



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Child Deaths Soar in Sacramento County According to Report**

*Homicides Due to Abuse and Neglect Increased 300 Percent in 2008*

**SACRAMENTO** — The Child Abuse Prevention Center will present its Child Death Review Team Annual Report to Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, **today, Tuesday, June 1, at 11 a.m. at 700 H Street**. The study revealed that 166 children died in 2008, with a four-fold increase in child abuse and neglect homicides from 2007 to 2008.

In total, 12 children were victims of CAN homicides in 2008 up from three in 2007. A majority of the offenders were biological parents and half of the CAN homicide decedents had prior Sacramento County CPS history.

“In a time where child services are being threatened by budget cuts, numbers like this paint a very real picture about the need for funding to protect children and educate parents,” said Sheila Boxley, president and chief executive officer of the CAP Center, which delivered the report. “Many more children will suffer or die if funding continues to be slashed.”

The report also showed that infant sleep-related deaths are at their highest level since 1993 and 25 percent of all 166 child deaths were preventable.

A CAP Center analysis showed that when funding for child abuse prevention programs was cut in the county, child abuse rose sharply. When funding increased, abuse fell dramatically.

“It’s not a hard concept to grasp,” said Boxley. “When we invest time and funding in child abuse prevention, the rewards for children and taxpayers are enormous.”

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Other findings in the report included:

- 13 percent of all deaths involved maltreatment
- African American children died at a rate two times higher than Caucasian children
- All 27 infant sleep-related deaths occurred in unsafe sleeping environments
- The number of child suicide deaths continues to rise.

For more information, or a copy of the report (available after June 1), visit [www.thecapcenter.org](http://www.thecapcenter.org) contact Sheila Boxley at (916) 244-1921.

### **About the CAP Center**

The CAP Center is a state, national and international service, training, research and resource center dedicated to protecting children and building healthy families. The CAP Center's mission is to prevent child abuse, neglect and abandonment. To learn more, visit [www.thecapcenter.org](http://www.thecapcenter.org).

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