

Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2022 (January 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022)			
Custody Deaths*			
<b>Total Number</b>	9		
<p>In 2022, there were a total of 9 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One child's cause of death could not be determined; autopsy noted retinal hemorrhages, acute and bilateral, acute hypoxic-ischemic changes, slight brain swelling, and slight cranial intradural hemorrhage (substantiated).</li> <li>One child died from blunt force injuries (substantiated).</li> <li>Three medically fragile children died of natural causes related to existing medical conditions with no suspicion of abuse or neglect (unable to complete)</li> <li>One child died in a motor vehicle accident during a trial home visit (unable to complete).</li> <li>One child died from combined fentanyl and methamphetamine intoxication through accidental overdose (unsubstantiated).</li> <li>One child died from gunshot wounds during a drive-by shooting (unable to complete).</li> <li>One child died from fentanyl toxicity (substantiated).</li> </ul>			
Classifications**			
	Number	Percent	
<b>Substantiated</b>	3	33%	
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	1	11%	
<b>Unable to Complete</b>	5	56%	
<b>Pending</b>	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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