

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 and mental 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 general decrease 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 higher-income children. Among children under age 15, Native American children are twice as likely and Black children are one and a half times as likely to die from accidental injury as White children.⁵

In Rhode Island between 2003 and 2007, there were 125 deaths of children

ages one to 14 (a rate of 13.5 per 100,000 children). Sixty-three (50%) of these children lived in the core cities, 61 (49%) lived in the remainder of the state and one child's residence (1%) was unknown. Of the 125 deaths, 86 (69%) were due to disease, 27 (22%) were due to unintentional injuries, seven (6%) were due to intentional injuries (six homicides and one suicide), two (2%) were due to undetermined injuries, and three (2%) were due to unknown causes. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages one to 14 in Rhode Island, more than from any one single disease.^{6,7}

According to safety experts, 90% of 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 regularly) can significantly reduce the risk of child injury and death.⁸

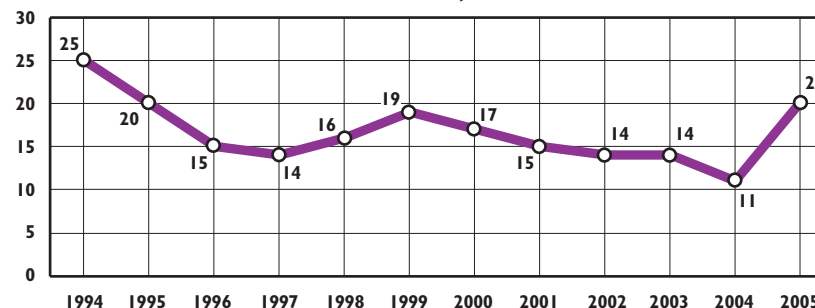
Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14)		
	2000	2005
RI	17	20
US	22	20
National Rank*		18th
New England Rank**		5th

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: *Kids count data book: State profiles in child well-being 2008*. (2008). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation

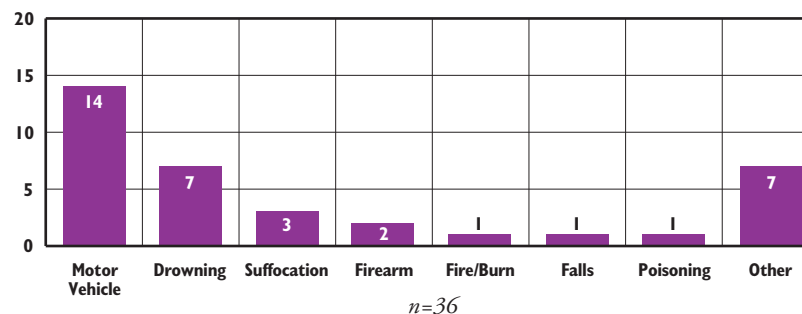
Child Death Rate Per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14 in Rhode Island, 1994-2005



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2008). *Child deaths: Rate per 100,000*. Retrieved January 28, 2009 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

◆ 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. In 2005, Rhode Island's child death rate rose to 20 per 100,000, the same as the national rate.^{9,10}

Child Deaths Due to Injury, By Cause, Rhode Island, 2003-2007



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2003-2007.

◆ Between 2003 and 2007, 36 children died as a result of injuries. The leading cause of death due to injury was motor vehicle injuries (39%).¹¹

References

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

^{2,8} Shore, R. (2005). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the child death rate*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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