



Preventing Child Deaths in Missouri



The Missouri Child Fatality
Review Program
Annual Report for
2004



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Dear Friends:


Enclosed is a copy of the 2004 Missouri Child Fatality Review Program (CFRP) Annual Report, *Preventing Child Deaths in Missouri*. Thirteen years into the program, we are satisfied that we are more accurately identifying the causes of child deaths. Many factors are involved in child deaths, but the numbers appear to indicate that we are making a positive difference. A significant decline in the overall death rate of children is a very positive indicator.

We must also remember that for every child who dies, many more sustain non-fatal, accidental and deliberately inflicted injuries. The county-based CFRP panels are as concerned about protecting the living, as they are in more accurately determining how children die. Sharing what we learn through education, prevention and deterrence are the keys to ensuring a safer environment for all Missouri children and families.

Much of what has been gained over the past thirteen years is the result of multidisciplinary coordination and cooperation. Much of what remains to be accomplished involves breaking down barriers, and strengthening information-sharing and multidisciplinary team work.

We are confident that Missouri child protection professionals will respond to these critical challenges. Please join us in our efforts to reduce life threatening and life altering risks to children.

Sincerely,


Harry D. Williams
Director



Matt Blunt, Governor
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PREVENTING CHILD DEATHS IN MISSOURI

THE MISSOURI CHILD FATALITY REVIEW PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004



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DEDICATION



This report reflects the work of many dedicated professionals throughout the state of Missouri. Through better understanding of how and why children die, we strive to improve and protect the lives of Missouri's youngest citizens. We will always remember that each number represents a precious life lost. We dedicate this report to these children and their families.