National Resources for Child Fatalities

Within Our Reach: The Final Report From the Commission To Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

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The Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities was established in 2013 by the Protect our Kids Act of 2012, and has since been providing information and resources to prevent child death and abuse, raising awareness, reviewing data about interventions, and recommending data-driven decisions to change current policies. Their website has many research articles available for the public. Meeting notes are also listed for deliberations of this established commission. Their site is a resource to learn about current events in child abuse and neglect dialogue in Congress.

Within Our Reach A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities

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The Within Our Reach report is “a national strategy to eliminate child abuse and neglect fatalities.” This report is the final report that this Commission will issue, and the Commission offers a strategic plan to decrease child fatalities. Their plan is to provide supports for families in need of assistance and to relieve the parents of the stress that influences child abuse and neglect. This resource offers guidance to CPS, police officers, and other professionals working with families at risk of child abuse and neglect. This final report from the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities presents the Commission’s findings and its recommendations to the White House and Congress for ending child maltreatment fatalities in the United States within the context of a new child welfare system for the 21st century.

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This resource is an informative piece explaining the issue of child abuse and neglect fatalities. Information provided in this issue include the groups of children that are vulnerable; information on the perpetrators of child abuse and neglect; and information on preventing this unnecessary outcome. This article wants to provide professionals and families with information that can help decrease the number of child abuse fatalities. National resources are provided with this issue which the reader can access for additional information on child fatalities and prevention efforts.

The National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths

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The National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths is dedicated to its mission of working collaboratively with all professionals to prevent future child deaths. Their website provides a comprehensive overview of data, programs, tools and resources devoted to the review and prevention of child deaths throughout the nation.
The National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR) was developed under the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). NCFR is an multidisciplinary organization dedicated to developing and promoting a nationwide system of child fatality review teams. Their mission is to improve the health, safety, and well-being of children and to reduce preventable child fatalities. Their website provides resources such as an online directory of professionals involved in fields regarding child fatalities.

The National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (NIFMR) is conducted by proactive communities that continually assess, monitor, and work to improve community services and resources for women, infants, and families. The NIFMR works to educate and spread awareness about national fetal and infant mortality. Their website provides resources such as workshop kits and multimedia presentations regarding fetal and infant mortality review.
In January 2016, the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare published a proposal known as the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. The purpose behind these challenges is to promote a society in which modern social issues such as the maltreatment and neglect of children will be targeted through effective action planning. The life of each and every child is precious, yet there are incidents where children lose their lives as a result of severe and fatal maltreatment. In order to combat this tragedy, social workers have been working together for centuries with other professionals to prevent the occurrences of these child fatalities. Some of their successful programs include organizing community events and public health education awareness workshops. The Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative include efforts to “ensure the healthy development of all youth, close the health gap, stop family violence, eradicate social isolation, end homelessness, promote smart decarceration, reduce the economic class gap, build financial capability for everyone, use technology for the social good, create social responses to a changing environment, achieve equal opportunity and justice, and advance long and productive lives” (Barth et al., 2016). Specific action plans and goals geared toward the fulfillment of the Grand Challenges are further outlined and described under the Action Steps and Goals section.
Child Maltreatment 2014

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Child Maltreatment 2014 is a report that was created by the Children’s Bureau which summarized maltreatment data from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCANDS). The goal for the Children’s Bureau is that the report will be an effective resource “for policymakers, child welfare practitioners, researchers, and other concerned citizens.” Child Maltreatment 2014 provides an informational review of the NCANDS and analysis of child fatalities from 2010-2014 based by state, type of maltreatment, demographics, ethnicity and other categories. It also provides prevention strategies for parents and caregivers.

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Cure Violence is a nationwide movement dedicated to reducing violence on a global scale through disease control and behavior change methods. In their model, violence is seen as a contagious disease which can be prevented. The mission statement of Cure Violence envisions a world without violence. Instead of automatically labeling someone in a negative view, Cure Violence is working toward changing a traditional perspective. They offer teaching, training, research, and assessment. By presenting violence as a “disease”, it can be treated, which in turn can prevent it from spreading.