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2013 GEORGIA CHILD FATALITY REPORT

The Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel released its 2013 report on January 15, 2015 Child Fatality Review Committees throughout the state work to promote more accurate identification and reporting of child fatalities to determine the circumstances of child abuse and child fatalities, to report accurate statistics regarding child fatalities, and to suggest prevention strategies for the leading causes of child fatalities in Georgia. This document reflects the compilation of this information and can be used to guide prevention efforts to reduce child mortality throughout the state.

In 2013, a total of 540 child deaths were deemed reviewable in Georgia. Sleep-related deaths are still the leading cause of death for infants younger than one-year-old, caused by unsafe sleep environments where infants typically die as a result of suffocation/ asphyxia. Of all reviewed deaths, 83.2% were determined preventable.

Other key findings that have significant implications for future preventative actions include Georgia’s infant mortality rate (IMR), sleep-related deaths, ethnic disparities in deaths, and deaths reviewed preventable. The IMR in Georgia continues to be higher than the national rate, and the rate for African-Americans is higher than the racial/ state rate. Additionally, African-American children have higher incidence of deaths compared to other ethnic groups. Prevention programs such as home-visiting and educational campaigns aimed at parents and family service providers to inform and reinforce evidence-based material such as safe infant sleeping habits should be more widely available.


PCA Georgia actively participates in the Child Fatality Review and the Child Death, Near Fatality, and Serious Injury Review committee as a voice for prevention to identify opportunities for implementation.

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ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE GEORGIA

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PCA Georgia), which is housed under Georgia State University’s Center for Healthy Development, is the Georgia chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. PCA Georgia works statewide to promote healthy children and to develop strong families through 17 local councils. The organization aims to prevent child abuse by building a statewide prevention network, disseminate research, increase public awareness, encourage prevention programs, and participate in advocacy activities. PCA Georgia also maintains the 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline - open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1-800-CHILDREN is a referral line for Georgians concerned about the healthy development of
children and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Parents, families, professionals, or anyone else who seeks child abuse prevention resources can call the Helpline and speak with a knowledgeable information and referral specialist. To learn more about Prevent Child Abuse Georgia please visit preventchildabusega.org.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, aims to ensure the healthy development of children throughout the United States. The organization works to promote that vision through chapters in 50 states and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visiting sites in 39 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Commonwealth of the Marianas, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and Canada. One major focus of the organization is to promote evidence-based practices to prevent abuse and neglect from occurring while advocating for the existence of a national policy framework for children and families.