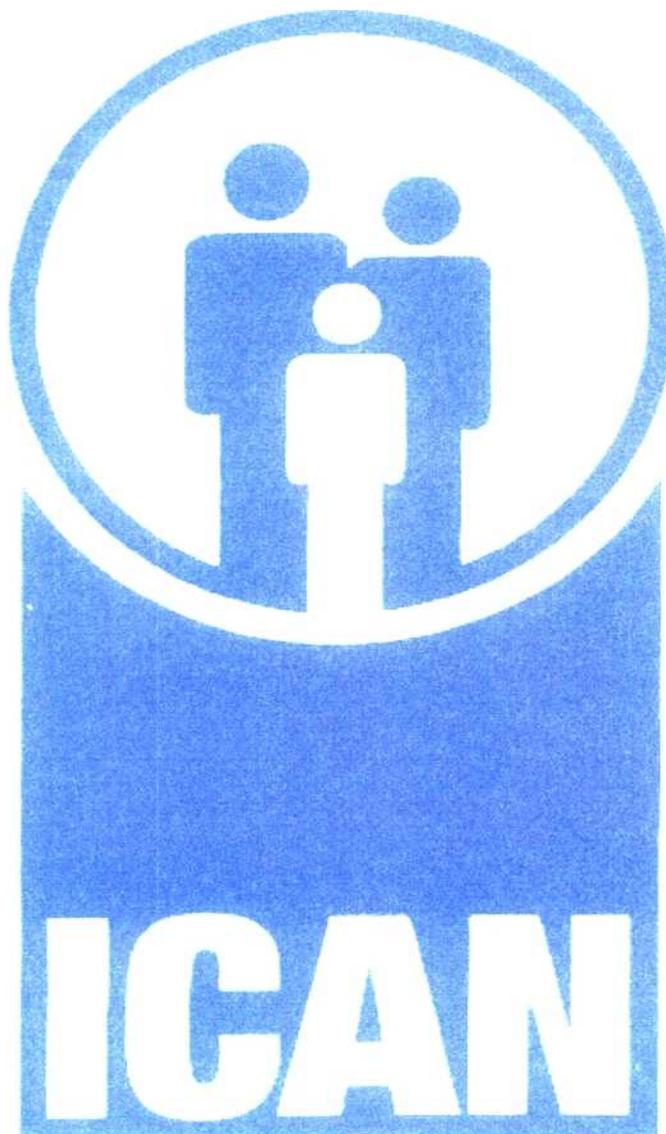


**INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT**

**CHILD DEATH REVIEW REPORT
2004**

Report Compiled from 2003 Data



FINDINGS

Homicides

- There were 35 child homicides by parents, caregivers or family members in 2003. This is a slight decrease over 2002, when 37 such child homicides were reported.
- 89% of the children killed by their parents, caregivers or family members were five years of age or younger. This is a slight increase over 2002, when 86% of the children were five years of age or younger.
- Four children were over age 5, including one seven-year old, one ten-year old and two 17-year olds.
- The average age of child homicide victim in 2003 was 2.51 years (30.06 months). The average age of child homicide victim in 2002 was 2.62 years (31.45 months).
- Sixteen female children and 19 male children were victims of homicide by parents, caregivers or family members in 2003.
- Ten children died from multiple trauma and seven from head trauma. These include children who were victims of battered child syndrome. Six children died from asphyxiation, and four children were victims of gunshot wounds.
- Seven newborns were abandoned and found deceased and/or killed by their mothers in 2003, a decrease from eight newborns in 2002. All of these deaths were coded homicide by the Coroner. Eight children were safely surrendered in 2003.
- Both Hispanic (n=18) and African American (n=7) children were over-represented in child homicides by parents, caregivers or family members. Five children were of Asian/Pacific Islander descent and three were Caucasian. Two abandoned newborns were of unknown descent.

Suicides

- Nineteen children and adolescents committed suicide in 2003. This remains unchanged from the 19 such suicides in 2002 but lower than the 15-year average of 26.3 suicides per year.

- As in years past, male victims outnumber female victims by a wide margin. Thirteen males and six females committed suicide in 2003.
- The leading method in 2003 was death due to gunshot, which was the leading method in 13 of the past 15 years. The second most common method was death due to hanging.
- 79% of the children who committed suicide in 2003 were age 15 - 17; four victims were under age 15, and the youngest victim was age 11. In comparison, in 2002, three victims were under age 15 and the youngest victim was age 13. The youngest victim reviewed by the Team was age 9 in 2001.
- Caucasian children (n=9) were over-represented in suicide deaths in 2003 while African American children (n=1) were under-represented. Six children who committed suicide were of Hispanic descent and three were of Asian/Pacific Islander descent.

Accidental Child Deaths

- There were 147 accidental deaths of children age 0 through 14 years in 2003. This is a significant increase (16%) over the 127 such deaths for this age group reported for 2002.
- After four years of autopedestrian accidents as the leading cause of accidental death for children 14 years of age and under, in 2003 it was death due to automobile accidents (n=47). These data represent both auto v auto and auto solo accidents. The second leading cause was maternal substance abuse (n=32) and autopedestrian accidents ranked third (n=25).
- ICAN began collecting data on children age 15 - 17 for calendar year 2002. With the inclusion of this older age group, there were 184 accidental deaths (children age 0 through 17) in 2003, and the leading cause of accidental death was automobile accidents (n=66).
- Deaths associated with maternal substance abuse accounted for 16 fetal deaths and 14 deaths of infants up to just under age 6 months. Cocaine is the drug associated with most of these deaths (n=21), followed by amphetamines (n=4).
- Accidental drowning claimed the lives of 21 children age 0 - 17 in 2003; these were primarily toddlers and young children who drowned in residential pools or spas. In addition, one child died in a bathtub, one child fell into water off a

Jet Ski, one older child died in a recreational dam area and one toddler each died in a toilet and a bucket of water.

- Since 1990 death by drowning remains the number one cause of accidental child deaths.
- Hispanic children were over-represented in autopedestrian deaths (n = 24), and automobile accidents (n= 21 auto v auto and n= 23 auto solo) and African American children were over-represented in deaths related to maternal substance abuse (n=18).
- In 2003, 120 male children and 62 females died due to accidental death, which is almost a 2:1 ratio. Two children were gender unknown; one child due to the severity of the charred remains of the body after an airplane crash, and the other a fetus found during autopsy to a mother killed in an automobile crash.

Child Death in Los Angeles County

Over the past 5 years, an average of 37.2 children each year have *been killed by a parent, caregiver or other family member.*

1999	44
2000	35
2001	35
2002	37
2003	35

Over the past 5 years, an average of 23 children and adolescents each year have *committed suicide.* The leading method in 1999, 2002 and 2003 was gunshot wounds; in 2000 and 2001, the leading method was hanging.

1999	27
2000	23
2001	27
2002	19
2003	19

Over the past 5 years, an average of 136.4 children age 14 and younger have died from preventable accidents. The most common accidental deaths involve automobile accidents, deaths due to maternal substance abuse, autopedestrian accidents and drowning.

1999	134
2000	137
2001	137
2002	127
2003	147

CHILD HOMICIDES BY
PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND OTHER
FAMILY MEMBERS

1990 - 2003

CASE SUMMARY #1
CHILD HOMICIDE BY PARENT/CAREGIVER/FAMILY MEMBER

Law enforcement responded to a call from the fire department requesting assistance with "a child not responding." When the fire department arrived, three-year old Cecilia was in the arms of her mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend told the responding officers that Cecilia had fallen over. She was observed to have bruises in various stages of healing over most of her body as well as a hardened stomach. Cecilia's mother, Ms. Sanchez, was also on the scene. She smelled of alcohol and appeared intoxicated. Ms. Sanchez indicated that three-year old Cecilia had fallen off a swing set and showed the officers the swing set as well as the trailer where she, Cecilia and her boyfriend lived. The officers found it strange that Cecilia's mother was showing them all the niceties of the trailer, while her daughter was gravely injured and being transported to the hospital by paramedics.

At the hospital, Ms. Sanchez's relatives arrived and began reporting that Ms. Sanchez was a "terrible mother" and that they were not surprised that Cecilia was injured in her care. They reported that Ms. Sanchez's five other children all resided in the care of others. Law enforcement took their statements as well as those of Ms. Sanchez and her boyfriend as to why Cecilia was not taken to the hospital after the falls they alleged occurred over the past week. Shortly after Cecilia was brought to the hospital, she was pronounced dead. The hospital physician documented multiple bruises to the face, torso and extremities that were in various stages of healing.

When law enforcement was informed that Cecilia had died, they dedicated themselves to obtaining justice for her. They went to the family's home to review the crime scene and interviewed all parties involved in the case. Upon questioning, Ms. Sanchez's boyfriend stated that Cecilia was rambunctious and that her bruises were from jumping off her bed and other furniture. Ms. Sanchez, with a cold, unusual affect, stated that Cecilia was injured when she fell off a swing.

According to the investigating officers, the turning point in the case came when they attended the autopsy. They indicated that what the medical examiner told them confirmed their beliefs that Cecilia had been abused. The autopsy revealed that Cecilia had multiple bruises all over her body. There was over a liter of blood in her abdomen and her stomach was ruptured. There was also transaction of the pancreas, multiple liver hemorrhages and mesenteric scarring. She suffered multiple rib fractures, one acute and others of older ages. Almost all of her ribs had been repetitively broken. Finally, she had a torn frenulum.

Both Ms. Sanchez and her boyfriend were arrested on suspicion of murder.

After their arrest, law enforcement conducted subsequent interviews with both Ms. Sanchez and her boyfriend. After about an hour and a half of lying, Cecilia's mother, Ms. Sanchez admitted that her boyfriend had told her he hit Cecilia in the stomach. Ms. Sanchez stated that she was at work at the time her boyfriend struck Cecilia. That night Cecilia became very ill, went into the bathroom and fell onto the floor. A neighbor later reported that she and her daughter observed Ms. Sanchez carrying Cecilia, draped in her arms, while she was walking down the street approximately two blocks from their home. Ms. Sanchez reported that Cecilia had been sick for the past three weeks, vomiting daily and complaining of rib pain. She walked with a limp. Unknown to Ms. Sanchez, her interview was being videotaped, and the investigating officer instructed her to demonstrate Cecilia's limp. This interview evidenced that Ms. Sanchez was aware that her boyfriend had inflicted disabling injuries on her child and that she failed to call the police or obtain medical treatment for Cecilia.

Following Ms. Sanchez's interview, her boyfriend was again interviewed, with a hidden videocamera taping. After initially lying, he broke down and admitted to striking Cecilia. He reported that he and Cecilia's mother had taped a penny against Cecilia's protruding belly button in an effort to push it in flush with her stomach. Cecilia kept taking the penny off, and he became angry. He hit her as hard as he could in her abdomen and she fell over. His demonstration of how he struck Cecilia was videotaped, as was his admission that he previously backhanded her on the side of her body.

Law enforcement reported that Cecilia had only begun living with her mother a month before her death. Prior to this time, Cecilia lived with her grandmother who became pregnant and returned Cecilia to Ms. Sanchez, stating that she could no longer care for her. Ms. Sanchez worked at a seedy bar and possibly provided sexual favors for money. Law enforcement surmised that Ms. Sanchez's boyfriend resented staying home and caring for Cecilia while Ms. Sanchez was at the bar and had taken his resentment out on Cecilia.

The District Attorney filed charges against Cecilia's mother, Ms. Sanchez, and Ms. Sanchez's boyfriend. Ms. Sanchez pled no contest to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to eleven years in prison and must serve at least 85% of this time. Ms. Sanchez's boyfriend pled guilty to assault of a child under age 8 leading to death, and was sentenced to 25 years to life.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) had six prior referrals for this family which occurred during 1999 to 2001. The first two referrals alleged general neglect and physical abuse and were determined as inconclusive. The next four referrals alleged general neglect, caretaker absence/incapacity or physical abuse. All four of these referrals were dispositioned as inconclusive. A referral was next made at the time of Cecilia's death and alleged physical abuse. This referral was substantiated.

CASE SUMMARY #2
CHILD HOMICIDE BY PARENT/CAREGIVER/FAMILY MEMBER
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

Twenty-two-month-old Simon had been residing with his mother under the supervision of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) when his mother notified law enforcement that Simon had been abducted, and an Amber Alert was issued. Simon's mother told authorities that his father had picked him up to go shopping for clothes, and never returned. The Amber Alert instructed law enforcement to be on the lookout for a Plymouth van with an out-of-state license plate. This van belonged to Simon's father who, reportedly, was estranged from Simon's mother. Sheriff Deputies, out on patrol, spotted a parked van meeting the Amber Alert description. After questioning the driver, the Deputies found a black duffel bag stuffed in the rear storage area of the van. A large object contained in several plastic bags was observed in the duffel bag. Deputies cut through the bags and found extremities of a small person believed to be the missing child, Simon. The duffel bag and body were removed from the van and transported to a Criminalist for examination. The decedent was unclothed and his hands and ankles were bound by packaging tape. The decedent was later confirmed to be 22-month old Simon.

Team review of this case revealed a disturbing history. Reportedly, Simon's older sibling, Efrain, would beat up Simon and once he tied him to a tetherball pole. Apparently, Efrain did not appear to understand that this behavior was problematic or wrong. It was further reported that Simon's mother did not believe that Simon was her child and the other children were encouraged to beat up on him. Simon was regularly abused and it was reported that his siblings used to pour chili peppers into his mouth.

The family had a long history with DCFS. There were numerous referrals to DCFS beginning eleven years prior to Simon's death. Prior allegations included physical abuse, child abandonment and domestic violence. In addition, there were incidents where the children would be chained to a chair, the mother was found bound with duct tape and a sibling was found wandering around a store. Many of these allegations were substantiated and the family had an open case with DCFS at the time of Simon's death. There was a Dependency Court order that the father not be allowed in the home without a third party monitor as a result of his prior abuse of the children. DCFS had an open case with this family for various siblings since 1993.

Prior to Simon's abduction, it was reported that one day around Easter, Simon was acting up and the father beat him, tied him to his car seat and made him eat disinfectant and/or Clorox. The father then wrapped Simon in a tight ski coat, placed a large stuffed monkey on top of him and tied him tightly to his car seat. As a result, Simon suffocated to death. The father discovered that Simon was

not breathing and tried to dispose of his body by placing it in boiling water in a large tamale pot on the stove. The father then took the body and wrapped it up in trash bags and placed it in a duffel bag.

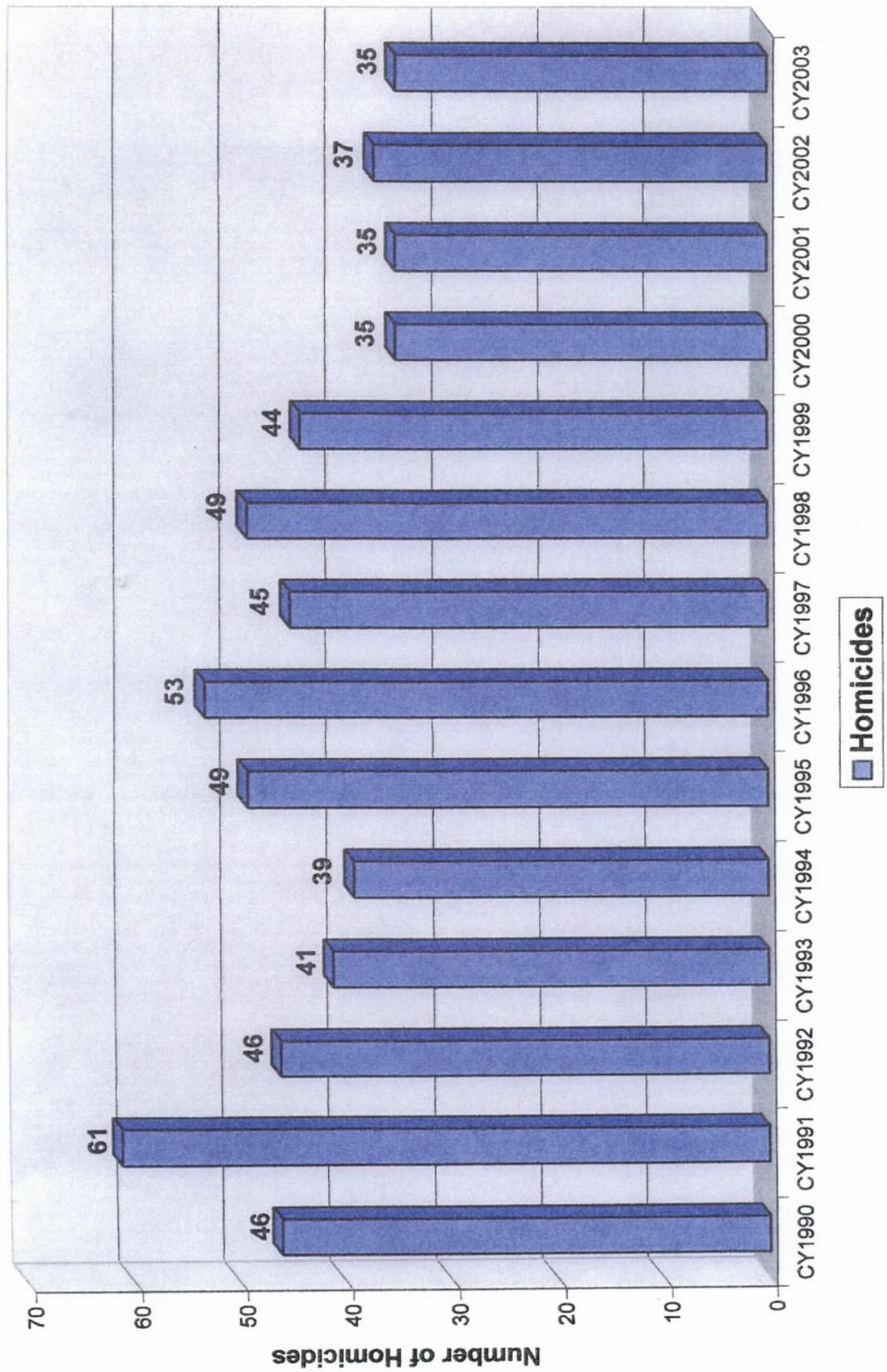
Law enforcement's investigation revealed that neighbors had heard screams in the middle of the night and that one woman told her boyfriend that they should call law enforcement but the boyfriend said that they should not get involved. This information demonstrated the fact that Simon's mother was aware that Simon was being abused. Also, Simon's mother allowed Simon's father to stay in the home with the children despite Juvenile Court orders to the contrary. Simon's mother continued to lie to protect the father and tried to aid him in destroying Simon's body. In addition to interviews, the Deputies conducted forensic tests on the property and concluded that Simon died at home. The duffel bag was found approximately five days after Simon's death.

Simon's autopsy revealed evidence of obstruction of Simon's airway, the upper frenulum was lacerated, there were numerous contusions and abrasions of the forehead, chest, thigh, upper back and buttocks and a chipped tooth. In addition, there were petechiae in the lungs and evidence of postmortem charred thermal effects of skin. Death was due to asphyxia and moded a homicide.

Criminal charges were filed against both Simon's mother and father. After working with the Medical Examiner and law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office added the crime of torture, special circumstances to the charges against the parents.

Team members expressed concern about that despite the fact that many of the previous allegations of abuse were substantiated for this family, no criminal prosecution was ever pursued. It appeared that there had been prior law enforcement investigations, but no charges were previously filed.

1990-2003 ICAN Child Homicides by Parents, Caregivers and Family Members



**CAUSES OF CHILD HOMICIDES BY PARENTS/CAREGIVERS/FAMILY MEMBERS
1990 - 2003, Los Angeles County**

	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	Total
Head Trauma	18	23	16	14	17	19	15	12	13	15	5	5	2	7	181
Multiple Trauma	5	7	9	7	7	10	7	10	8	10	11	7	7	10	115
Gunshot Wounds	11	5	3	2	2	4	4	7	10	4	3	2	1	4	62
Trauma to torso/abdomen	0	7	3	3	6	2	5	4	2	1	0	0	3	0	36
Asphyxiation/suffocation	5	1	2	1	0	4	4	4	3	6	3	8	5	6	52
Drowning	2	5	2	1	1	4	0	2	2	0	3	1	7	1	31
Fire	0	0	3	1	0	3	8	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	20
Strangulation	1	4	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
Poisoning/drug ingestion	0	1	1	6	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	6	1	21
Stabbing	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	1	2	0	18
Unattended newborn	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	4	2	3	2	3	24
Undetermined/Unknown	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	14
Dehydration/malnutrition	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	10
Neck compression	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Medical neglect	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	6
Burns	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Hyperthermia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	46	61	46	41	39	49	53	45	49	44	35	35	37	35	615

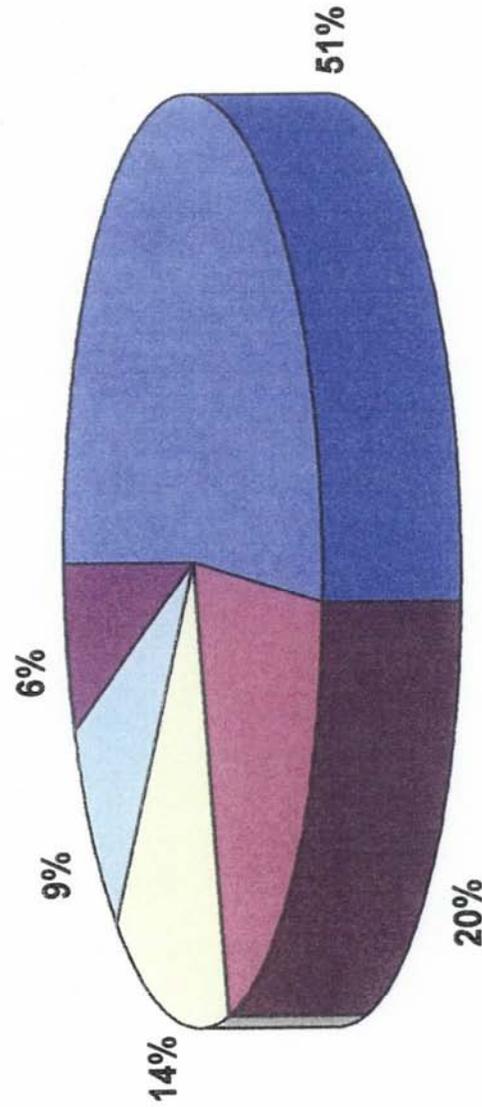
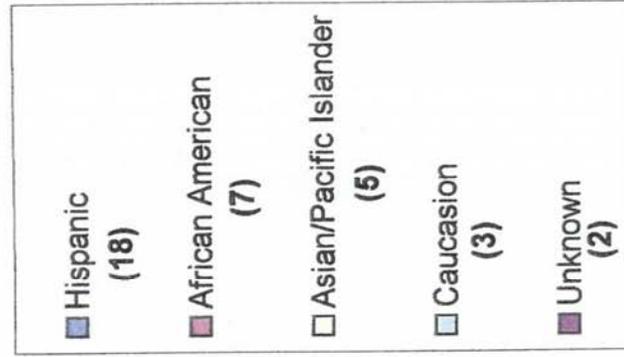
**CHILD HOMICIDES BY PARENTS/CAREGIVERS/FAMILY MEMBERS
LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 2003 (N = 35)**

Age	Male	Female
Under 1	10	7
1 year	3	1
2 years	2	2
3 years	2	2
4 years	0	1
5 years	1	0
6 years	0	0
7 years	0	1
8 years	0	0
9 years	0	0
10 years	0	1
11 years	0	0
12 years	0	0
13 - 17 years	1	1

49 % of the child homicides by parents/caregivers/family members were under one year of age.

89 % of the child homicides by parents/caregivers/family members were 5 years of age or under.

2003 Child Homicides by Parents, Caregivers and Family Members-Ethnicity



Percentage of Child Population
in Los Angeles County
Hispanic 57.5%
Caucasian 19%
African American 9.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander 9.0%

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SUICIDES

1989- 2003

Case identities are changed

SUICIDE CASE SUMMARY

Fifteen-year old Alfonso lived with his father and grandmother. His mother reportedly had substance abuse issues and had not cared for Alfonso since she divorced Alfonso's father when he was about two years of age. Alfonso contracted a virus that attacked his heart when he was eleven years old and had a heart transplant at that time. Unfortunately that heart was rejected and he had a second transplant and pacemaker implanted. After his second transplant, he suffered chronic and acute episodes of rejection. Also, Alfonso experienced numerous hospital admissions and hundreds of visits to a specialized clinic. He was possibly looking at another heart transplant in the near future.

Alfonso received home teaching up until a year before his death. At that time, his father chose to stop home teaching, as Alfonso was quite ill. Alfonso had friends in the community and stayed in contact with them via email on his laptop computer while he was hospitalized. Alfonso also had a girlfriend and had friendships with some of the other teenage patients at the hospital.

Alfonso suffered feelings of rejection as his mother, fearing hospitals, often failed to follow through in visiting Alfonso after promising to do so. Alfonso was seen by mental health staff at the hospital, but was not prescribed antidepressants, and there is no indication he received mental health treatment while outside the hospital.

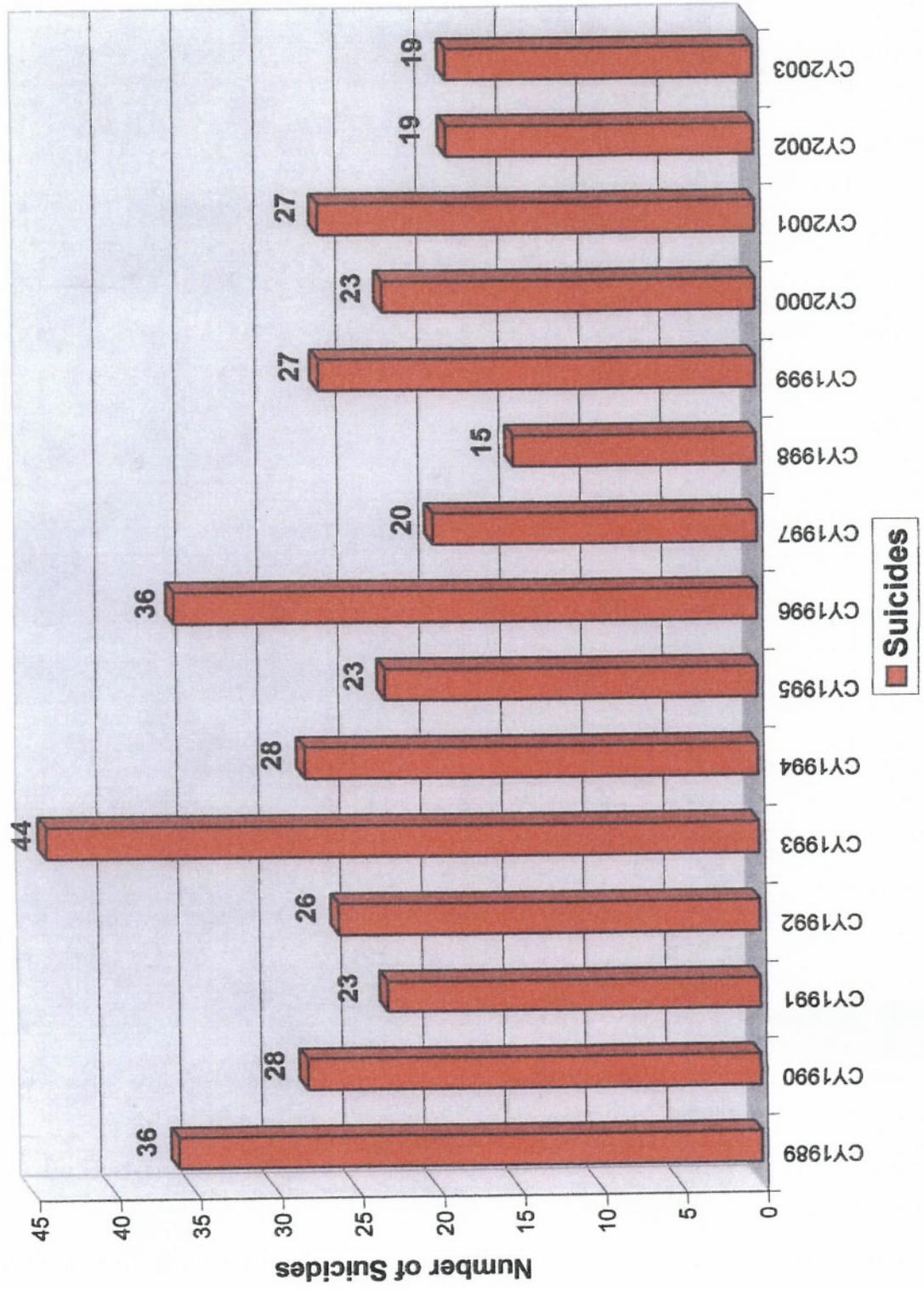
On the day of his death, Alfonso was home with his grandmother. His grandmother observed a blood spot on the floor and Alfonso told her that his dog had scratched him. His grandmother then went to take a nap. Approximately two hours later, his grandmother attempted to contact Alfonso behind the bathroom door. She noticed blood coming from under the door and upon entering the bathroom, discovered Alfonso unresponsive and called 911. Paramedics arrived five minutes after the call was placed. They found Alfonso lying on the bathroom floor in a pool of blood with tubes protruding from his chest. Alfonso had pulled out the permanent catheter inserted in his chest and bled to death. He was transported to the hospital and pronounced. Alfonso's father requested no autopsy be performed and, as there was no sign of foul play, no autopsy was performed. Toxicology reports indicated there were no drugs or alcohol in Alfonso's system other than those medications prescribed for his heart condition.

Alfonso's father told law enforcement he believed that his son had committed suicide. He was aware that Alfonso knew the gravity of his medical condition and was savvy of the medical apparatus that were in place. Alfonso had joked about suicide in the past, but his father did not take him seriously. A year prior to the incident, Alfonso had been very depressed and ran away to live with his mother.

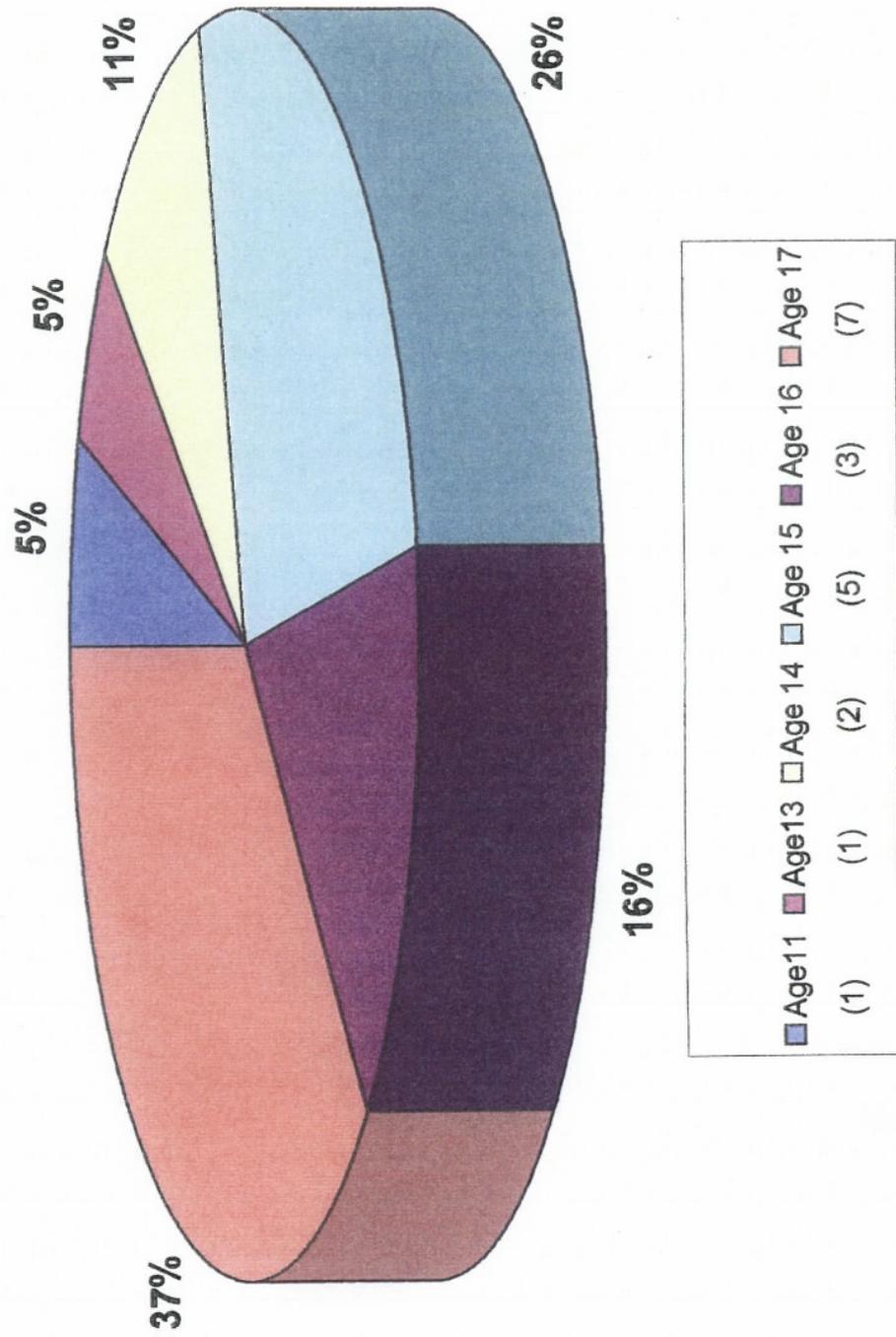
After he returned home, Alfonso had been very pleasant and seemed to be doing well until a few weeks prior to his death, when he became quiet and withdrawn.

During review of this case, the Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team discussed Alfonso's quality of life and constant and upcoming challenges as possible motivators in his decision to commit suicide. The Team also talked about the impact that losing a patient to suicide had on the pediatric transplant program staff. It was suggested that information about the warning signs of suicide be provided to the program staff, as well as information on how to connect their patients with counseling in their communities and how to deal with patient survivors. Also, it was agreed that the information learned should be directed to other facilities that work with critically ill children.

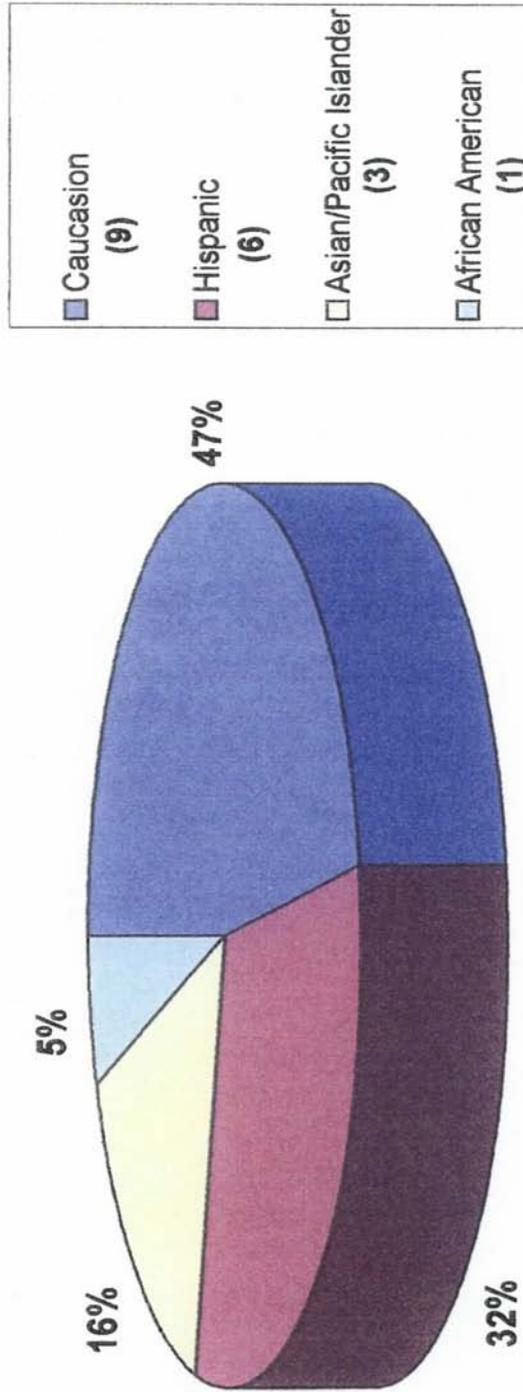
1989-2003 ICAN Adolescent Suicides



2003 Child and Adolescent Suicides-Age



2003 Child Adolescent Suicides-Ethnicity



Percentage of Child Population
in Los Angeles County
Hispanic 57.5%
Caucasian 19%
African American 9.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander 9.0%

ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS

1990 -2003

Case identities are changed

CASE SUMMARY
ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Ten-day old Benjamin died as a result of maternal substance abuse. Benjamin was born prematurely to a woman with a history of six pregnancies, one live birth and four abortions. On the day Benjamin was born, his mother, Ms. Faulkner, called paramedics because she was suffering from severe abdominal pain and profuse vaginal bleeding. Ms. Faulkner was admitted to the hospital for an emergent cesarean section due to a decreased fetal heart rate and placental abruption. Both mother and baby were tested for drugs and both were positive for cocaine. Baby Benjamin suffered from hypoxic encephalopathy and life support measures were eventually withdrawn. He was pronounced dead ten days after his birth.

The Team review revealed that Ms. Faulkner was twenty-five years of age at the time of Benjamin's birth. She had both a juvenile and adult criminal record. Ms. Faulkner's adult record included drug-related charges, theft and assault on a law enforcement officer for which she served time in prison. It was also reported that Ms. Faulkner had been placed into foster care through the Department of Children and Family Services and was a court dependent when she was a child.

Benjamin's autopsy revealed that the immediate cause of death was perinatal asphyxia, which was a consequence of placental abruption; maternal cocaine use was therefore listed as the leading cause. Ms. Faulkner admitted to using cocaine since her fourth month of pregnancy and began receiving prenatal care during month seven. The Department of Children and Family Services detained Benjamin's sibling and awaits the Dependency Court decision as to whether Ms. Faulkner will receive Family Reunification services. The Department of Children and Family Services has made a recommendation that Ms. Faulkner not be provided such services as her actions resulted in the death of her child.

The Team discussed the fact that the Coroner modes fetal deaths and the deaths of young infants as accidental versus homicide. It was pointed out that a mother can not be guilty of fetal homicide in the State of California even if the death is due to drug use during pregnancy. Unfortunately, this accidental death due to prenatal substance abuse is not uncommon. Within recent years, approximately 20-25 such cases are reported by the Coroner's office to the Child Death Review Team.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS, Ages 0 -14 1990 - 2003, Los Angeles County

	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	Total
Drowning	40	32	25	40	35	31	18	28	21	25	23	28	16	19	381
Maternal drug abuse	24	23	17	23	10	9	25	24	38	21	22	24	25	32	317
Autopedestrian**						2	1	8	19	31	30	41	33	25	190
Automobile***	11	10	5	4	7	6	5	2	3	5	1	1	3	2	137
Falls	7	10	6	7	2	0	1	5	3	6	10	2	8	4	71
Choking	3	5	4	8	4	1	2	0	2	4	1	3	0	1	38
Suffocation	3	1	4	7	4	1	1	6	1	4	4	1	0	2	39
Poisoning	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	1	3	7	4	3	7	0	32
Fire	1	5	4	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	3	1	2	30
Hanging/strangulation	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	5	6	2	8	7	33
Medical Misadventure	0	0	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	19
Chest/neck compression	1	2	3	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Gunshot wounds	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	10
Object fell on child	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	1	0		0	7
Sports injury	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	6
Burns	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Dog bites	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Aspiration of stomach	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Perinatal asphyxia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
Electrocution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Birth trauma	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hypothermia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Airplane related	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Train v. pedestrian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Elective abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Forklift injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	92	90	73	104	70	59	61	86	95	134	137	137	127	147	1412

Autopedestrian deaths were not reported to the Team prior to 1995. *Automobile deaths were not referred to the Team prior to 1999.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS, AGES 0 - 17 2003 - Los Angeles County

Autopedestrian	36
Automobile - solo vehicle	30
Maternal substance abuse	32
Automobile - multi-vehicle	36
Drowning	21
Medical Misadventure	7
Choking	4
Fire	0
Poisoning	2
Fall	3
Hanging	2
Airplane crash	2
Object fell on child	0
Electrocution	1
Drug Intake	3
Suffocation	1
Sports Injury	1
Crushed	3

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS 2003 - Los Angeles County

	Age 0 - 5 years	Age 15 - 17 years
Autopedestrian	15	11
Automobile - solo vehicle	11	8
Maternal substance abuse	32	0
Automobile - multi-vehicle	13	11
Drowning	11	2
Medical Misadventure	7	0
Choking	3	0
Fire	0	0
Poisoning	0	0
Fall	2	1
Hanging	2	0
Airplane crash	0	0
Object fell on child	0	0
Electrocution	0	0
Drug intake	0	3
Suffocation	1	0
Sports Injury	0	1
Crushed	3	0

**ETHNICITY OF ICAN ACCIDENTAL CHILD DEATHS, AGES 0 -17
LOS ANGELES COUNTY - 2002 AND 2003**

	Hispanic '02	Hispanic '03	Afr-American '02	Afr-American '03	Caucasian '02	Caucasian '03	Asian '02	Asian '03	Unknown '02	Unknown '03
Autopedestrian	23	24	6	5	5	5	4	2	0	0
Automobile	24	44	8	7	14	13	4	1	0	1
Maternal drug use	5	7	14	18	5	7	0	0	1	0
Drowning	4	8	3	2	8	8	3	2	0	1
Choking	5	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0
Falls	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0
Fire	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Suffocation	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Crushed by object	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Poisoning	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Medical misadventure	5	5	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
Hanging/strangulation	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Other/unknown	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Airplane related	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Drug intake	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sports injury	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electrocution	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	81	96	35	35	40	44	16	7	1	2