

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 Between 1997 and 2001 in Rhode Island there were 154 child deaths of children ages 1 to 14. Of these, 68% (104) were due to disease, 27% (41) were due to unintentional injuries and 6% were due to intentional injuries (9 homicides, 0 suicides).²

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 in Rhode Island and nationally, exceeding deaths from any single disease.³ The 50 injury deaths to children ages 1 to 14 in Rhode Island between 1997 and 2001 were due to motor vehicle collisions (12), fire (11), homicides (9), drowning (6), choking (4), and other (8).⁴ Unintentional injuries and deaths due to such injuries disproportionately affect poor children,

young children, males, rural children, children in families with low levels of education and employment, children with developmental disabilities and minority children.⁵ In the U.S., the death rate for Black children ages 1 to 4 is almost twice that for White children.⁶

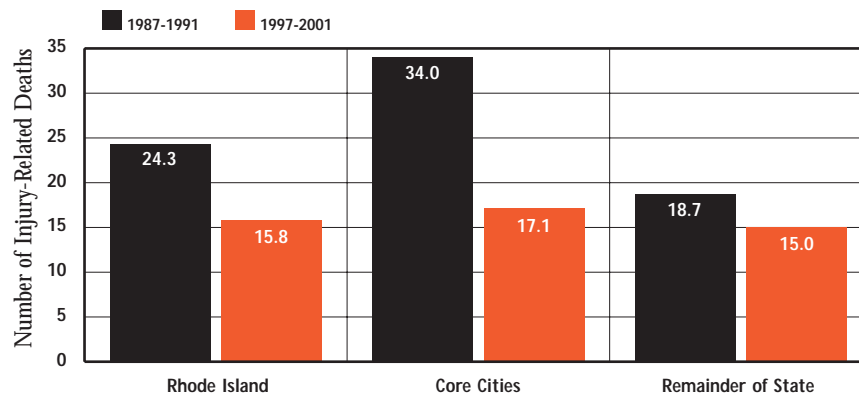
Many of the injuries that do not result in death are extremely costly both financially and in terms of loss of quality of life. Injuries may leave children temporarily or permanently disabled, result in time lost from school, decrease the child's ability to participate in everyday activities, and affect future ability to work and be independent.⁷

Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14)		
	1990	1999
RI	24	20
US	31	24
State Rank	7 th	

1st is best; 50th is worst

Source: *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being 2002* (2002). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Deaths of Children Ages 1 – 14, Rhode Island, Core Cities and Remainder, 1987-1991 and 1997-2001



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1987-1991 and 1997-2001.

◆ Between 1997 and 2001, Rhode Island's six core cities had a child death rate of 17.1 per 100,000 children ages 1 to 14, as compared with 34.0 child deaths per 100,000 between 1987 and 1991.⁸

◆ Motor vehicle accidents are a leading cause of injury deaths to children ages 1 to 14 in Rhode Island and nationally.⁹ In the U.S., 47% of motor vehicle occupants ages 1 to 4, and more than 65% of motor vehicle occupants ages 5 to 14, who were killed in fatal crashes in 1999 were not properly restrained in a car seat or seat belt.¹⁰