



## Pathology Biology Section – 2003

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### **G95 Pediatric Mortality in the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, 1 to 4 Years: 2000-2001**

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The goal of this presentation is to present statistical data on causes of death in the pediatric group between 1 and 4 years of age in the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office cases. The authors examined case records of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) over the two-year period from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001.

The number of deaths investigated by CCMEO between 1 to 4 years of age totaled 148 cases in the two-year period. Eighty-six cases involved males and sixty-two involved females. Specific causes of death were identified in 97% of all cases. Leading causes were accidental injuries, natural deaths and homicides. This report highlights the impact of violent death mortality in early age. Accidental injuries are related to automobile accidents, pedestrian injuries, drownings, asphyxias, house fires, falls and overdoses. In natural deaths, diseases of the heart and infection predominate. Infection includes bronchopneumonia, lobar pneumonia and sepsis. Homicides include blunt trauma injuries, gunshot wounds, stab wounds, drownings, suffocations, starvations and arson fires. The cause of death was undetermined in 3% (5/148) of the cases. By manner of death, there were 70 accidents, 42 naturals and 27 homicide cases, respectively. Undetermined manner is 6% (9/148) of all cases. Those that were of undetermined manner included two cases of fire and two cases of drowning, and 5 cases where the cause of death was undetermined.

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