

What you can do to prevent child deaths in Arizona

In 2012, 854 children under the age of 18 died in Arizona. The responsibility to protect Arizona's children belongs to everyone. It is with the dedication of parents, friends, neighbors, schools, health care providers and communities that reducing the number of child deaths in our state is becoming a reality. One child at a time. Make it your responsibility and take action!

► 121 child deaths involved drugs/alcohol

Keep medication in a safe place, out of reach and locked up. ► Learn the signs of drug and alcohol use. ► Only leave children in the care of responsible adults. ► Children using drugs or alcohol need intervention immediately.

► 88 children died while in transit

Buckle up! When adults use a seat belt, 87% of children do too. ► Arizona law now requires children ages 5-8 to be restrained in a booster seat. ► Never drink and drive.

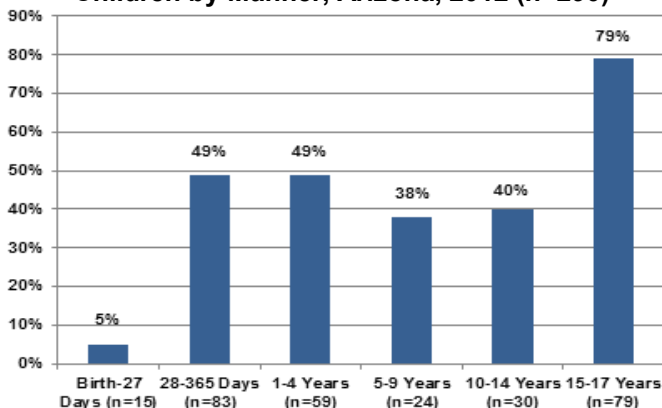
► 51 babies died in unsafe sleep environments

Always place a baby to sleep on its back and never let a baby sleep in the same bed as adults or other children. ► Keep all soft objects out of a baby's crib, including toys and crib bumpers. ► Breastfeed your baby until he/she is at least 6 months of age.

► 33 children took their own lives

Treat all suicide threats as if they are real. ► Learn mental health first aid. ► Educate the community on the signs of suicidal ideation. ► Stop bullying and cyber-bullying. ► Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255.

Percentage of Preventable Deaths Among Children by Manner, Arizona, 2012 (n=290)



► 192 children died as a result of prematurity

Obtain prenatal care as soon as you find out you are pregnant. ► Don't ever use drugs, alcohol or smoke during pregnancy. ► Never elect to have your baby born before 39 weeks gestation unless there is a medical reason to do so.

► 43 children were victims of homicide

Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement or 911. ► Learn the signs and symptoms of mental illness, including depression. Especially during times of crisis for families, such as economic or family disruption due to divorce or separation.

► 36 children died by drowning

Obtain proper 4-sided fencing for pools where children live or play. ► During celebrations where family and friends are gathered, assign at least one responsible adult to monitor the pool area. ► Do not rely on floaties or inner tubes and always use "touch supervision."

► 32 children died by firearms

Store firearms locked and unloaded, with ammunition locked separately. ► Firearms should be removed from homes where children, adolescents or caregivers have exhibited or are exhibiting signs or symptoms of substance abuse or mental illness. ► Ask friends, family, neighbors and caregivers how their guns are stored.

► 70 children died as a result of maltreatment

When a community member, family member, school or friend has suspicion that a child is being abused or neglected, report it to Child Protective Services at:

1-888-SOS-CHILD or 1-888-767-2445

Even when there are adequate protection services in place for children, it is the local community who knows their kids the best. It is these people who hold the responsibility of identifying children at risk and taking action!

Protecting Children is a Community Responsibility