

# Kentucky Child Fatality Review

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## Newsletter

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Special thanks to Mary Basham from the Breckinridge County LHD for their picture of the Pinwheel Garden for Prevent Child Abuse Month seen in the background of this newsletter.



### April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

This month and throughout the year, the Department for Public Health and the State Child Fatality Team encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in shaping Kentucky to become a safer state for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children's social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities.

Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families are promoted. The six protective factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional developmental well-being

April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children. Everyone's participation is critical. Focusing on strategies to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best approach our community can take to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.

In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy – Strengthening Families, have created *Making Meaningful Connections 2014 Resource Guide*. The guide, designed for service providers who work throughout the community to strengthen families, is available on Information Gateway's website:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/resource-guide/>.



### ★ LOCAL CFR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS ★

Clay Co. CFR recognized a need in their county after a review regarding a death from a traffic accident. The team then reviewed safety programs and materials with school officials that were disseminated to students. The team also recognized a safety hazard in their county, called and reported this to the appropriate state agency for correction.

In Boyle Co. the team voted to write a letter to the local newspaper in response to unsafe sleep related deaths. The team included the AAP recommendations for safe sleep in their letter.

## Fire Summit

On March 20th, 2014 the State Fire Marshal's office held a summit with fire departments, family services, community stakeholders, KIPRC and other agencies. The Summit's focus was to look at trends and discuss prevention, emphasizing that local health departments, family service agencies and faith based organizations should partner with the local fire departments for injury prevention. Fires predominately occur in families who are economically depressed and it is important for communities to know the target audience and be prepared to educate those at risk. Although giving out smoke detectors is a great program this is not the only solution. Parents along with children need to be taught the basics of fire safety. Please contact your local fire department if you wish to become a partner with them on fire safety. Special thanks to Richard Peddicord, Asst. Director, State Fire Marshal's Office for sharing this information.

## Water Safety

Every year in Kentucky we see children from all ages become victims of drownings, an unintentional but preventable death.

The majority of drowning deaths among Kentucky children take place at non-public pools. From 2009-2011, 80% of childhood pool drownings in Kentucky occurred at the child's residence or at some other residence. Over half (52%) of all childhood drowning deaths in Kentucky occurred among children 1-4 years of age. Documentation shows that the toddler was unattended in 38% of these drowning deaths. Children at this age must be constantly supervised around any water, even bathtubs. In Kentucky and the nation, drowning is responsible for more deaths among children 1-4 than any other cause except congenital anomalies (birth defects).

Among teens, drowning in natural water (rivers, lakes, ponds) is the major source of drowning. The ability to swim and always wearing a life jacket while on a boat or around water if unable to swim would prevent most teen drownings. The CDC cites lack of supervision, lack of safety barriers, and inability of a child to swim as contributing factors to drowning deaths. As expected, the majority of childhood drowning deaths occur during the summer months (May, June, July, and August).

Prevention initiatives should start before the peak season for swimming, boating, and other water-related activities.

Here are some useful sites for information and printable handouts:

<http://www.childrensafetynetwork.org/injurytopics/drowning-prevention>

<http://www.safekids.org/watersafety>

<http://www.cdc.gov/safechild/Drowning/index.html>



## Video Gallery

Watch real-life stories from prevention programs across the nation. Visit the National Child Abuse Prevention video gallery, and share with your friends, family, coworkers, and community.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/prevention/preventionmonth/video-gallery/>

**Please send suggestions or articles that you would like to see included in the newsletter. We welcome the chance to highlight your activities, overviews of your program, local team achievements, projects that have come from local reviews, etc.**

**Send to: Sherry Rock**

**CFR Coordinator**

**Department for Public Health**

**275 East Main Street, HS2W-A**

**Frankfort, KY 40621**

**(502)564-2154 ext# 4413**

**Or email to: [Sherry.Rock@ky.gov](mailto:Sherry.Rock@ky.gov)**