



FACT SHEET

Kentucky Child Fatality And Near Fatality External Review Panel 2026 Update

Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee
Research Report No. 503

Major Conclusions

- The panel addressed one of the two recommendations adopted by the Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee in 2025.
- The panel consulted with budget staff at the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet on how to use case management system funds beyond FY 2025.
- The panel did not act on the recommendation to develop standard operating procedures. Panel staff expect the new case management system will impact how procedures will be written.
- The panel made 21 recommendations to five agencies in its 2025 annual report. All five agencies responded with two responding after the 90-day deadline.
- The panel lacked a line item in the 2026-2028 budget, increasing the risk the panel may be underfunded. Although the panel is not concerned with funding, LOIC staff will monitor panel resources and expenditures as a precaution.
- The panel met its statutory requirement to submit annual reports consisting of case reviews and findings and recommendations for system and process improvements.
- The panel's findings in its 2025 annual report were supported by analysis and data that were illustrated in the report. Recommendations were appropriately linked to the report's findings, and the recommendations were targeted and actionable.

Recommendations

- Panel staff should request access to TWIST, iTWIST, and any necessary training from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services as soon as possible.
- Panel staff should develop written procedures for review and approval by the panel chair and members. Activities of panel members should be left to the discretion of the panel chair and members.
- The General Assembly should consider requesting testimony from agencies when those agencies do not respond to—or do not plan to implement—recommendations from the panel.

Key Numbers

Panel Membership:



5 ex officio and



17 voting members



\$200,000
FY 2025 case
management
system budget



248
cases reviewed
in 2025

350%

Increase in cases
since 2013