatment Fatality Prevention Plan FFY 2023

June 2023
Children and Family Services Section
Cory Pedersen, Director

Child Maltreatment Fatality Prevention Plan

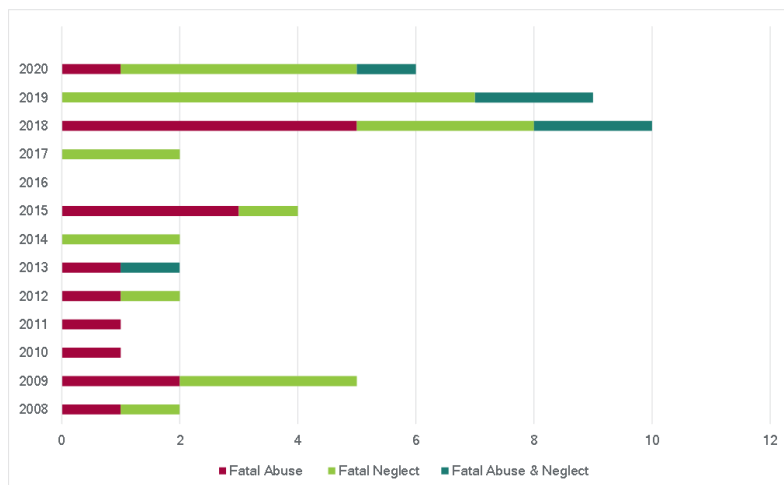


Child Maltreatment Death

Confirmed Fatal Maltreatment is determined by Child Protection Services

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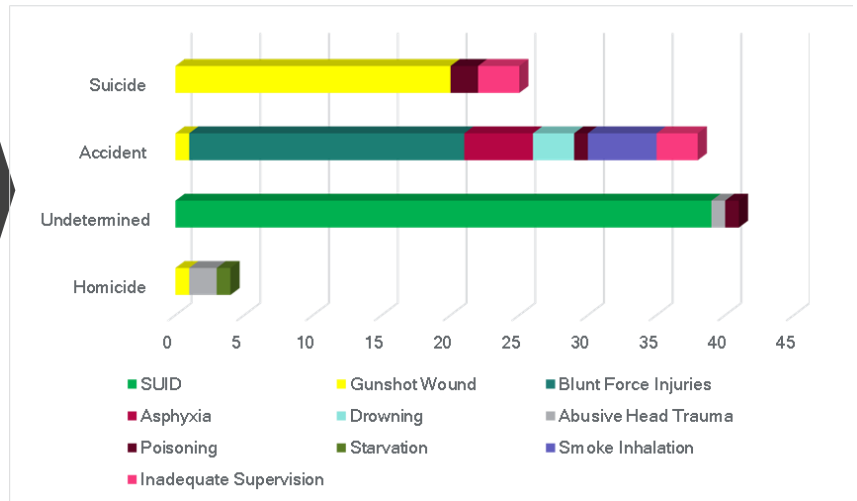


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Contributing Child Maltreatment



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Every child's death is a tragic loss for the family and community.

Especially tragic is the child death that could have been prevented.

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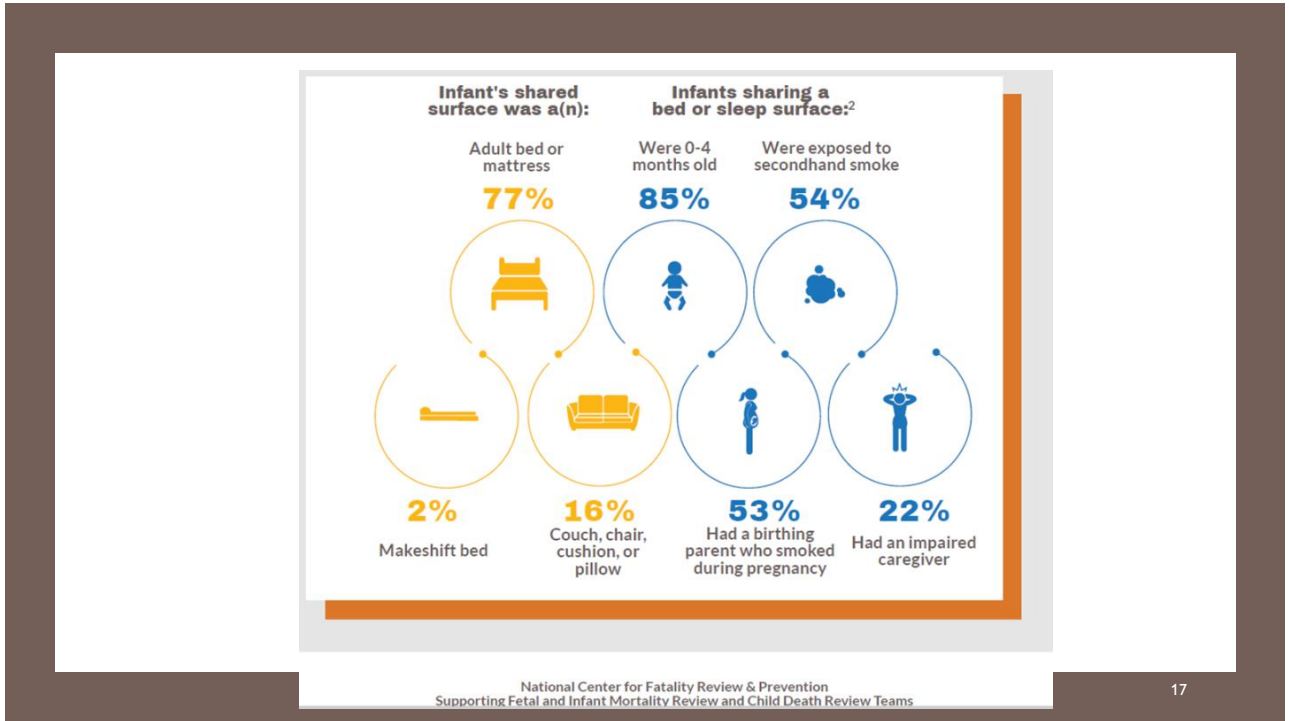


Strategies

Prevention strategies focusing on these three key areas will likely result in the greatest reduction of fatal child maltreatment.



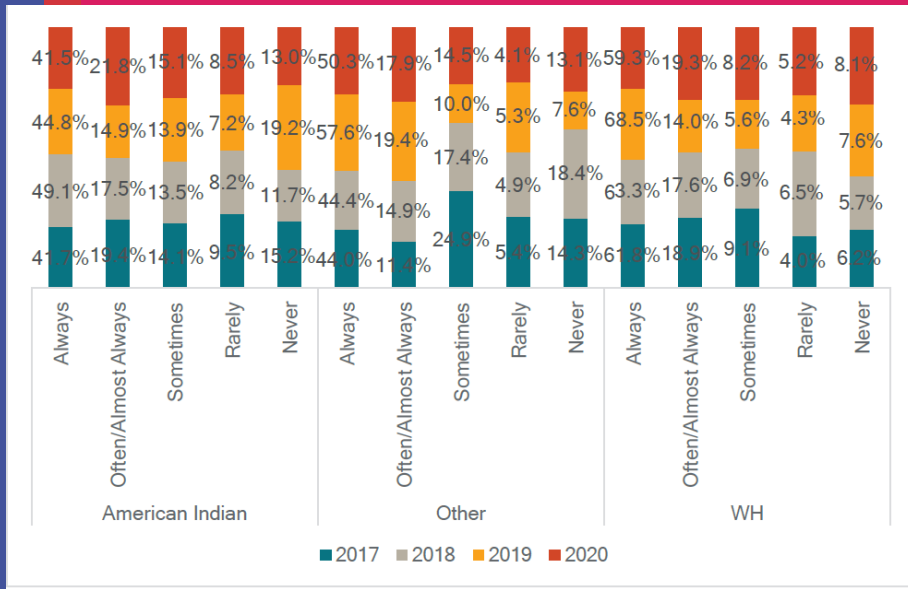
Sleep Environment Hazards



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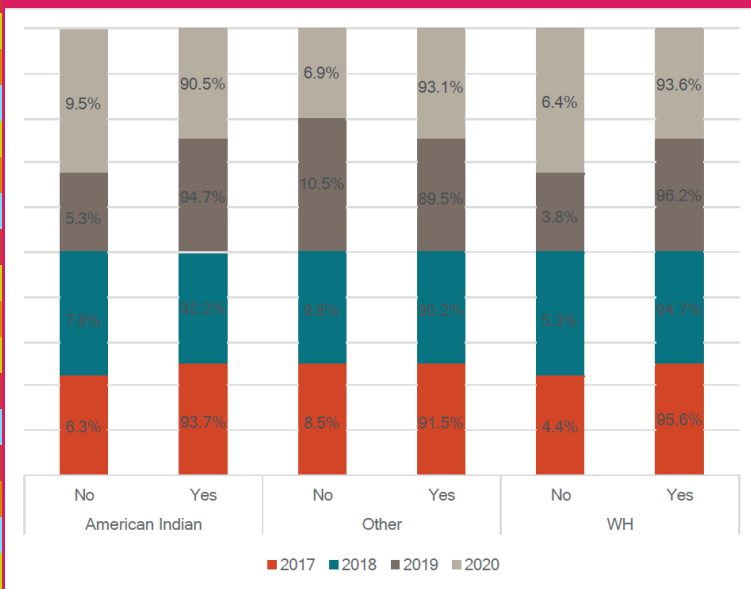
GOAL #

Decrease accidental asphyxia related to hazards in the infant's sleep environment and SUID with extrinsic factors of sleep environment hazards by 20% from 2020 to 2025.



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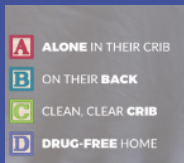
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Prevention Strategies



Educate and encourage the public to follow the AAP recommendations for safe sleep environments



Expand, promote and refer families for home visiting services



Community wide promotion of referring eligible families for the distribution of safe sleep resources, such as Cribs for Kids



Comprehensive Plans of Safe Care for Substance Exposed Infants

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Unsecured Firearms

Firearm related suicide deaths of children have **tripled** from 2016 to 2020.

Suicide is preventable and one strategy is to safely store firearms so this lethal means is out of children's access.



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Firearm Injury



Definition: A firearm injury is a gunshot wound or penetrating injury from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile. It can be unintentional (accidental firing without intention), intentionally self-inflicted (suicide), interpersonal violence (homicide or assault), legal intervention (injury inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents acting in the line of duty), or undetermined intent (injury where there is insufficient information to determine intent type).

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Unsecured Firearms – Suicide Prevention



60%

Unlocked and Loaded



40%

Stored in Child's Bedroom



47%

Handgun



65%

Mental Health Diagnosis

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Decrease suicide child fatalities by firearm by 25% from 2020 to 2025.

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North Dakota 2021 Middle School (Grades 7-8) Statewide YRBS Results
(Including breakdowns by region and urban/rural)

Unintentional Injuries and Violence

Injury to Oneself & Suicide	CDC North Dakota Results	Winkelman Consulting Results								
		CREA Bismarck-Mandan-Minot Area	GNWEC Williston Area	NCEC Bottineau-Rugby Area	NESC Devils Lake Area	RESP Dickinson Area	RRVEC Grand Forks Area	SEFC Fargo-Jamestown Area	Urban Towns	Rural Towns
Percentage of students who ever seriously thought about killing themselves (NDMq15, CDC QN14)	25.9%	27.7%	29.1%	25.2%	29.5%	23.6%	26.5%	25.6%	25.8%	27.8%
Percentage of students who ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves (NDMq16, CDC QN15)	19.1%	21.3%	23.6%	23.5%	24.4%	18.8%	20.1%	18.1%	19.4%	21.7%
Percentage of students ever who tried to kill themselves (NDMq17, CDC QN16)	9.3%	10.5%	11.4%	10.3%	14.4%	9.7%	11.2%	8.2%	9.1%	10.9%



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Prevention Strategies



Promotion of safe gun storage - should be locked and unloaded with ammunition locked separately. Children should not be able to access any keys or combinations to gun safes or lock boxes.



Promotion and distribution of gun safety kits and trigger locks

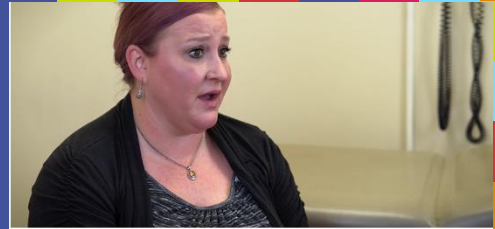


Suicide risk assessments, referrals and warm hand-offs



Suicide prevention / intervention education

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Keeping Teens Safer at Home

A provider has a conversation with a family with a firearm unsure of storage practices in the home and concerned about personal protection. An overall counseling approach that considers general suicide prevention considerations in a non-distressed teen.

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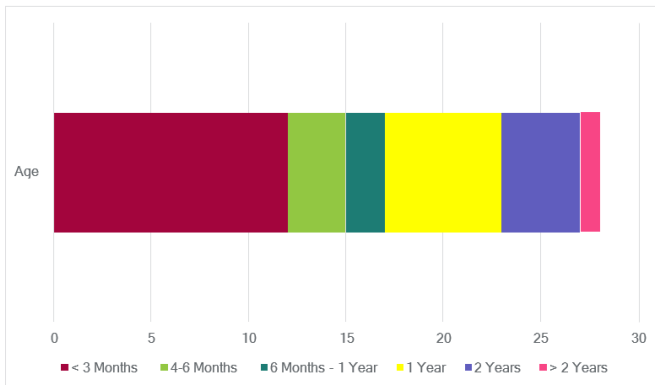


Table 13. Abusive Head Trauma by Age; Fatal Maltreatment, CY 2008-2020, and Child Abuse and Neglect Near Death, CY 2016-2020

Abusive Head Trauma

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GOAL 3

Decrease fatal and near-death abusive head trauma by 50% from 2020 to 2025.

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Prevention Strategies



Increase awareness about the period of purple crying and provide education abusive head trauma prevention



Recognize the signs of physical abuse in young children
TEN-4-FACESp



Increase community awareness of Baby Safe Haven



All child deaths receive a thorough, quality, and comprehensive investigation of the death scene and circumstances surrounding the child's death 30



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TEN-4-FACESp

Bruising Clinical Decision Rule for Children < 4 Years of Age

When is bruising concerning for abuse in children < 4 years of age? If bruising in any of the three components (Regions, Infants, Patterns) is present without a reasonable explanation, strongly consider evaluating for child abuse and/or consulting with an expert in child abuse.

<p>TEN Torso Ears Neck</p>  <p>FACES Frenulum Angle of Jaw Cheeks (<i>fleshy part</i>) Eyelids Subconjunctivae</p>	<p>4 months and younger</p>  <p>Any bruise, anywhere</p>	<p>Patterned bruising</p>  <p>Bruises in specific patterns like slap, grab or loop marks</p>
REGIONS	INFANTS	PATTERNS

See the signs Unexplained bruises in these areas most often result from physical assault. TEN-4-FACESp is not to diagnose abuse but to function as a screening tool to improve the recognition of potentially abused children with bruising who require further evaluation.

TEN-4-FACESp was developed and validated by Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce and colleagues. It is published and available for FREE download at luriechildrens.org/ten-4-facesp.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



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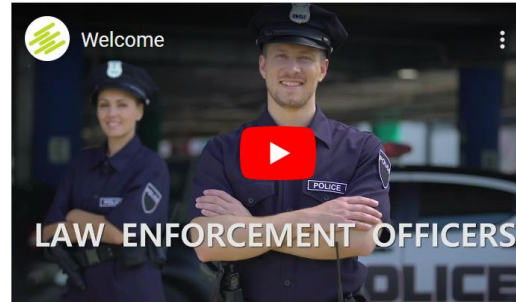
PURPLE

<p>P PEAK of Crying</p>	<p>U UNEXPECTED</p>	<p>R RESISTS Soothing</p>	<p>P PAIN-LIKE Face</p>	<p>L LONG Lasting</p>	<p>E EVENING</p>
<p>Your baby may cry more each week, the most in month 2, then less in months 3-5</p>	<p>Crying can come and go and you don't know why</p>	<p>Your baby may not stop crying no matter what you try</p>	<p>A crying baby may look like they are in pain, even when they are not</p>	<p>Crying can last as much as 5 hours a day, or more</p>	<p>Your baby may cry more in the late afternoon and evening</p>

The word **Period** means that the crying has a beginning and an end.

You can help prevent child abuse.

Welcome to the interactive training website for mandated reporters in North Dakota.

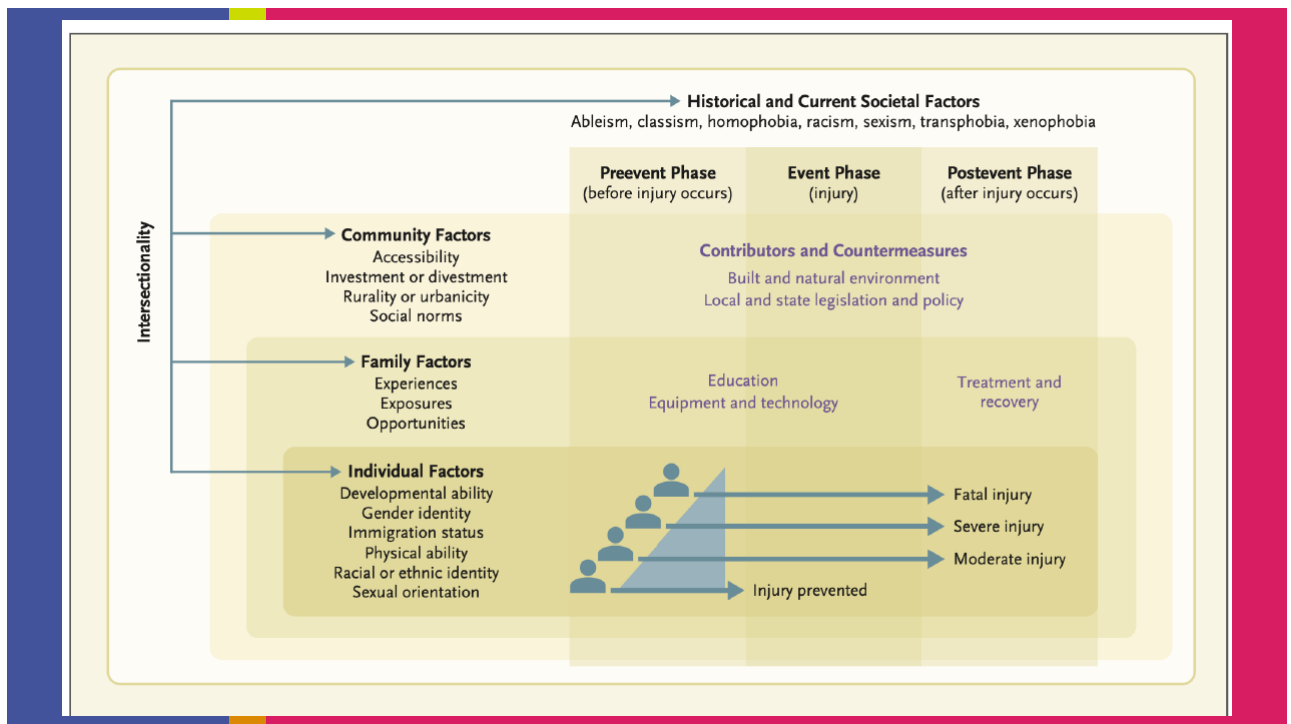


We all play a role in the safety of our community's children. Each of us face the likelihood of becoming the one person who could save a child by recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect.

3/27/2024

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Key takeaways



Child maltreatment death is preventable



The keys to preventing child death are learned through comprehensive investigations



Courageous conversations and greater attention to child safety and fatality prevention saves lives.



We all play a star role in the prevention of child maltreatment deaths

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Tips, Tools, Resources and Support



AAP Safe Sleep

Recommendations for reducing infant deaths in sleep environments



988 – NDHHS

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



Be Smart

Secure Gun Storage Saves Kids' Lives

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Call to action



What can YOU do?
Our shared accountability, collaboration and actions can
END Child Abuse and Neglect.

Learn More:

[ND Child Maltreatment Fatality Prevention Plan](#)
[CFRP Annual Report 2017-2019](#)

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Celebrating More Birthdays



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