

# The Marion County Child Fatality Review Team

Roberta A . Hibbard, MD

Professor of Pediatrics

Indiana University School of Medicine



WISHARD HEALTH SERVICES



# Marion County CFRT

- established in 1994 to review the deaths of Marion County children 13 years old and younger who die in Marion County. A multidisciplinary team of professionals from public health, law enforcement, and child protection, along with prosecutors, physicians, coroner, and forensic pathologists review every child death that meets one of the following criteria:
  - Homicide
  - Suicide
  - Accident
  - Undetermined cause
  - Possible SIDS
  - Questions based on death certificate review.

# The major goals of the team are

- To describe trends and patterns of child deaths in Marion County, Indiana.
- To identify and investigate the prevalence of risks and potential risk factors in the population of deceased children.
- To evaluate the service and system responses to children and families and offer recommendations for improvement in those responses.
- To characterize high risk groups in terms that are compatible with the development of public policy.

# Marion County Child Fatality Review Team Statistics 2001 - 2005

<b>MCCFRT</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
# of deaths	140	158	169	180	168
# reviewed	44	35	40	42	45
<b>Total asphyxia</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>
NS	9	8	4	2	1
Mech/Pos	2	1	0	0	0
Mech/Pos with hx of co-sleeping	2	3	5	16	8
Overlay	2	3	3	0	3
Smoth/Strng.	5	3	0	0	2
<b>SIDS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

# Marion County Child Fatality Review Team Statistics 2001 - 2005

MCCFRT	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Associated with unsafe sleeping</b>					
Total	7	16	13	19	14
No crib	7	0	4	10	2
Crib defect	0	0	0	0	0
Child sleeping on sofa, bed, chair with someone else	1	12	9	16	9
Child sleeping on sofa, adult bed, chair, etc by themselves	Not recorded in 2001	1	3	3	2
Child in unsafe crib, toys, blankets, etc	Not recorded in 2001	3	0	1	4
<b>Attributable to Unsafe Sleeping Arrangements (SIDS not included)</b>					
<b>Total</b>	2	13	10	13	9
No crib	2	0	3	7	2
Crib defect	0	0	0	0	0
Child on sofa, adult bed, chair <b>with adult</b>	2	11	8	11	8
Child on sofa, adult bed, chair <b>alone</b>	Not recorded in 2001	0	2	1	1
Child in unsafe crib, toys, blankets, etc	Not recorded in 2001	2	1	0	0

# Difficulties

- Preconceived notions
- Death scene investigations
- Autopsy interpretation
- Changing definitions
- Consistency