

Child Deaths

DEFINITION

Child deaths is the number of deaths from all causes to children ages one 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 health of children, maternal health, access to health care, 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} Recent declines in the U.S. child death rate are due to increased parental education about the effective use of safety products (like seat belts and car seats) and child safety laws (like requiring residential smoke detectors and window guards and better product safety labeling).³

Nationally, child injuries and deaths disproportionately affect poor children, children under age four, males and minorities. Native American children and Black children have the highest child death rates in the nation.^{4,5}

In Rhode Island between 2004 and 2008, there were 124 deaths of children ages one to 14 (a rate of 13.73 per 100,000 children).^{6,7} Seventy (56%) of these children lived in the core cities, 53

(43%) lived in the remainder of the state and one child's residence (1%) was unknown. Of the 124 deaths, 83 (67%) were due to disease, 26 (21%) were due to unintentional injuries, eight (6%) were due to intentional injuries (7 homicides and one suicide), one (1%) was due to undetermined injuries, and six (5%) were due to unknown causes. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages one to 14 in Rhode Island and in the U.S., more than from any single disease.^{8,9}

The leading causes of child injury deaths are motor vehicle crashes and drowning. Evidence-based interventions that have proven to reduce child injury include child-restraint and helmet laws, reduced speed limits and requiring four-sided fencing around swimming pools.¹⁰

In Rhode Island between 2004 and 2008, eight children under age 15 were hospitalized for firearms injuries and there were two gun-related child deaths.¹¹

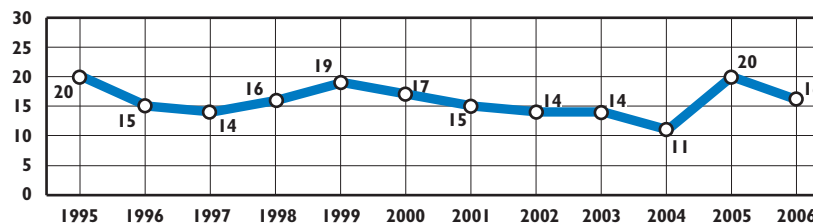
| Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14) | | |
|--|------|------|
| | 2000 | 2006 |
| RI | 17 | 16 |
| US | 22 | 19 |
| National Rank* | | 9th |
| New England Rank** | | 4th |

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: *KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles in child well-being 2009*. (2009). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation

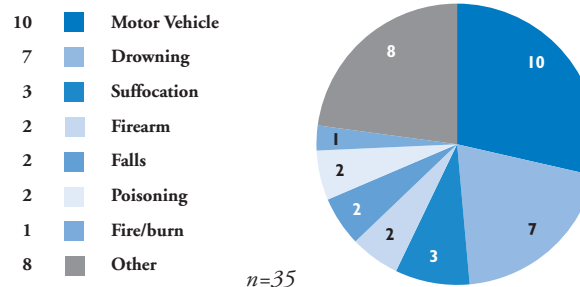
Child Death Rate per 100,000 Children Ages One to 14 in Rhode Island, 1995-2006



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2009). *Child deaths: Rate per 100,000*. Retrieved January 10, 2010 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

◆ Between 2005 and 2006, Rhode Island's child death rate for children ages one to 14 declined from 20 per 100,000 children to 16 per 100,000 children.¹²

Child Deaths Due to Injury, By Cause, Rhode Island, 2004-2008



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2004-2008.

◆ Between 2004 and 2008, 35 children died as a result of injury. Motor vehicle injuries were the leading cause of child deaths due to injury (29%) in Rhode Island.¹³ Nationally, half of the children under age 15 who died in motor vehicle collisions were not wearing a seat belt or other restraint.¹⁴

References

¹ Kendrick, D., et al. (2008). Parenting interventions and the prevention of unintentional injuries in childhood: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Child: care, health and development*, 34(5), 682-695.

^{2,3,11} Shore, R. & Shore, B. (2009). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the child death rate*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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