



The Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Report 2018 Child Fatalities

Protecting Our Future

Executive Summary

This summary includes data points of community interest, and highlights where there was a noteworthy change over 2017 data. For a copy of the full report: <http://protectingourfuture.cuyahogacounty.us>.

Overall Look at 2018

In 2018, there were 185 child deaths in Cuyahoga County; three less than in 2017. The decrease was due to seven fewer deaths to children 10- to 17 years old, even though two more deaths occurred to infants and to children 1- to 9 years old.



- Prematurity, birth defects and unsafe sleep arrangements were the top three causes of child death. Prematurity had the largest decrease in child deaths, while infections had the biggest increase.
- Large racial inequities in child deaths still exist. Black non-Hispanic babies died at three times the rate of white non-Hispanic babies. Black children 1-to 17 years old died at more than twice the rate of white children.
- The Cuyahoga County infant mortality rate (IMR) of 8.7 per 1,000 live births was higher than the preliminary state of Ohio rate of 7.6.
- The number of accidental injury deaths was the highest in the last ten years. The majority of these deaths were due to suffocation from unsafe sleep and motor vehicle accidents.
- Four drowning deaths equaled the second-highest total in the last ten years and three accidental fire deaths equaled the highest number in the last ten years.
- Homicide deaths decreased from 18 in 2017 to 11 in 2018. The 2018 total was lower than the ten-year average and for the second consecutive year, no infants died due to homicide.
- The 2018 county suicide rate was 50% lower than the 2017 state and national rates after reaching a ten-year high in 2017. The 2018 county rate was slightly lower than the ten-year average.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

The purpose of the Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Review Board is to decrease the number of preventable child deaths. The Board reviews the causes and risk factors of deaths for all children less than 18 years old.

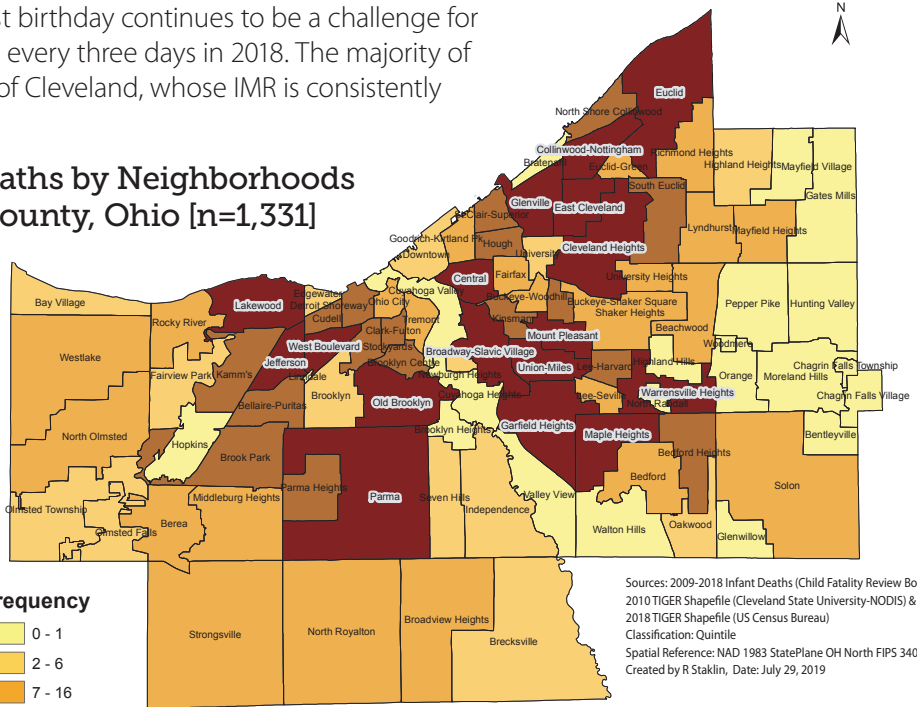
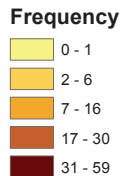
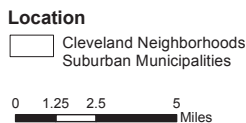
Recommendations are made to protect the health and safety of all children in the community. Board membership includes representatives from child service, hospital and governmental agencies.

Infant Mortality

Preventing infants from dying before their first birthday continues to be a challenge for Cuyahoga County. On average, an infant died every three days in 2018. The majority of the infants that passed away lived in the city of Cleveland, whose IMR is consistently among the worst in the nation.

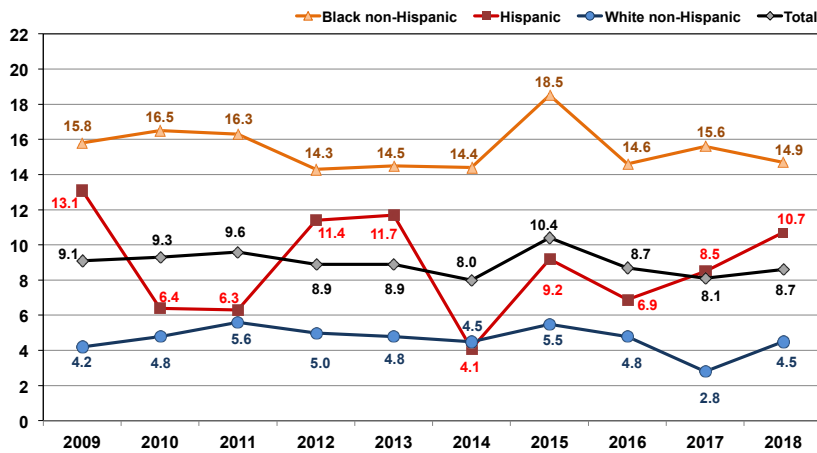
Frequency of 2009-2018 Infant Deaths by Neighborhoods and Municipalities in Cuyahoga County, Ohio [n=1,331]

| Rank of Top 10 Locales by Infant Deaths | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| Rank | Municipality/ CLE Neighborhood | Count |
| 1 | Euclid | 59 |
| 2 | Glenville (CLE) | 56 |
| 3 | Broadway-Slavic Village (CLE) | 53 |
| T-4 | Mount Pleasant (CLE) | 50 |
| T-4 | Union-Miles (CLE) | 50 |
| 6 | East Cleveland | 49 |
| T-7 | Central (CLE) | 48 |
| T-7 | Parma | 48 |
| 9 | Cleveland Heights | 42 |
| 10 | Garfield Heights | 40 |

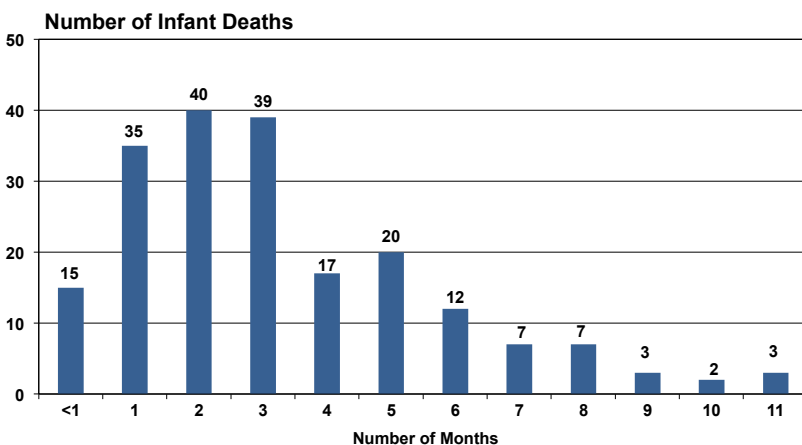


Sources: 2009-2018 Infant Deaths (Child Fatality Review Board)
2010 TIGER Shapefile (Cleveland State University-NODIS) & 2018 TIGER Shapefile (US Census Bureau)
Classification: Quintile
Spatial Reference: NAD 1983 StatePlane OH North FIPS 3401 (Feet)
Created by R Staklin, Date: July 29, 2019

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1,000 Live Births



2009-2018 Sleep Related Deaths by Age of Infant [n=200]



Infant Mortality

- There were 120 infant deaths, up from 118 in 2017, and they accounted for 65% of all child deaths.
- The Hispanic IMR for 2018 was 10.7 per 1,000 live births, the highest rate in the last five years.
- 61 infants died due to premature birth, accounting for 51% of all infant deaths, the lowest percentage in the last ten years.

Racial Inequity

- The black non-Hispanic IMR of 14.9 was 3.3 times higher than the white non-Hispanic rate of 4.5.
- Although the black non-Hispanic prematurity death rate was at a ten-year low, it was more than three times the white non-Hispanic prematurity death rate.

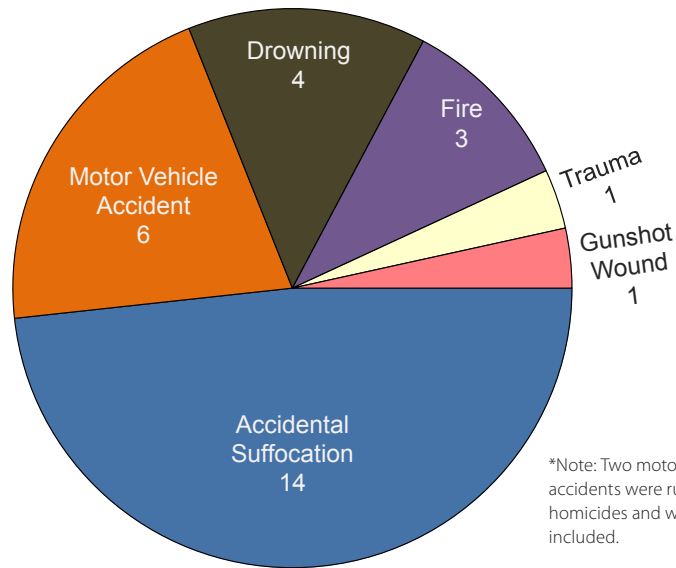
Unsafe Sleep

- There were 19 sleep related infant deaths, one less than the ten-year average of 20.
- Since 2009, at least one risk factor was noted in all 200 sleep related deaths, such as: surface sharing, sleeping on the stomach or side, or extra bedding (pillow, comforter or blanket).

Injury Related Deaths

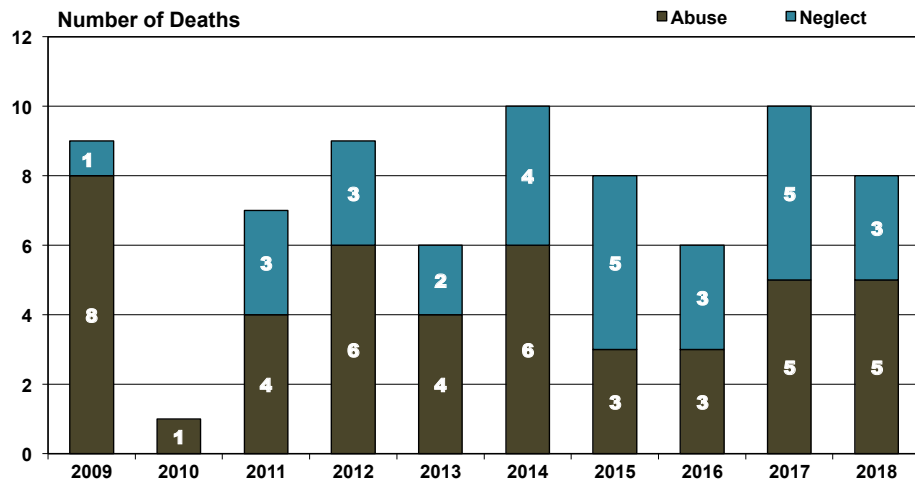
Injury related child deaths include both intentional and unintentional injuries, and in 2018 accounted for 32% of all child deaths. Unintentional injury deaths were the highest in the last ten years, with accidental suffocation and motor vehicle accidents accounting for 69% of these deaths. Intentional injury deaths include homicide and suicide, and both of these categories saw declines in 2018.

Unintentional Injury Deaths in 2018 [n=29]



*Note: Two motor vehicle accidents were ruled as homicides and were not included.

Child Deaths Due to Abuse and Neglect



Abuse and Neglect

- 8 children died to abuse and neglect, 2 fewer than in 2017.
- 5 deaths were due to abuse, and 3 to neglect.
- 5 of the 8 victims were residents of the suburbs.

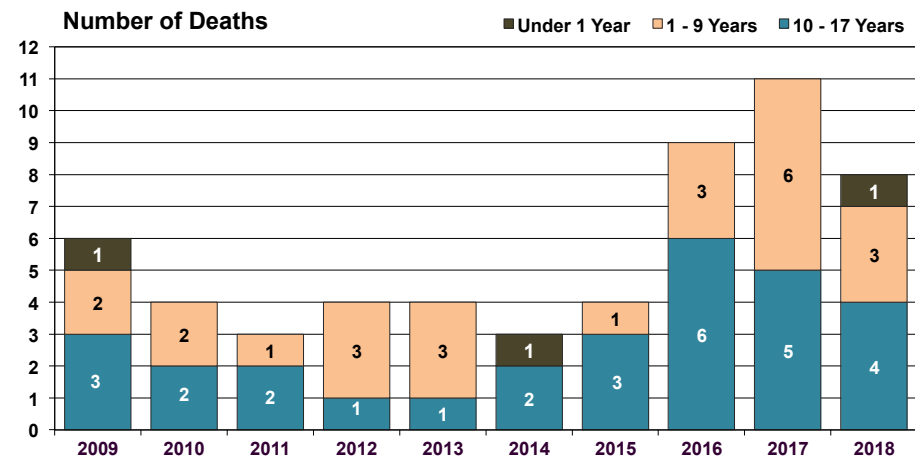
Motor Vehicle Accidents

- 4 of the 8 MVA deaths in 2018 were to children not in a vehicle.
- 2 children who died were in vehicles fleeing from police.
- 1 infant died, the first infant MVA death in three years

Suicide

- There were 3 child suicides in 2018, all among children 13 to 16.
- Cuyahoga County's child suicide rate was less than half the rate for Ohio.

Total Motor Vehicle Deaths by Age Group per Year



Emerging Trends

Asthma is a lung disease that can be managed through the use of medications on a consistent basis. From 2015-2018, 12 children died due to asthma related complications including four deaths in 2018. Seven of the children were under 10 years of age. The table shows the demographics and risk factors noted in these deaths.

Asthma Related Death Demographics and Risk Factors [n=12]

| Demographics | Count | Risk Factors | Count |
|---------------------|-------|---|-------|
| Race | | Poverty | 9 |
| Black | 10 | Missed Doctor Appointments | 8 |
| White | 2 | Asthma Medication Noncompliance | 7 |
| Sex | | Suspected History of Abuse/Neglect or Domestic Violence in the Home | 6 |
| Female | 6 | | |
| Male | 6 | Note: Asthma medication compliance information was missing for two cases. | |
| Neighborhood | | | |
| Cleveland | 7 | | |
| First Ring | 5 | | |

Recommendations

The Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Review Board makes recommendations to protect the health and safety of all children in the community. The recommendations are based on risk factors and circumstances found during the review process. The full 2018 Child Fatality Report contains 22 recommendations and lists more than 20 organizations and programs working to develop community actions to reduce child death.

- Encourage the use of promising and evidence-based practices that decrease preterm births, such as CenteringPregnancy®, the use of progesterone for high-risk women and appropriate birth spacing.
- Support First Year Cleveland Safe Sleep Heroes initiative and the Ohio safe sleep campaign to educate hospitals, agencies and the community about the importance of safe sleep for babies.
- Reinforce the importance of a medical home and care coordination for children with chronic illnesses that also includes assessing for barriers to compliance with the treatment plan.
- Support the Greater Cleveland Safe Kids / Safe Communities Coalition in their comprehensive efforts to prevent injuries and educate the community on safety issues that include child passenger seats/restraints; teen drivers; and pedestrian, water, and fire safety.
- Cuyahoga County institutions providing tertiary and emergency medical care and social support to children should begin to investigate opportunities for cross system collaboration and information sharing. This will better identify and secure enhanced intervention for those children who have experienced, or at high risk for, serious or life-threatening injury or medical neglect.

The full 2018 Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Report (37 pages) can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://protectingourfuture.cuyahogacounty.us>

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