



Saving Lives Together



Greetings from the Staff



Greetings Fatality Review
Colleagues!

The National Center is excited to introduce you to our newest colleague, Gabby Fraley. Gabby joined the National Center on November 1st. Here are a few things she wanted to share with all of you:

Hi, I'm Gabby, a senior data analyst for the National Center. New to the team, I am especially looking forward to diving into pediatric disaster and drowning surveillance activities.

I hold a Master of Public Health from the University of Florida and a bachelor's in community health and cultural anthropology from Western Washington University. I live in the Pacific Northwest, and in my free time I love backpacking, soup, and rooting for my favorite sports teams.

We welcome Gabby to the team and look forward to the ways she will serve the field of fatality review professionals.

-The National Center staff

Upcoming Events



FIMR Regional Support Calls

- January 12, 2022-Western Region (CA, MT, NV, UT, WY)
 - January 18, 2022-Northern Region (WV, PA, NJ, DE, MD, ME, DC)
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“I needed a little boost for our FIMR program in the midst of a pandemic that keeps going on and on. All of the presenters gave me the inspiration that I needed to tell the stories --of moms, dads, and babies—and perhaps my own story of why I do this work. I feel energized and determined to elevate these voices to make the changes that are needed.”

*Lorrie Considine, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cleveland, Ohio,
FIMR Program Manager*

Recordings of the three plenary sessions are available on the web site at: <https://ncfrp.org/fimr/>

Louisville FIMR Reconvenes



After a few-year hiatus, the Louisville, Kentucky Healthy Start Program is re-establishing their FIMR Board. Jan Rogers, Maternal Child Health Coordinator with the Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness

(URL: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>) and its Center for Health Equity will be leading the effort. Jan shared that the introductory FIMR Board meeting was held on October 14, 2021, and they are off to a wonderful start! One strategy that Jan shared is that nurse members of the team decided that they would be open to sharing the responsibility of conducting the parental/family interviews on a rotating basis.

The vision statement for the newly resurrected FIMR is: ***A world free of preventable fetal and infant mortality, where government agencies, social service agencies, and community organizations work together with parents, guardians, and other community members to provide the community with resources, tools, knowledge, opportunity, and space to protect ALL infants from dangers, thus eliminating preventable infant deaths. A world where every infant is provided the opportunity to develop and grow into their next stage of life.***

Congratulations, and all the best to Louisville, KY FIMR!

Virgin Islands Launches Child Fatality Review Team



The U.S. Virgin Islands officially launched a Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) in the fall of 2021. Established under the Department of Human Services by executive order, its mission is to examine the circumstances of deaths or near deaths of minors under the age of 18 to provide policy and practice recommendations to prevent avoidable childhood deaths or severe injuries.

Abby Collier, director of the National Center, provided an overview and introduction to CDR to the Virgin Islands' enthusiastic team in December of 2021. Congratulations to the VI CFRT as they undertake these important activities to understand and prevent child deaths.

FIMR Storytelling Collaborative Cohort 2 Kicks Off

The National Center is pleased to announce a second cohort of FIMR teams and partners will be participating in a FIMR Storytelling Collaborative from November 2021 through February 2022. The storytelling project team believes more than ever that powerful stories are needed to help change hearts and minds about what it takes for more first birthdays, and that purposeful storytelling can catalyze social change for healthier women, children, and families. The states of Michigan and Delaware, along with



local teams from Shelby County, TN; Knox County, TN; Broward County, FL; and Hamilton County, OH are engaging in this virtual opportunity. This second phase of the FIMR Storytelling Project will collaborate and align with emerging and existing public health-related storytelling practices in communities and nationally, for greater rigor, synergy, and impact to prevent maternal, fetal, and infant mortality and morbidity, and to promote health and equity for all women, children, fathers, and families.

CDR Regions Create Opportunities to Support State Programs



State CDR Coordinators come together quarterly in regional networks to connect and learn together and from each other. State CDR coordinators serve as regional coordinators and support these networks.

Quarterly meetings were held in October, 2021.

- The Northeast Region, made of up of the New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont focused their regional meeting on increases in deaths due to hopelessness and violence, and trends in special populations, such as children with special health care needs.
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- The Mid-Atlantic Region is comprised of Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Their October meeting focused on the relationships between CDR and policymakers, and they enjoyed a presentation from Shannon Frattaroli from Johns Hopkins University Center for Injury Research and Policy.
- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas make up the Southeast Region. Their meeting focused on frameworks for identifying preventability in child death cases.
- The Midwest Region, encompassing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin provided programmatic updates and finalized a regional plan for the remainder of the '21-'22 year.
- The Western Region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Their October meeting focused on the details of the case review meeting in the states, including effective strategies for virtual case reviews.

Thank you to Faith Vos Winkel (Northeast); Anne Pedrick (Mid-Atlantic); Heidi Hilliard and Gretchen Martin (Midwest); and Kate Jankovsky (West) for serving as regional coordinators. The Southeast regional coordinator position is currently vacant. If you are a state coordinator in one of the Southeast states and would be interested in serving in this position, please contact the National Center at info@ncfrp.org.

Kudos Corner

National Center Staff Milestones

The National Center gratefully recognizes two of its staff for professional milestones they have reached at Michigan Public Health Institute, where the Center is housed. Heather Dykstra celebrated 15 years of service with MPH and the National Center in November, and Rosemary Fournier celebrated 20 years.



Heather's role has focused on the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System throughout her 15 years. Rosemary has served in several different roles supporting the FIMR process, most notably as national FIMR director for the last 5 years.

Their knowledge, skill, and unflagging support for this work enrich our team and the field of fetal, infant, and child fatality review professionals across the country. Congratulations, Heather and Rosemary. Thank you, for all you do!

Michigan CDR Coordinator Celebrates 25 Years



Congratulations to Heidi Hilliard on her 25th anniversary at Michigan Public Health Institute where she leads the Michigan Child Death Review program (URL: <https://www.keepingkidsalive.org/>). Michigan has 75 local teams across its 83 counties.

Heidi was the 2019 recipient of the Theresa M. Covington Award for Excellence in Fatality Review, presented by the National Center, and she serves as the co-coordinator for the Midwest Regional CDR Coalition.

Thank you, Heidi, for all you have done to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in Michigan and for being an excellent colleague and resource to your fellow coordinators.

Data Matters

Two-factor Authentication Coming to the NFR-CRS



When Version 6.0 of NFR-CRS launches in Spring 2022, there will be an added layer of protection for fatality review data: two-factor authentication.

This new feature will require authorized users to enter their passwords as normal and to use an additional layer of confirmation to sign into their accounts.

Users will decide if they would like to use their cell phone or their email to authenticate their sign-in. Users will be required to authenticate sign-ins through either text message or email once each day when they log in. If a user signs in twice in one day, the second time will not require the second authentication. Each “day” is defined as between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM Eastern.

In anticipation of this update, users should make sure that their contact information is up to date in the NFR-CRS, including their cell phone numbers, capable of receiving text messages, if that is the preferred method for authentication. Standard messaging rates will apply. To update your cell phone information in the NFR-CRS, from the Welcome page, click on Your Account and scroll down to the Cell Phone field. Click Update Account once you have updated your cell phone number.

As always, please reach out to the National Center at info@ncfrp.org with any questions.

The National Center recommends Section I8 be completed for all deaths occurring after March 1, 2020

I8. COVID-19-RELATED DEATHS	
<p>a. For the 12 months before the child's death, did the family experience any disruptions or significant changes to the following? Check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None listed below</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daycare</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Employment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social services (like unemployment assistance, TANF, WIC)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Living environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medical care</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mental health or substance use/abuse care</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home-based services (non-child welfare)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child welfare services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Legal proceedings within criminal, civil, or family courts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U/K</p> <p>Describe:</p>	<p>c. Was the child exposed to COVID-19 within 14 days of death?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, describe:</p>
<p>b. For the 12 months before the child's death, did the child's family live in an area with an official stay at home order?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, was the stay at home order in place at the time of the child's death? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p>	<p>d. Select the one option that best describes the impact of COVID-19 on this child's death:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> COVID-19 was the immediate or underlying cause of death</p> <p><input type="radio"/> COVID-19 was diagnosed at autopsy or child was suspected to have COVID-19</p> <p><input type="radio"/> COVID-19 indirectly contributed to the death but was not the immediate or underlying cause of death</p> <p><input type="radio"/> The birthing parent contracted COVID-19 during pregnancy</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other, specify:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> COVID-19 had no impact on this child's death</p> <p><input type="radio"/> U/K</p>
	<p>e. Did COVID-19 impact the team's ability to conduct this fatality review?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to obtain records</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Team members unable to attend review</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remote reviews negatively impacted review process</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Team leaders redirected to COVID-19 response</p>
	<p>f. Did the child have medical evidence of a significant inflammatory syndrome (including for example, fever, laboratory evidence of inflammation, and involvement of two or more organs) requiring hospitalization in the week before death?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p> <p>If yes, was the child diagnosed with MIS-C? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> U/K</p>

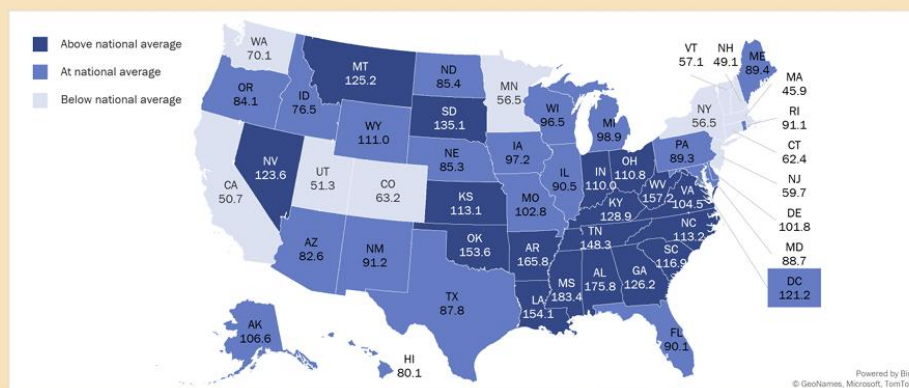
Section I8, *COVID-Related Deaths*, was added to the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) last year to capture data about all deaths that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The questions seek to identify barriers that were experienced and how systems changed. Revisiting completed cases is a shift in practice. However, given the importance of this information and how fatality review is uniquely situated to identify systems gaps and barriers, we encourage all fatality review teams to revisit deaths occurring after March 1, 2020, and update Section I8 NFR-CRS data.

For support completing this section, refer to the National Center's ***Introduction & Supplemental Guidance for Section I8: COVID-19 Related Deaths***: <https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/Supplemental-Guidance-on-Reviewing-Deaths-During-COVID-19.pdf>.

Resources for Prevention

Child Safety Data Maps Inform Child Safety Efforts

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Rates Among Infants Aged <1, 2016-2019. State Rate Comparison to National Rate - 90.8 per 100,000 Population



Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Multiple Cause of Death, 2016-2019

The Child Safety Learning Collaborative hosted by Children's Safety Network addresses the leading causes of child and adolescent injuries, fatalities, and hospitalizations for youth ages 0-19. Children's Safety Data Maps (URL: <https://bit.ly/3KcWXja>) have recently been released focused on:

- Bullying Victimization: <https://bit.ly/3I02Kqw>
- Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths: <https://bit.ly/3zVhe8l>
- Unintentional Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities: <https://bit.ly/3nnSzEi>
- Adolescent Suicide Deaths: <https://bit.ly/3GuBP5P>
- Unintentional Poisoning Fatalities: <https://bit.ly/3KbZOc6>

These maps allow states to see the burden of these challenges at home and in comparison to state and national averages. Understanding these data can inform program and prevention planning.

New and Departing Coordinators



WELCOME

- Maire Stocking, Marion County, IN FIMR
- Kristen Gwaltney, Maryland CDR
- Tiffany Davis, MCH Director, Healthy Start/FIMR, Marion County, IN
- Maricor Wall, Palm Beach, FL FIM
- Lakeshia Montgomery, Southern New Jersey FIMR
- Jan Rogers, Louisville, KY FIMR
- Janelle Carter, Shawnee County, KS FIMR
- Tana-Kae Lewis, Region I Perinatal Coordinator, AL
- Amy Stephens, Region I Perinatal Abstractor, AL
- Katrina Cuffey, Infant Mortality Prevention Coordinator, AL
- Sam Ray, Powell County, MT FICMMR
- Erin Cross, Carbon County, MT FICMMR
- Sherri Marriage, Sheridan County, MT FICMMR

FAREWELL

- Sara Lewis, Maryland CDR Coordinator
- Rosi Trichilo, Statewide Surveillance Manager, LA
- Trevor Hobson, Davidson County, TN FIMR
- Teresa Fisher, Shawnee County, KS FIMR
- Rachael Frazier, Knox County, TN FIMR

Staff Not-so-Out and About



The National Center staff is committed to meeting the consultation, training, and technical assistance needs of FIMR and CDR teams. Working with programs is the best part of our job! Some recent highlights of the National Center's technical support and engagement include:

- Rosemary presented on FIMR for the St. Clair County, IL (Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation) virtual FIMR Kick-Off meeting and orientation for their first case review team meeting on October 7, 2021.
- Susanna Joy and Abby Collier presented on Facing Secondary Traumatic Stress in Fatality Review to the Maine child fatality review program on December 3, 2021.
- Abby provided an overview and introduction to CDR for partners in the U.S. Virgin Islands on December 13, 2021.

If you have a training need, the National Center will be happy to connect with you to find a creative solution and provide technical assistance or training to your program. Reach out to us at info@ncfrp.org!

National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention
2395 Jolly Road, Suite 120 Okemos, MI, 48864
1-800-656-2434

The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement numbers UG7MC28482 and UG7MC31831 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling

\$1,099,997 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.
