

## Quick Facts

Over the past 20 years, alcohol-related fatal crash rates have decreased by 60 percent for drivers ages 16 to 17 years, according to a study from the CDC. However, this progress has stalled in the past few years. In 2006, 19% of drivers ages 16-20 who died in MV crashes had a BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) of .08 or greater.



[CDC Impaired Driving Facts:](#)  
[View Here](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Facts:](#)  
[View Here](#)

*The FBI estimates that 1,427,494 people were arrested in 2007 for driving under the influence. However, there were over 159 million people who self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving.*

[FBI 2007 Crime In the U.S. Report](#)

[Massachusetts Suicide Statistics](#)

**News Alert:**  
["Honor Suicide"](#)

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toll-free number:](#)  
1-800-273-TALK (273-8255).

[Massachusetts Injury Prevention and Control Panel](#)

## Winter 2009

*Greetings & Happy New Year! Moving forward into 2009 the Suffolk County Child Fatality Review Team will be stepping up its communication efforts. This will include case examples, upcoming case information and national Child Death Review updates. While the death of a child may not be the direct focus of your work, it is the goal of the Suffolk County CFRT to share information regarding preventable child deaths. We hope that by increasing the knowledge of child deaths, we can work together to prevent child fatalities in Massachusetts. Please share this information with others. Knowledge is Power! Learn about why kids die and what we can do to prevent it.*

### Case Example 1

*Cause of Death: Blunt Trauma, Passenger Motor Vehicle Accident  
Age at Death: Teenager*

*The review revealed the following:*

- *The operator was a teenage male*
- *Operator had BAC of .08, passenger had BAC of .1*
- *Operator had previous underage alcohol incidents*
- *Accident occurred at 1:30 am*
- *Operator was **not** licensed to drive vehicle*
- *Underage house party with Operator's parent asleep inside the home*

This case presented many classic risks tied to teenage drunk driving. Male drivers associated with motor vehicle crashes are almost twice as likely as female drivers to have a BAC of .08% or above. In 2006, 19% of drivers ages 16 to 20 who died in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking alcohol and the percentage of drivers with a BAC of .08 or above in fatal crashes was highest for motorcycle operators ([NHSTA](#)).

- For 2007 teenage motor vehicle fatality facts connect here: [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#)
- For statistics regarding [motorcycle fatalities](#)

### Case Example 2

*Cause of Death: Suicide  
Age at Death: Teenager*

*The review revealed the following:*

- *Child had previously attempted suicide*
- *Child had been hospitalized multiple times for suicidal ideation*
- *Child reported feeling unwanted and unloved by family*
- *Child expressed concern for safety at home*
- *Opportunities for safety planning may have been missed*
- *Child suffered from depression*
- *Child had recent disagreement with significant other*

The case revealed gaps in treatment coordination and questions about cultural competency among various agencies. This child also displayed many risk factors associated with suicide including: previous suicide attempts, mental health history and a stressful life event. Additional risk may have included the resolution of a personal dilemma ([Youth Suicide Risk Factors](#)).

- National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: [click here](#)

# Suffolk County Child Fatality Review Team Upcoming Cases & National News

## Quick Facts

In 2006, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) reported an estimated 1,530 child fatalities due to abuse or neglect.

Cocaine by-products can be found for 30 hours in the urine of the pregnant woman, and for 2 to 7 days in the newborn after the drug is used.

More than one in four fatal drowning victims are children 14 and younger. In 2005, males were four times more likely than females to die from unintentional drowning in the United States.

The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16- to 19-year-olds than among any other age group. (2005)

National MCH Center for  
Child Death Review:

<http://www.childdeathreview.org/>

National Center on  
Child Death Review:

<http://www.childdeathreview.com/>

Suffolk County CFRT Contact:

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MA State CFRT Contact:

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*In the upcoming months the Suffolk County CFRT will be reviewing the following types of deaths:*

- Child Abuse Syndrome
  - For information regarding child homicide statistics:  
[Bureau of Justice Statistics: Homicide Trends](#)
  - For Child Abuse fatality statistics visit:  
[Child Welfare Information](#)
- Maternal Substance Abuse (Cocaine)
  - For information related to cocaine use during pregnancy visit:  
[OTIS Pregnancy](#)
  - For general information regarding substance abuse and pregnancy:  
[March of Dimes](#)
- Drowning
  - For information related to water-injuries please visit:  
[CDC: Drowning](#)
- Motor Vehicle Homicide
  - For information regarding teen driving national statistics visit:  
[CDC: Teen Drivers Fact Sheet](#)

## National News

*For national news related to Child Fatality and Injury click on the links below:*

- Links related to Near Fatality/Serious Injury Review
  - National Center on Child Death Review [Fact Sheet](#)
- Learn what other state CFRTs are doing across the country [here](#)
- [Best Practices in Prevention-Oriented Child Death Review](#)
- ["The Who, Where and Why of Accidental Childhood Deaths"](#)
- ["How Kids Get Hurt: Experts Find Thousands of Childhood Deaths Preventable"](#)
- ["CDC Childhood Injury Report: Patterns of Unintentional Injuries among 0-19 Year olds in the United States, 2000 - 2006"](#)
- The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome launched a new website:
  - <http://www.dontshake.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Safe Child*
  - [Protect the Ones You Love](#)

The intended use of this newsletter is to promote education related to child fatalities. Please send this information to others. We cannot guarantee that all links will connect, nor do we endorse the content of the links. Child Fatality Review Teams work to understand the causes of and decrease the number of preventable child deaths. Teams look at the past with the hope of improving the future. Please email your feedback, suggestions or news updates to: [megan.pulvermacher@state.ma.us](mailto:megan.pulvermacher@state.ma.us) Thank You!