

Child Deaths

DEFINITION

Child deaths is the number of deaths from all causes to children ages 1 to 14, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

SIGNIFICANCE

The child death rate is a reflection of the physical, mental and emotional health of children, the dangers to which children are exposed in the community, access to and use of safety devices and practices (such as bicycle helmets and smoke alarms) and the level of adult supervision children receive.^{1,2} In the United States, the child death rate has declined for all children due to medical advances and a drop in motor vehicle accident deaths.³

Nationally, child injuries and deaths disproportionately affect poor children, younger children, males and minorities.⁴ Low-income children are four times more likely to drown, five times more likely to die in a fire and twice as likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than their peers.⁵ Black and Native American children under age 14 have the highest accidental injury death rates in the U.S. Native American children under age 14 are twice as likely and Black children are one and a half times as likely to die from accidental injury as White children.⁶

In Rhode Island, between 2002 and 2006 there were 133 deaths of children

ages 1 to 14. Of the 133 children, 63 (47%) lived in the core cities, 69 (52%) lived in the remainder of the state and one child's residence (<1%) was unknown. Of these 133 deaths, 91 (68%) were due to disease, 28 (21%) were due to unintentional injuries, 10 (8%) were due to intentional injuries (7 homicides and 3 suicides) and 4 (3%) were due to other causes. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 in Rhode Island, more than from any one single disease. Between 2002 and 2006, Rhode Island had a child death rate of 14.1 per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14.^{7,8}

According to safety experts, 90% of the unintentional injuries are preventable. Using effective safety products (like child restraints in cars) and creating safe environments (like installing smoke alarms and checking the batteries monthly) can significantly reduce the risk of child injury and death.⁹

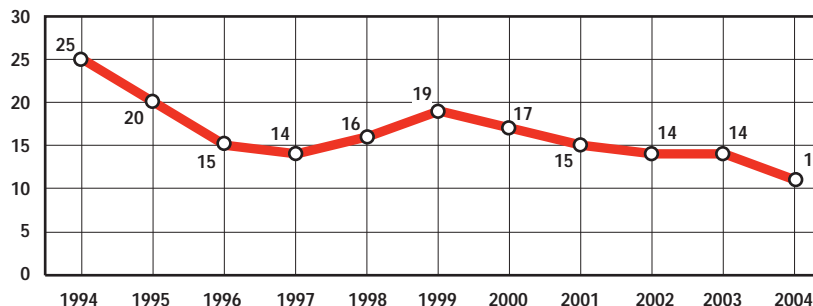
Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14)		
	2000	2004
RI	17	11
US	22	20
National Rank*		1st
New England Rank**		1st

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: *Kids count data book: State profiles in child well-being 2007*. (2007). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

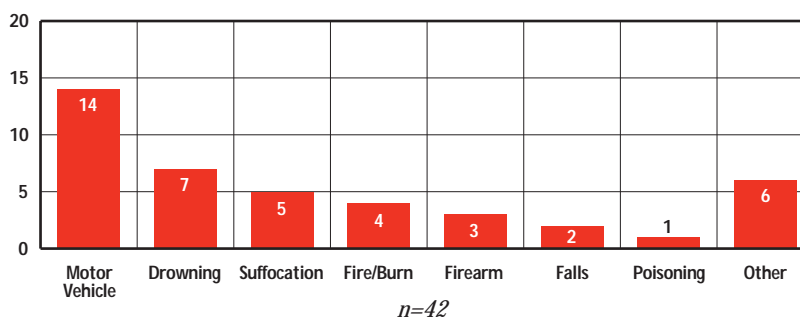
Child Death Rate Per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14 in Rhode Island, 1994-2004



Source: Kids Count State Level Data Online. (2006). *Child deaths: Rate per 100,000: 2003*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

◆ Between 1994 and 2004, Rhode Island's child death rate for children ages 1-14 declined from 25 per 100,000 children to 11 per 100,000 children. Rhode Island's child death rate is currently the best in the nation.^{10,11,12}

Child Deaths Due to Injury, By Cause, Rhode Island, 2002-2006



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2002-2006.

◆ Between 2002 and 2006, 42 children died as a result of injury. The leading cause of deaths due to injury were caused by motor vehicles (33%).¹³

References

¹ *Childhood injury fact sheet*. (2004). Washington, DC: National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

^{2,3} Shore, R. (2005). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the child death rate*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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