Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

Department of Family and Protective Services

March 26, 2015
Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

• Strategic Plan to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
  Department of State Health Services & Department of Family and Protective Services

• A Better Understanding of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities - FY2010 through FY2013 Analysis
  • Department of Family and Protective Services
Strategic Plan to Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

• Utilized in the development of prevention and early intervention programs, intervention strategies where abuse and neglect is suspected, and community initiatives to support child safety and healthy families

• Describes abuse and neglect deaths in Texas, 2010-2012.
• Analyzes community risk factors associated with abuse and neglect deaths.
• Analyzes early risk factors that are associated with families who experienced an abuse/neglect death.
Understanding the Impact of A/N Deaths in the Population

- Of the 723 abuse and neglect deaths between 2010-2012, 342 (53%) had *no* CPS involvement prior to death.

- 70% of A/N death are to children younger than 3 years old.

- 89.5% are to children younger than 7 years old.
Percent of Child Deaths* that Were Abuse/Neglect by Community, 2010-2012

Community Labels:
1. Abilene 33. Lamesa
2. Alice 34. Laredo
3. Amarillo 35. Levelland
4. Andrews 36. Longview
5. Athens 37. Lubbock
6. Austin-Round Rock 38. Lufkin
9. Beeville 41. Midland
10. Big Spring 42. Mineral Wells
11. Borger 43. Mount Pleasant
12. Brenham 44. Nacogdoches
13. Brownsville-Harlingen 45. Odessa
14. Brownwood 46. Palestine
15. College Station-Bryan 47. Pampa
17. Corsicana 49. Pecos
18. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington 50. Plainview
19. Del Rio 51. Port Lavaca
20. Dumas 52. Raymondville
22. El Campo 54. San Angelo
24. Fredericksburg 56. Sherman-Denison
25. Gainesville 57. Snyder
26. Hereford 58. Stephenville
27. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land 59. Sulphur Springs
28. Huntsville 60. Sweetwater
29. Jacksonville 61. Texarkana
30. Kerrville 62. Tyler
31. Killeen-Temple 63. Uvalde
32. Kingsville 64. Vernon
33. Kerrville 65. Victoria
34. Laredo 66. Waco
35. Levelland 67. Wichita Falls

Percent of Child Deaths* Due to Abuse/Neglect
- No abuse/neglect deaths
- 0.1% - 14.5% (at or below state average)
- 14.6% - 17.4%
- Above 17.4%
- Fewer than 40 total child deaths
- Rural areas (11.6%)

*Child deaths include all deaths to child (<18 yrs) with ICD10 Code R95-Z99 or with Homicide as manner of death
Source: DFPS-Death Certificate linked files
Prepared by: Office of Program Decision Support, Nov 2014
Risk Factors at Birth

Gray bars are non-significant effects
Red bars are significant increases in risk
Blue bars are significant decrease in risk
*No children is a decreased risk for some types of abuse, but it is an increased risk for physical abuse

Prepared by: Office of Program Desicion Support, Nov. 2014
Summary of Program Recommendations

1. Motor Vehicle-related Hyperthermia - Heat Exposure (Dallas, Fort Worth)
2. Motor Vehicle-Pedestrian Fatalities (Border Counties)
3. Sleep-related Fatalities
   • Highest number of fatalities (San Antonio-New Braunfels area)
   • Higher than expected (Beaumont/Port Arthur and Midland/Odessa)
4. Physical Abuse
DFPS Annual Report

- DFPS FY2010-FY2013 data analysis
  - descriptive analysis of victims, perpetrators, cause of fatality
  - current initiatives to address child fatalities & strengthen child safety
# Child Population and Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY2010</th>
<th>FY2011</th>
<th>FY2012</th>
<th>FY2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Population of Texas</td>
<td>6,865,824</td>
<td>6,952,177</td>
<td>6,996,352</td>
<td>7,121,499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Intakes Assigned for Investigation by CPS</td>
<td>231,532</td>
<td>222,541</td>
<td>206,200</td>
<td>194,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Investigated Child Fatalities</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of fatalities where abuse/neglect was confirmed</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Fatality Rate per 100,000 Children</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.32</td>
<td>3.03</td>
<td>2.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Rate for Equivalent Federal Fiscal Year</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.04</td>
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Percentage of Completed Child Fatality Investigations by Disposition per Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposition</th>
<th>FY2010</th>
<th>FY2011</th>
<th>FY2012</th>
<th>FY2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Closure</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unable to Complete</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Determine</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruled Out</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reason to Believe - Not Fatal</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason to Believe - Fatal*</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Cause of Confirmed Child Abuse or Neglect Fatality by Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Cause of Fatality</th>
<th>FY2010</th>
<th>FY2011</th>
<th>FY2012</th>
<th>FY2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse - Blunt Force Trauma &amp; Intentional Homicide</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle related</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsafe sleep</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglectful Supervision</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>
Comparison of Intentional Physical Abuse and Neglect Fatalities by Fiscal Year

Number of Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

- Physical Abuse to Child
- Neglect to Child

FY2010: 93
FY2011: 102
FY2012: 90
FY2013: 64

Note: The graph shows a decline in the number of confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities over the fiscal years from FY2010 to FY2013.
Profile of Victims and Perpetrators

**Victim Profile**
- Male – 55%+
- 3 and younger – 80%
- Hispanic

**Perpetrator Profile**
- Parents are the most common perpetrators
- Blunt force trauma inflicted by a father or boyfriend.
- More than 50% had no history with CPS.
  - Open CPS case: most fatalities were unintentional acts involving inadequate supervision.
  - Prior CPS history: most fatalities were the result of intentional acts such as physical abuse.
## Addressing Child Fatalities

### DFPS Transformation
- Streamlining Policy Risk and Safety Assessments
- Utilizing Predictive Analytics
- Improving Case Transfer

### Prevention and Early Intervention
- Office of Child Safety – Public Website Information
- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Project HOPES
- Project HIP

### Collaboration
- DSHS Strategic Plan
- Casey Family Programs - Child Safety Forums
- CECANF / Protect Our Kids Commission