

This Joint Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the deaths of children aged 0-18 years, in order to learn lessons and share findings for the prevention of future deaths. This Joint CDOP aims to use the findings to make actions and recommendations to improve the health and safety of children across the area. From what we know, the initiatives below will contribute to preventing the deaths of children/young people.

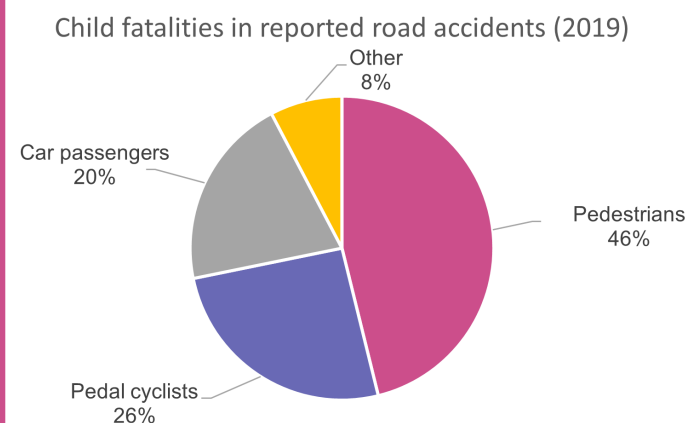
Preventing Injuries and Deaths in Children and Young People: August 2021

Unsafe sleeping arrangements

SUDICs have remained high in the cases reviewed locally over the last quarter, and within these, unsafe sleeping continues to be identified frequently as a modifiable factor. In NCMD's second annual report, 'unsafe sleeping arrangements' was the third most frequently identified modifiable factor over the year 2019/2020, so this continues to be an issue on both a local and national scale. Locally, a working group is in the process of creating a risk assessment tool, as well as considering alternative ways of reaching out to families with other initiatives. More information will follow in due course.

Resources:

- [The Lullaby Trust has a large library of Safer Sleep Advice](#)



Dangerous driving

In the last quarter, one of the cases to come before the Child Death Overview Panel involved a road traffic accident, in which dangerous driving was identified to be a modifiable factor.

Across Great Britain in 2019, the number of child fatalities in reported road accidents was 39. Within this number, 46% of those were pedestrians, while 20% were car passengers.

In this case, speeding was a factor, and the Department for Transport's statistics show that, although speeding is a contributory factor in only 6% of accidents, these accidents involve 15% of fatalities.

Resources:

- [Brake has a collection of resources in their knowledge centre, as well as a bereavement service for those impacted by a fatal road accident.](#)
- [THINK! also has a series of road safety campaigns, including a current campaign to educate young men on safer driving.](#)

Water safety

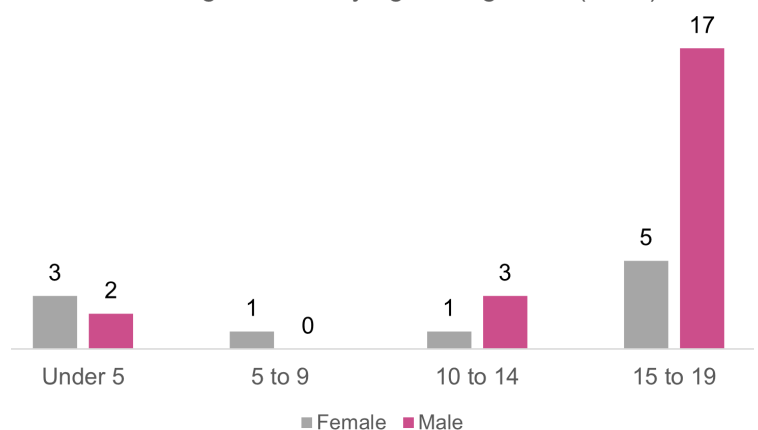


With the recent hot weather this summer, there has sadly also been a spate of water-related deaths, of both adults and children. It's vital that children are aware of the dangers of open water, as well as ways to keep safe, should they find themselves getting into trouble in water.

Although open water can look inviting on hot days, there are often hidden dangers underneath, such as discarded waste or tangles of weeds that can entrap people, as well as slippery rocks and changes in water depth. Water can also be dangerously cold when it gets deeper.

Figures from the Water Incident Database (WAID) show that, in the UK, there were 254 accidental drownings that occurred during the year of 2020. 32 of these were under the age of 19. Since 2014, 39% of accidental drownings have occurred at the coast, while 61% occurred inland. Last year, almost half (43%) of those who accidentally drowned had no intention to enter the water, with causes including slips, trips and falls, being cut off by the tide, or being swept in by waves. This means that all children and young people, whether they intend to go in the water or not, should be aware of what to do should they end up in it.

Drowning fatalities by age and gender (2020)



Resources:

- [View the RNLI Float To Live video](#)
- [See West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's summer safety reminder here.](#)
- [Find more information about how to be safe this summer from Wakefield Council.](#)
- [RoSPA's Water Safety Code, along with information on Water Safety](#)
- [RLSS Water Safety Advice](#)
- [Float to Live: Top tips for staying safe in the water - CBBC Newsround](#)
- [Water Safety video by Yorkshire Water & West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service](#)

Find more engagement on the hashtags: [#RespectTheWater](#) [#DrowningPrevention](#) [#FloatToLive](#)