

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2016 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2016)			
Custody Deaths [*]			
Total Number	9		
<p>In 2016, there were a total of 9 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One child died from an unsafe sleeping environment (unsubstantiated). • One child came into custody as a result of a near death incident that occurred out of custody (substantiated). • One child died from drowning (unsubstantiated). • One child died from an unsafe sleeping environment and an underlying medical condition (unsubstantiated). • One child died from hyperthermia and an underlying medical condition (unsubstantiated). • One child died from a firearm related incident (unsubstantiated). • One child was medically fragile (unsubstantiated). • Two children had an official cause of death that could not be determined (unsubstantiated). 			
Classifications ^{**}			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	1	11%	
Unsubstantiated	8	89%	
Unable to Complete	0	0%	
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>			

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