

Child Fatality Review Team 2024 Key Findings

August 2025

The [Child Fatality Review Team](#) looks at the deaths of children in Vermont to understand why they happened. They study cases where a child's death was unexpected, unexplained, or could have been prevented. Their goal is to find problems in the system that might put children at risk, teach people how to keep kids safe, and suggest new laws, rules, or services to help prevent future deaths. In 2024, the Child Fatality Review Team reviewed 13 cases. Case review was used to develop public health findings and recommendations to save lives and help all families.

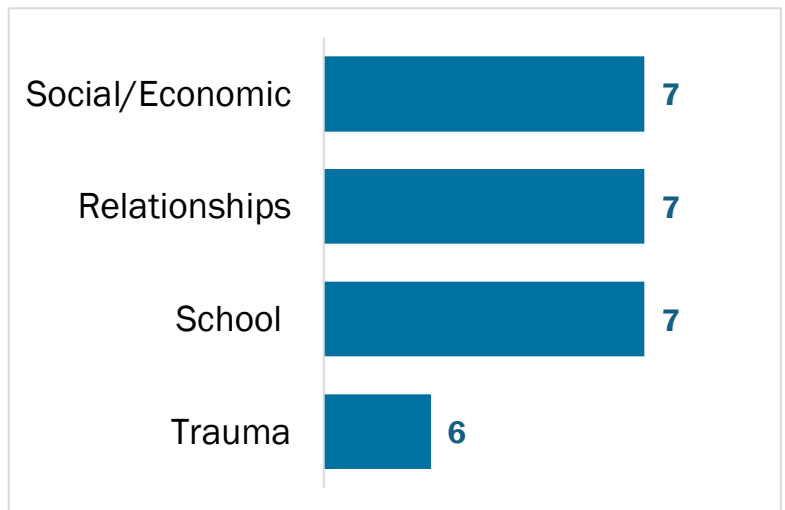
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Life Stressors Impact Health

- Children can be impacted by life stressors even when they are unaware of them. Life stressors have the potential to influence health and safety outcomes.
- Among the 13 cases reviewed in 2024, social and economic health impacts, relationships, and school stressors impacted most children.
- Nearly one-half of cases reviewed experienced trauma: a frightening, dangerous, or violent event that poses a threat to a child's life or wellbeing.
- Understanding the life stressors that affect children is key to developing recommendations that address the unique experiences and needs of Vermont children.

Life Stressors



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Social Connections



- Many of the cases that were reviewed showed that important support systems were missing.
- The Team recommends that young people have mentors in school and develop good health habits.
- The Team found that communities will benefit from creating programs and designating places where kids can support each other and build strong friendships.

Information Sharing Across Schools



- Among cases who transferred schools prior to their death, the Team found that important health and behavioral information was not shared with the new school.
- The Team recommends better communication between schools when students transfer. Better communication can help children who need ongoing social and emotional support.
- The team found that schools can make students' transitions easier by working together to communicate information allowed under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and talking with families about the benefits of sharing important details.

History of Exposure to Violence



- People who have experienced violence in their lives are more likely to face serious problems, including health issues and even death.
- About half of all cases reviewed, no matter the cause of death, were linked to domestic or sexual violence.
- The Team recommends that Vermont require training for all school and early childhood educators. This training would help them recognize and support children affected by domestic and sexual violence.