

**November 3, 2022**

**Dear ICAN Partners and Friends,**

Fall is here. The trees are changing colors, temperatures are dropping, Halloween has put a smile on children's faces, and we anticipate the coming Holidays. According to behavioral scientist, Clarissa Silva, "The fall is a season of change and the next stage." Our body mimics this same process. It provides us with the ability to put in motion plans that will materialize our goals and desires. What are your hopes and goals this season?

We hope you will join us in our efforts to promote a safe, accountable, and joyful world for children.

Here is an update on a few of our projects and activities.

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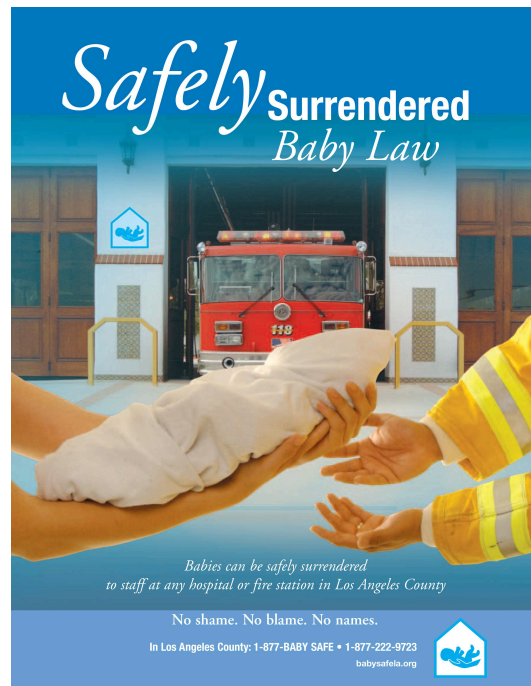
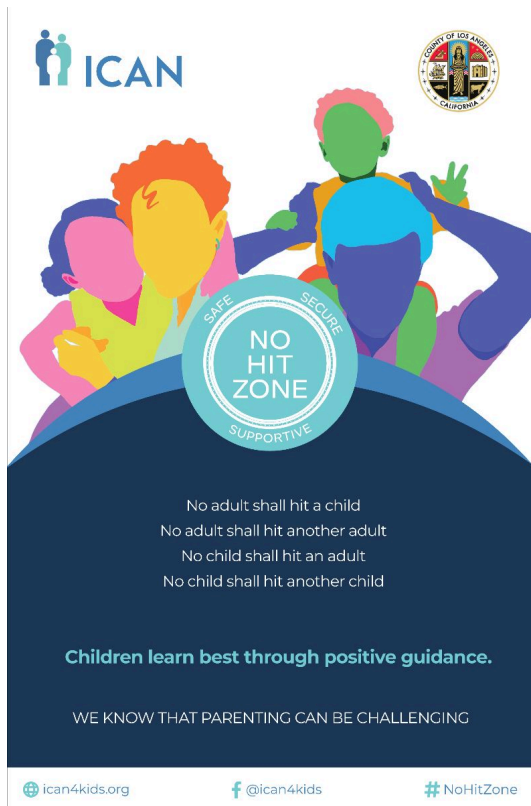
**[ICAN No Hit Zone Campaign:](#)**

The ICAN No Hit Zone campaign officially launched in LA County following a successful pilot at Harbor General Hospital. The Board of Supervisors declared all LA County Facilities and Contracted Agencies to be No Hit Zones, with posters displayed and brochures shared with families they serve.

The Board also recognized and supported the ICAN Associates Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art contest, to promote participation of schools in underserved communities.

[Safe Surrender, Safe Sleep and No Hit Zone Public Service Campaigns:](#)

Did you know that ICAN has 3 Public Service Campaigns (PSA's) in LA County? If you are interested in obtaining posters and brochures for any of our campaigns, please visit our website at [Ican4kids.org](http://Ican4kids.org) to download.





### ICAN Child Death Review:

Our Child Death Reviews continue to find that most child abuse homicide victims are under three years of age. The gender gap of these victims remains consistent with previous years with males outnumbering female victims. Over one third of the accidental child deaths involved children less than one year old, primarily from prenatal substance abuse and unsafe sleep. Youth ages 15 – 17 years are most vulnerable for suicide or to be a victim of a third party homicide.

### ICAN Safe Sleep:

We are currently seeing about one unsafe sleep death per week. Children most vulnerable are between the ages of 0 to 1. Please help us reduce this number to zero by utilizing our safe sleep educational brochures and videos to share with staff, family and friends.

### Child Abduction Taskforce/ Training

The ICAN Child Abduction Task Force conducts a monthly round table of open DCFS cases and unrecovered children. The vast majority of these are cases of non-custodial parental abduction, and many are believed to be in Mexico. The Hague Abduction Convention is the multilateral treaty that provides an expeditious method to return abducted children from one country to another.

The ICAN Hospital Network is working to connect 63 hospitals that bring us 90% of infant and toddler injuries, and 95% of all births in LA County. The project focuses on newborns and infants/toddlers 0-3, and includes SoCal Burn and PICU Units. Currently the project is looking at birth data and rates of reporting suspected abuse.

#### [The Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team:](#)

The Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team is a very active multi-disciplinary sub-group of the ICAN Child Death Review Team. Each month the Team reviews 2 cases of child and adolescent deaths coded as suicide by the LA County Examiner Coroner. The team identifies touch points within the child protection and mental health systems, red flags on social media platforms, and examines school performance, and relevant prevention and post intervention opportunities.

#### [Safe Surrender:](#)

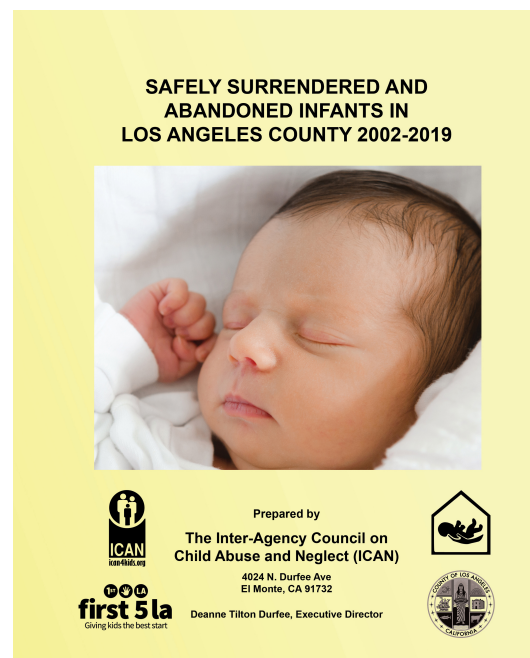
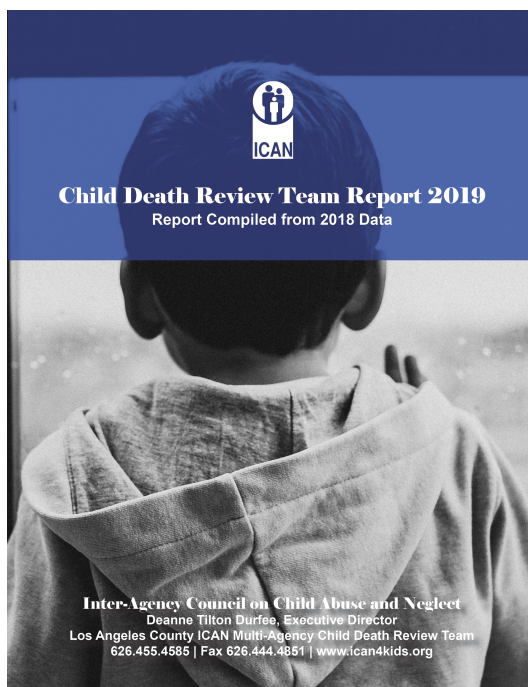
In 2020, we had 16 reports of safely surrendered infants and one abandoned deceased infant found at a park in the Pasadena area. In 2021, there were 22 safely surrendered infants. We also received notice of an abandoned infant found at a park in Lynwood. Though the year is not over, in 2022 we have had 11 safely surrendered infants and one baby who was abandoned and survived. As the numbers of safely surrendered infants has increased in LA County, there has been a significant decrease in the number of abandoned infants (from 11 deceased abandoned infants in 2001). We see that the mothers who decide to surrender their children come from different walks of life, some are college students, some find themselves in desperate situations struggling with low economic conditions, drug addiction, homelessness, domestic violence and lack of family support. Given their situations, they decide to give their newborns a better chance at life. During the past two years, it appears that homelessness, financial hardship, and drug use play a significant part in the mother/parents' decision to safely surrender their infant. They bravely make the decision to save their infant's life. We continue to promote efforts towards increased awareness of the law and encourage collaboration with other agencies, such as parks, airports, homeless shelters, etc. To access Safe Surrender training for hospital, fire department and other professionals and for further information on safely surrendered infants please visit our website at [ICAN4Kids.org](http://ICAN4Kids.org) for material



### ICAN Policy Committee Meeting and Release of Annual Reports:

Our next Policy Committee Meeting will feature policy recommendations from our committees, teams and workgroups. Key issues will be discussed and calls for action by our city, county and state agencies.

ICAN also will be releasing our Annual Reports including: The State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County; The Report of the ICAN Child Death Review Team; and the Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infants Report. These reports will be available for download at [Ican4kids.org](http://Ican4kids.org).



**in Los Angeles County**

Compiled from 2018 Data

**Final Note:**

As we move forward to promote our No Hit Campaign I remain saddened by the comments of a former City Official suggesting that a black-2 1/2 year old child needed a “beat down” (among many other inappropriate comments). At the least, it was callous and racist, at most it denied the reality that over half of the child abuse fatalities our Team has reviewed involved the death of child under age 3, punished for typical childish behavior.

Please consider spreading the No Hit message and supporting our NO Hit Zone Campaign. If you need to obtain No Hit Zone Materials, you can download them at our website [Ican4kids.org](http://Ican4kids.org) or request them from ICAN at [chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

*Thank you for all you do to educate, protect and bring joy into the lives of children.*

*With respect and appreciation,*

**Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc. Hc**



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<https://www.ican4kids.org>

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