

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2024 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2024)			
Custody Deaths*			
Total Number	11		
<p>In 2024, there were a total of 11 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One child died from fentanyl and hydroxyzine intoxication (substantiated) • One child died from complications of remote fentanyl intoxication (substantiated). • One child died from suicide while on runaway (substantiated). • One child died from drowning (unsubstantiated). • Three children had an official cause of death that could not be determined (2 unsubstantiated; 1 unable to complete). • Four children were medically fragile and died of natural causes related to existing medical conditions (unable to complete). 			
Classifications**			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	3	27%	
Unsubstantiated	3	27%	
Unable to Complete	5	46%	
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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