

# 2019-2021 Child Death Review: Report Summary



The mission of the Louisiana Child Death Review is to understand how and why children die unexpectedly in Louisiana in order to prevent as many future injuries and deaths as possible.



## THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

From 2019-2021, 1,968 children died, representing a yearly average of 656 infant and child deaths. During this time period, **Louisiana ranked in the top ten states with the highest mortality rates for infants and children** in almost all age groups.

**More than one third of all infant and child deaths in Louisiana are due to injury and are preventable.**

## LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH, BIRTH TO AGE ONE



Perinatal Conditions



Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)



Congenital Anomalies

## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, AGES 1-14 YEARS



Motor Vehicle Crash



Homicide



Drowning

## RACIAL DISPARITIES

**In Louisiana, Black children and Black infants are more than twice as likely to die as their white counterparts.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends pediatric providers assess patients for stressors and social determinants of health often associated with racism (eg, neighborhood safety, poverty, housing inequity) and connect families to resources.

AAP also encourages pediatric serving organizations to conduct internal quality-assurance assessments that include analysis of quality of care and patient satisfaction by race to initiate improvement protocols needed to improve health outcomes and community trust.

## QUICK FACTS

**667**

Infants and children died due to injury between 2019-2021

**450**

Infants died before their first birthday between 2019-2021

**117**

Yearly average of infant deaths due to injury before their first birthday

**3rd**

Louisiana's ranking in overall child mortality in the United States

**67**

Fewer Child Deaths from 2019-2021 if Louisiana had the same child mortality rates as the rest of the country

*Learn more in the [2019-2021 Child Death Review](#).*

# 2019-2021 Child Death Review: Report Summary Prevention Through the Life Span



## **PREVENTING CHILD DEATHS IN LOUISIANA**

### NEONATAL: BIRTH TO 27 DAYS

#### Improve Maternal Health

High stress, inadequate healthcare during pregnancy, and unmanaged chronic diseases like high blood pressure or diabetes can negatively affect maternal health, which in turn leads to higher rates of poor birth outcomes.

**Access to healthcare care before and during pregnancy** allows for time to assess risk factors in mom's health and to improve birth outcomes for baby.

### POSTNEONATAL: 28 DAYS TO 364 DAYS

#### Practice Safe Sleep

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is considered largely preventable by reducing risk factors such as sleeping with others, sleeping in areas or products not meant for prolonged sleep, or with loose toys and bedding and by increasing protective factors such as consistently following safe sleep practices, breastfeeding, regular well-baby check-ups, and keeping infants up to date on immunizations.

**Babies should sleep Alone, on their Back, and in a Crib.**

Learn more at [GiveYourBabySpace.org](https://www.giveyourbabyspace.org).



### CHILDREN AGES 1-14 YEARS

#### Secure Firearms Safely

Homicides are the top cause of child death in Louisiana. 63% of child homicides were from firearms. Firearms also accounted for 50% of suicide deaths in children ages 1-14.

**Secure firearms safely, including locking up firearms and storing ammunition separately, can save lives.** Secure firearm storage resources can be found at [BeSMART for Kids](https://www.beSMARTforKids.org).

#### Practice Motor Vehicle Safety

For the majority of child deaths due to motor vehicle crashes, child restraints were not used.

**Children should be properly restrained in the right type of car seat for their size and age.** [Car seat distribution programs](https://www.safercarseats.org) can increase the availability of free or low-cost seats for families in need.



#### Learn and Teach Water Safety

Lack of supervision, inability to swim, and barriers to water were key risk factors in most drowning deaths of children.

**Parents, pool owners, and providers should encourage active supervision of children near water at all times,** installation of fences and barriers around pools, as well as swim lessons for adults and children. Learn more at [PoolSafely.gov](https://www.poolsafely.gov).



Learn more in the  
[2019-2021 Child Death Review](#).