



Child Fatality Review in Snohomish County

Child Fatality Review (CFR)

A formal, comprehensive, multidisciplinary review of a child's death to:

- Understand how & why children die
- Identify risk factors
- Identify strategies to prevent children's deaths

More than just data collection

“My experience on CDR has been both eye-opening and heartbreaking. However, I believe these conversations are crucial to understand the risks our children are exposed to in order to strengthen protective factors. Engaging members from various agencies allows for unique perspectives and enhances (or initiates) valuable partnerships within the community. I am proud to be a part of this team and look forward to the meetings!”

**- Alyssa Campbell, CTSS, LSWAIC, Social Worker, The Center for Justice Social Work
formerly w/Everett School District**

CFR Objectives

- 1) Ensure the accurate identification and uniform, consistent reporting of the **cause and manner of every child death**.
- 2) Improve **communication and linkages** among local and state agencies and enhance coordination efforts.
- 3) Improve agency **responses in the investigation** of child deaths.
- 4) Improve agency response to **protect siblings and other children** in the homes of deceased children.
- 5) Improve **delivery of services** to children, families, providers, and community members.
- 6) Identify **specific barriers** and system issues involved in the deaths of children.
- 7) Identify significant **risk factors** and **trends** in child deaths.
- 8) Identify and advocate for needed changes in **legislation, policy, and practices** and expanded efforts in child health and safety to prevent child deaths.
- 9) Increase **public awareness** and advocacy for the issues that affect the health and safety of children.

Snohomish County Process

- Meet and review quarterly (approx)
- Review deaths of children <18 years old
 - Snohomish County residents & died in Snohomish County (some exceptions)
 - Review accidents, suicides, homicides, and undetermined. Do not review natural causes.
 - Review by manner groupings (accidents, suicides, homicides, SUID)
 - **Exception:** Suicide and OD reviews may include 18 y/o (Sub.HB 1074)
- Team members bring pertinent information to review to share and discuss (e.g., CPS, schools, LE, court)
- Data collected is entered into the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP) database (after the meeting)

RCW 70.05.170

Child Mortality Review

(2) As used in this section, "child mortality review" means a process authorized by a local health department as such department is defined in RCW 70.05.010 for examining factors that contribute to deaths of children less than eighteen years of age. The process may include a systematic review of medical, clinical, and hospital records; home interviews of parents and caretakers of children who have died; analysis of individual case information; and review of this information by a team of professionals in order to identify modifiable medical, socioeconomic, public health, behavioral, administrative, educational, and environmental factors associated with each death.

CFR is UNIQUE!

- It is an **engaged, multidisciplinary community, telling a child's story, one child at a time**, to understand the causal pathway that leads to a child's death, to identify pre-existing vulnerabilities and circumstances and to identify how to interrupt the pathway for other children
- It generates a **broad spectrum of data** for an ecological understanding of the individual, community, and societal factors that interact at different levels to influence future child health and safety
- It **generates action** to improve systems and prevent deaths.

Reviews Help Identify Modifiable Risk Factors

Infant Death (SUID)

Unsafe sleep

Family stress

Lack of
maternal
supports

Tobacco
exposure

**Inadequate
prenatal care**

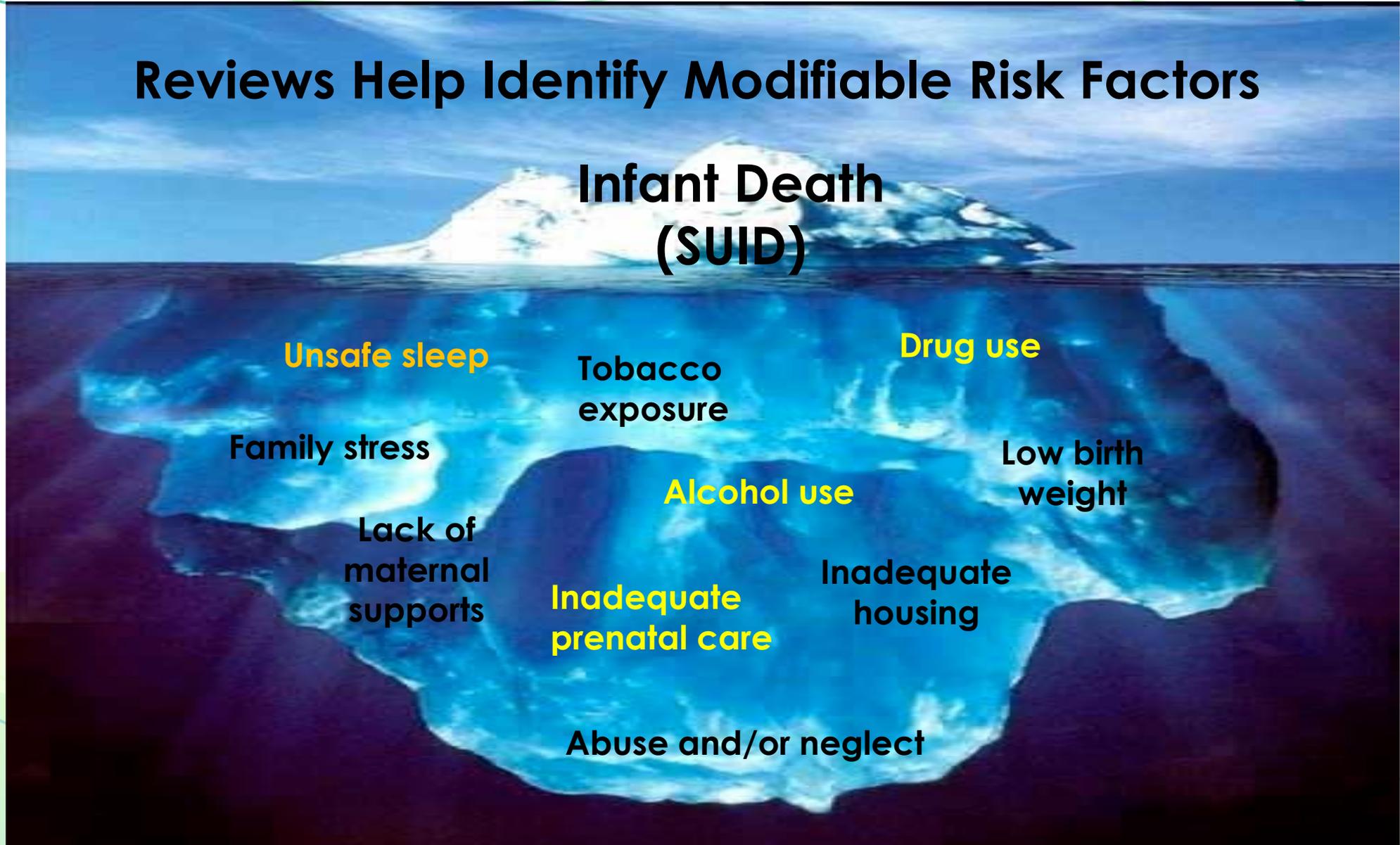
Abuse and/or neglect

Drug use

Low birth
weight

Alcohol use

Inadequate
housing



CFR data has wide-reaching impact

- AAP safe sleep recommendations (last updated in 2022)
- Eliminating crib bumper and incline sleeper sales in the United States (Safe Sleep for Babies Act, 2022)
- WA state policy requiring childcare providers to be educated about safe sleep practices - The Safe Sleep WAC ([WAC 170-300-0291](#))
- WA state intermediate driver's licensing law (for new drivers <18)

CFR data has wide-reaching impact

- Adopted and updated youth suicide scene protocols for SnoCo and King Co Medical Examiners
- Developed a safe suicide media reporting training in partnership with VOA
- Implemented LockItUp safe gun storage initiative with the City of Everett, and promoted at health and community fairs (will be expanding soon!)
- Cribs for Kids partner with Safe Kids Snohomish County and the Northwest Infant Survival and SIDS Alliance
- Developed the Snohomish County Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force

Our Team 2024

- The Center for Justice Social Work
- Naval Station Everett – Counseling and Advocacy Services
- Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse
- Providence Hospital Trauma Program
- Seattle Children’s Hospital
- Everett School District
- WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Lynnwood Police
- Lakewood School District
- Snohomish County Medical Examiner
- Monroe School District
- CPS/DCYFS
- Mukilteo School District
- Mukilteo Police
- Dawson Place
- Volunteers of America Behavioral Health (988)
- South County Fire & EMS
- Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office
- Snohomish County Health Dept.
 - Epidemiologist, Behavioral Health Specialist, Home visiting nurse

“What I enjoy about CFR is hearing the thoughts of people from other departments in the county. It’s so interesting to hear what people outside of law enforcement have identified as a contributing factor to the child’s death and how we can change those factors for future at-risk youth. I’ve learned about programs other departments are running that I never knew about and have gained connections I can utilize in other parts of my work. CFR talks about heavy topics, but the team remains so optimistic and thoughtful. I find the CFR to be a setting where I get to experience some professional growth that challenges me, even if it’s just in a small way.”

- Detective Arnett, Lynnwood WA Police Department

“I am a school psychologist and have served on CFR for the past 6 years. It has provided invaluable collaboration between public schools and outside agencies to work together to determine the best recommendations to help future students and avoid similar deaths in the future. Losing a student in any manner is a tragedy but the important work the SCCFR does turns such a devastating loss into meaningful advocacy for future students.”

**- JoAnna Rockwood, NCSP, NBCT, Ed.S, MA Ed, School Psychologist, Lakewood High School,
formerly with Edmonds SD**



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[**www.ncfrp.org**](http://www.ncfrp.org)

**The National Center
for Fatality Review
and Prevention**



Questions?

PUBLIC HEALTH
always working for a safer & healthier
SNOHOMISH COUNTY