



Maryland State Child Fatality Review Report

From the desk of the Chairperson

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**MD CFR is on the
Web at:**

www.fha.state.md.us/mc/h/html/cfr

**Center for Infant &
Child Loss**

www.infantandchildloss.org

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2004 State Team Annual Report Available

In 2004, a total of 334 child deaths (ages one to 18) were reviewed in Maryland. Review teams in twenty-one of 24 jurisdictions convened for reviews. However, Dorchester, Garrett & St. Mary's counties have identified team members & are poised to respond.

Eighty-two review team meetings were held, with most teams meeting 3-4 times per year. Notable exceptions were some of the larger jurisdictions: Baltimore City met 8 times for 95 reviews, Baltimore County met

7 times for 41 reviews & Montgomery County met 10 times for 27 reviews.

The State Team is already implementing some local recommendations. Local teams are encouraged to review Issues for Statewide Consideration (p155) & network with counties sharing your issues. Also, take advantage of the Resource List (p153) which can be a great tool for review team & public education. In many cases we can make a difference by linking with existing resources!

Storm Water Ponds Pose Hazard for Children

An Eastern Shore church wanting to pave their parking lot discovered "stormwater management" guidelines would require a retention pond on their city property creating safety risks. They used gravel instead.

In Howard County, which has strict safety provisions for above ground pools, developers have been prevented from erecting fencing around storm water retention ponds.

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics &

others are actively seeking a change in these policies because they know that almost 95% of toddlers who drown die when they walk to the edge of a pool or pond & fall in (www.aap.org).

The National SAFEKIDS Campaign's report: Clear Danger, A National Study of Childhood Drowning-2004 may prove a valuable resource for advocacy action in your community. (www.safekids.org or 202-662-0600).

DHMH Center for Maternal & Child Health Child Death Report 2004 Included in SCFRT Report

Due to data collection & verification practices, death data in our annual reports is always one year behind review data. Hence, the 2004 report reflects 2003 data & trends. In 2003, there were 944 deaths of infants & children under the age of 18 years; 610 were infant & neonatal. Of 334 deaths 1-17 years: 208 (62%) were male & 126 (38%) female; 165 (49%) were African-American & 159 (48%) were white.

Injuries are the leading cause of death in children aged 1-17 years, followed by homicide, malignant neoplasms, cardiovascular diseases, congenital malformations & suicides. Child death rates have been declining in Maryland & the US in the past decade, however those who participate in reviews know that many fatalities are preventable.