

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Abuse:** A pattern of violence occurring in the course of a domestic (e.g., parent-child, husband- wife) or care giver-client relationship. The victim of child abuse is an unmarried person, under the age of 18, who has been non-accidentally physically or mentally injured, negligently treated or maltreated, sexually abused or exploited, or who dies as a result of abuse or neglect. Abuse in Oregon is “actual” as well as “threatened harm” to a child (SCF).

**Accident:** An unanticipated but often predictable event leading to injury, e.g., in traffic, industry, or a domestic setting, or such an event developing in the course of a disease.

**Age-specific rate:** A rate calculated for a group of defined age range.

**Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC):** BAC is measured as a percentage by weight of alcohol in the blood (grams/deciliter). A positive BAC level (0.01 g/dl and higher) indicates that alcohol was consumed by the person tested. In Oregon 0.08 g/dl is the legal threshold for intoxication.

**Cause of death:** The primary or basic disease process or injury ending life (ORS 146.003).

**Child:** An individual from birth through age 17.

**Congenital Anomalies:** Structural defects present at birth and including conditions or health problems that would have required continued medical care if the child had survived.

**Cosleeping:** The infant’s sharing a bed with another person (usually the mother).

**Deputy medical examiner:** A person appointed by the district medical examiner to assist in the investigation of deaths within a county (ORS 146.003).

**Disability:** A learning, emotional, communicative or physical difference that restricts or impairs the ability to perform activities in a manner within the range considered normal.

**District medical examiner:** A physician appointed by the State Medical Examiner to investigate and certify deaths, including a Deputy State Medical Examiner (ORS 146.003).

**Domestic violence:** One or more of the following acts: Attempting to cause or causing physical harm to another family or household member; placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm; or causing a family or household member to engage involuntarily in sexual activity by force, threat of force or duress.

**Drug affected infant:** Infants showing a level of toxicity at birth due to maternal substance abuse. Fetal drug exposure during pregnancy is identified as a contributing factor in the death.

**Hispanic:** A cultural category that includes whites, African Americans, and mixed racial populations from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean Islands.

**Homicide:** The killing of one person by another.

**Injury:** Unintentional or intentional damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to thermal, mechanical, electrical, or chemical energy or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen. The terms injury and trauma are interchangeable.

**Manner of death:** The designation of the probable mode of production of the cause of death, including natural, accidental, suicidal, homicidal, legal intervention, or undetermined (ORS 146.003).

**Neglect:** Neglect is negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child that causes actual harm or substantial risk of harm to a child’s health, welfare, and safety (SCF).

**Overlay:** Mechanical asphyxia combined with smothering. Example: an infant is in bed with one of the parents, who inadvertently rolls on top of the child, compressing the child's chest and occluding the nose and mouth with the bedding or the body.

**Perinatal conditions:** Conditions that have their origin in the perinatal period (20 weeks gestation to 28 days post birth) even though death may occur after 28 days of life. Perinatal conditions include prematurity and birth trauma.

**Rate:** A method to standardize a number so that comparisons can be made between different populations. The number of events divided by the population in a specific age group multiplied by 100,000.

**Risk factor:** A characteristic that has been statistically demonstrated to be associated with (although not necessarily the direct cause of) a particular injury. Risk factors can be used for developing prevention efforts.

**SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome):** death as characterized by the sudden, unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant. Before a diagnosis of SIDS is made, a death scene investigation, autopsy, and medical history should be completed by the Medical Examiner to rule out other causes.

**Suicide:** Death resulting from intentional self-harm.

**Suicide cluster:** A group of suicides or suicide attempts, or both, that occur closer in time and space than would normally be expected in a given community.