

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2015 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2015)			
Custody Deaths [*]			
Total Number	10		
<p>In 2015, there were a total of 10 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One child died from injuries sustained in a car accident (unable to complete). • Seven children were medically fragile (three unable to complete; four unsubstantiated). • One child died as a result of physical abuse (substantiated). • One child committed suicide (unable to complete). 			
Classifications ^{**}			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	1	10%	
Unsubstantiated	4	40%	
Unable to Complete	5 ^{***}	50%	
Pending	0	0%	
		100%	
<p>[*] A custody death is defined as any child in the state of Tennessee who is in the custody of the Department at the time of his or her death.</p>			
<p>^{**} There are four types of classifications. Substantiated means that there is a preponderance of evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. Unsubstantiated means that there is not enough evidence to sustain the allegation. Pending classification refers to cases that have not yet closed. Finally, Unable to Complete is an investigation that cannot be concluded (Policy 14.7, Section C.6).</p>			
<p>^{***} In accordance with policy enacted in 2015, the five cases marked Unable to Complete were not investigated due to the absence of an abuse or neglect allegation. An investigation was opened for these cases solely for the purpose of capturing data related to the deaths in the Child Death / Near Death Application, which requires an Investigation ID for every death to be present in TFACTS. Once this information was successfully captured, the investigations were closed with a classification of Unable to Complete.</p>			

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