Emerging as a National Leader in Child Death Review

The project team developed a system to identify the risk factors and circumstances of child deaths in Wisconsin.

►Description: The Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin project team built a statewide multidisciplinary Child Death Review (CDR) tracking system, using case review and data collection to improve child health and safety and prevent child deaths. In addition to tracking, the project team worked with more than 30 counties to develop a coordinated child death review team.

►Relevance: First developed in 1978, CDR now has a large national presence due to various initiatives such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Healthy People 2020, which calls for a review of all deaths to children under age 18 due to external causes.

►Partnerships: A collaborative partnership among Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin, the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the state departments of Justice, Health Services and Children and Families created the foundation for the CDR system and local multidisciplinary teams to be successful.

►Results: Thirty-nine CDR teams were created or restructured to follow this prevention-based model during the grant period. County teams have improved the quality of their reviews and data collection. Local CDR teams report having a greater appreciation for how meaningful data can assist their communities in learning from these unfortunate tragedies and act as a catalyst for prevention. The Child Death Review system will be expanded through an implementation grant awarded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program in 2012.

Wisconsin has emerged as a national and international leader in a variety of aspects of child death review. In 2011, a fellow from the University of Edinburgh observed Wisconsin’s CDR program as part of a yearlong fellowship on CDR around the world. Webinars developed for Wisconsin’s local teams have been used by the National Center for Child Death Review. Project staff collaborated on an article published in Injury Prevention, and provided technical assistance to CDR programs in Arkansas, Florida, Iowa and Wyoming.

KEEPING KIDS ALIVE IN WISCONSIN

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