



Child Death Review--Annual Meeting

November 2017

Travis Erickson
Division Operations Manager
Travis.Erickson@alaska.gov
907-269-3903

Ginny Moring
Protective Services Manager, Mat-Su
Virginia.Moring@alaska.gov
907-352-8914

Child Fatality

One Unusual Month in 2014

Note: Individual table of seven child deaths removed due to small sample size.

Summary	
Average Age in days	126
Average Prior PSR's	4.1
Average Prior PSR's Screened In	3.1
Average Prior PSR's Screened Out	1
% Cases with Prior OCS FS Case Opened	14%
% Cases with Alcohol or Drugs Indicated in PSR	71%
% Cases with One or More Caregivers with CPS Contact as Child	71%
% Cases with Co-Sleeping Indicated in PSR	86%

DPH Bulletin

Infant Mortality in the Sleep Environment— A Case Series Analysis, 2012-2014

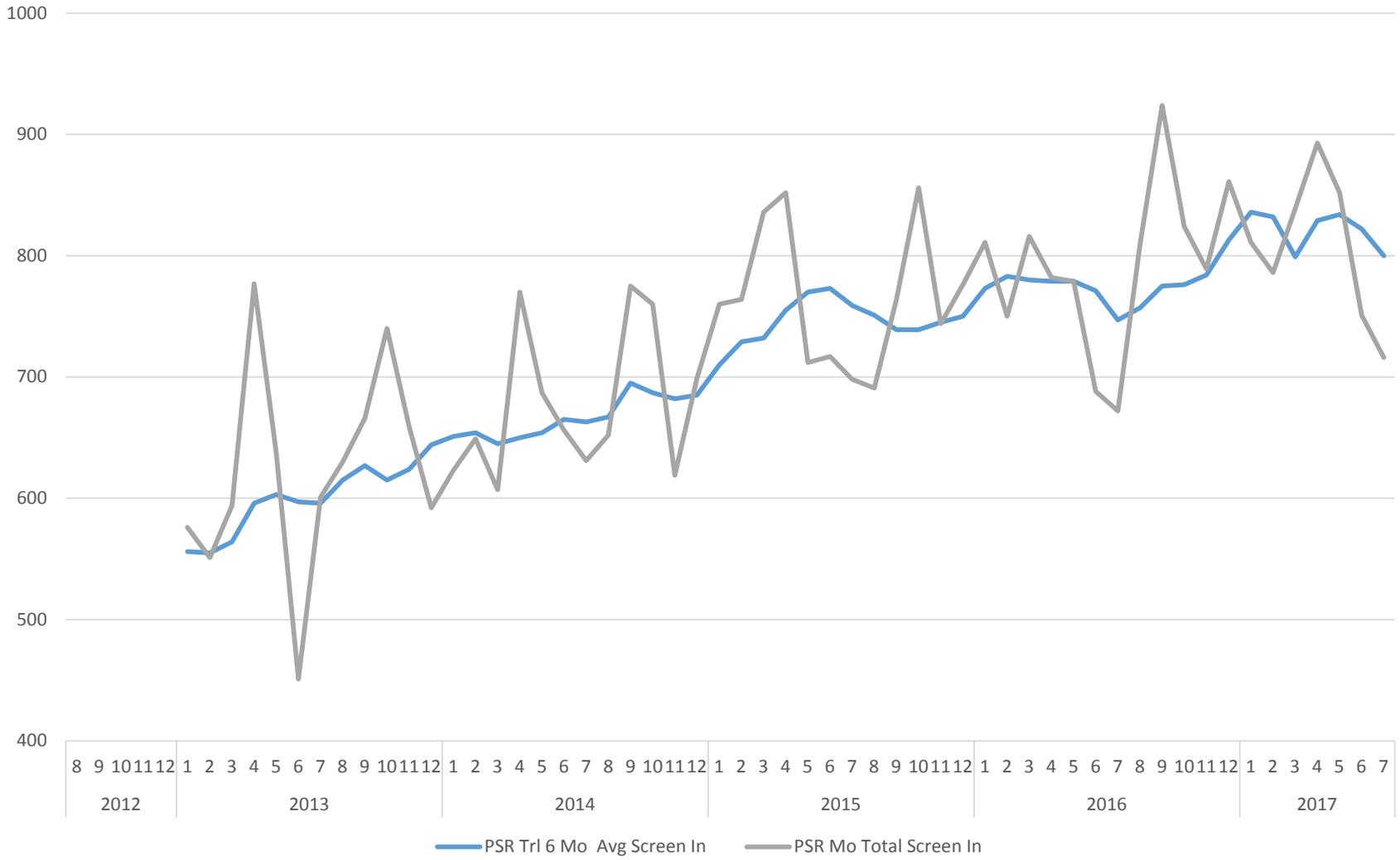
Discussion

“Although 2014 saw an overall increase in infant deaths in a sleep environment, driven by the influx in July, it appears the distribution of known risk factors is consistent with historical observations. Among the 66 deaths reviewed, the majority (80%) were in conjunction with non-supine sleep position, caregiver impairment, parental dysfunction, and/or bed-sharing.”

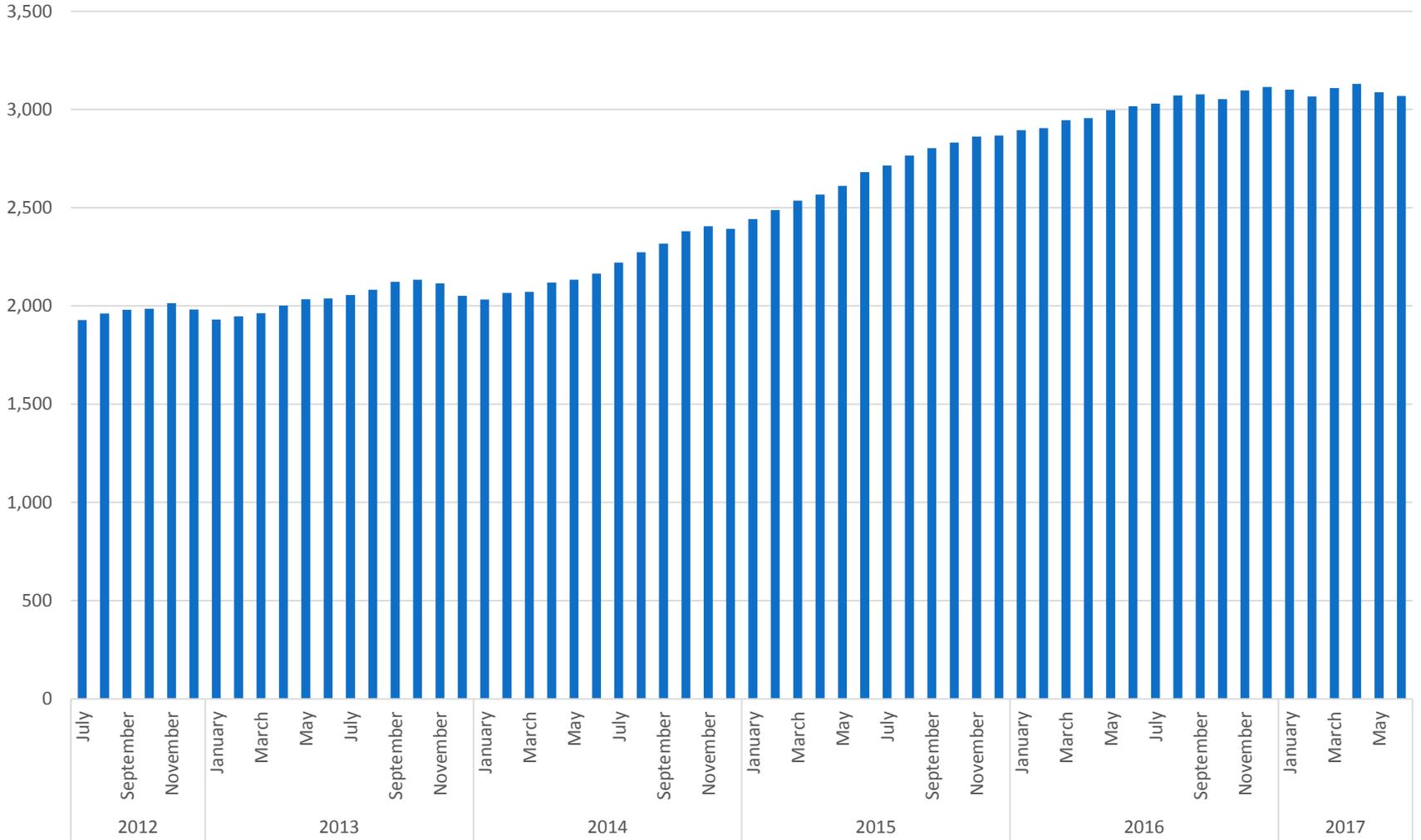
MIMR Committee Recommendations

1. Providers should consistently reinforce the statewide Safe Sleep message at each contact with expecting families and families of infants.
2. Birthing facilities interested in conducting a quality improvement project on infant safe sleeping should refer to the Alaska Infant Safe Sleep Toolkits.
3. Providers should identify families that may need extra support and assist them in creating safe sleep environments and understanding risk reduction.

Protective Services Reports Screened In



Children in Out-of-Home Care



Promising Practices

- Focused Attention on Vulnerable Populations:
 - High Risk Infants
 - increased awareness, data reports, management oversight
 - safe sleep assessment and messaging
 - Critical Incident Case Reviews
 - Specialty Courts
 - Anchorage: Child In Need of Aid (CINA) Therapeutic Court (Court, OCS, Akeela)
 - Ketchikan: Family, Infants and Toddlers (FIT) (Court, OCS, Early Learning)
 - Mat-Su: Baby Court under development
- Prevention/Early Intervention:
 - PSRs screened out to tribes
 - Tlingit-Haida TANF—Future Risk of Abuse/Neglect
- Division of Public Health leadership



Challenges

- System is built to be reactive
- Accurate assessment (predicting the future)
- Involuntary clients (changing human behavior)
- Legal threshold for intervention
- Local legal culture
- Employee Turnover
- Complexity and volume of workload
- Confidentiality

Opportunities

- **Early Intervention**
 - Birth Match
 - PSRs Screened Out to Tribes and Community Providers
 - Family-Nurse Partnership
- **Safe Sleep Practices/Messaging**
 - Is current messaging working?
 - Use of alcohol, sedatives
- **Vulnerability of Special Populations**
 - Infants
 - Youth, suicide and Alaska gun culture
 - Children in rural areas
- **Justice for Children Hurt or Killed by Adults Responsible for Their Care**
 - Anja James, Melissa Falgoust, Echo Terry, etc.
- **Evaluation of Interventions/CQI**
 - What is working?



Questions?

Travis Erickson
Division Operations Manager
Travis.Erickson@alaska.gov
907-269-3903

Ginny Moring
Protective Services Manager, Mat-Su
Virginia.Moring@alaska.gov
907-352-8914