

Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2018 (January 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018)			
Custody Deaths <sup>*</sup>			
<b>Total Number</b>	10		
<p>In 2018, there were a total of 10 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One child had an official cause of death that could not be determined (unsubstantiated).</li> <li>• Five children died from underlying medical conditions (3 unsubstantiated; 2 unable to complete).</li> <li>• Two children died as the result of suicide (both unsubstantiated)</li> <li>• Two children died from gunshot wounds (both unsubstantiated).</li> </ul>			
Classifications <sup>**</sup>			
	Number	Percent	
<b>Substantiated</b>	0	0%	
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	7	70%	
<b>Unable to Complete</b>	3	30%	
<b>Pending</b>	0	0%	
		100%	
<p><sup>*</sup> 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><sup>**</sup> 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>			

Posting Date: 1/7/2020