



Taking Action to Prevent Childhood Deaths

The most important reason for reviewing child deaths is to improve the health and safety of children and to prevent other children from dying. The CDOP will maintain a focus on prevention through all its work.

Individual deaths and overall patterns of childhood deaths will be evaluated to determine if the deaths were preventable; to identify modifiable risk factors (taking account of factors in the child, the parenting capacity, wider family, environmental and societal factors, and services provided to or needed by the child or family); and to determine the best strategy(ies) for prevention.

Strategies may be considered at different levels:

1. Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills: Assisting individuals to increase their knowledge and capacity to act leading to behaviour change, through education, counselling and individual support.

2. Promoting Community Education

3. Training Providers to improve knowledge, skills, capacity and motivation to effectively promote prevention.

4. Fostering Coalitions and Networks of individuals and organisations to work for advocacy and health promotion

5. Changing Organizational Practices where system failures are identified, or models of good practice highlighted.

6. Mobilizing Neighbourhoods and Communities in the process of identifying, prioritizing, planning and making changes.

7. Influencing Policy and Legislation where appropriate through local and national advocacy

Recommendations made by the CDOP will be based on the lessons learnt from the review of child deaths, will be focused on specific, measurable actions, and will include plans for monitoring implementation.

