# National Child Mortality Database

Our impact in 2021

2021 was a special year for the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD).

Founded in 2018, 2021 was the first year that we had sufficient data to begin sharing learning to fulfil our purpose: to improve and save children's lives. Here's what we did.

# **Collecting data**

Firstly, we continued to collect data on all child deaths in England as we have done since 2019. It's a statutory requirement that every child death in England be reported to the NCMD within 48 hours and reviewed in detail, so the data we hold is both timely and comprehensive.

We work hard to support Child Death Overview Panels, who "NCMD's analyses and outcomes represent such impressive, valuable work."

Wendi Slater, Senior Public Health Intelligence Analyst, Department of Health and Social Care

are responsible for completing these reviews. In 2021 we responded to more than 400 queries, ensuring that every death was reported accurately and efficiently.

# **Sharing Learning**

In 2021 we began to share learning from the unique data we hold, producing a range of publications (see infographic overleaf).

We also worked to put this data in the public eye, collaborating with the BBC's Newsnight team on the Young Lives Lost series, which looks at child deaths in England and has so far reached an audience

NCMD Programme Lead Professor Karen Luyt talks to Newsnight, July 2021 An Education Select Committee meeting where NCMD data was presented

of around 2m. Coverage of our work in the media reached a total estimated audience of 27.5m people in 2021.

# **Changing practice**

Our reports and data releases help professionals who work with children to improve their practice. In addition to our publications we ran a series of webinars through the year which were attended by around 750 professionals.

We also helped to support a campaign looking at how non-

resident women are charged for maternal care, and revising how NHS trusts deal with this issue.

# **Changing policy**

We also change policy. Our work on Covid-19 risks in children were cited by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in their decision to vaccinate under-18s.

The NCMD was invited to contribute to NHS England's CORE20PLUS5 initiative, which aims to address inequalities in healthcare.



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