

DEFINITION

Teen deaths is the number of deaths from all causes among teens ages 15 to 19, per 100,000 teens. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

SIGNIFICANCE

Adolescents' health and safety can be threatened by a variety of risk behaviors, including alcohol, drug abuse, and violence. Teens' emotional health, including self-esteem and mental health, further impacts their safety. Nationally, the most prevalent causes of teen deaths are motor vehicle collisions, homicides, and suicides, all of which are preventable.^{1,2,3,4,5}

Factors that protect against teen deaths include parent involvement, access to mental health services designed for adolescents, state policies regulating teens' driving, prevention of teen drinking, and reduced access to guns. School, community, and therapeutic programs can reduce risk behaviors and support positive and healthy youth development.^{6,7,8}

Between 2010 and 2014, there were 100 deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 in Rhode Island, a rate of 26.0 per 100,000 teens.^{9,10} Thirty-seven of these teens lived in the four core cities and 63 lived in the remainder of the state.¹¹

Of the teen deaths between 2010 and 2014, 32 were due to unintentional injuries, 27 were due to intentional injuries, 27 were due to disease, eight were due to overdose, and six were of other or unknown causes. Of the intentional injury deaths, 15 were suicides and 12 were homicides.¹²

According to the *2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times during the past 12 months, a decrease from 14% in 2013.¹³ Of the 15 youth ages 15 to 19 who died from suicide between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, 12 were male and three were female.¹⁴ Mental health problems, such as depression as well as substance abuse are associated with an increased risk of suicide among youth.¹⁵

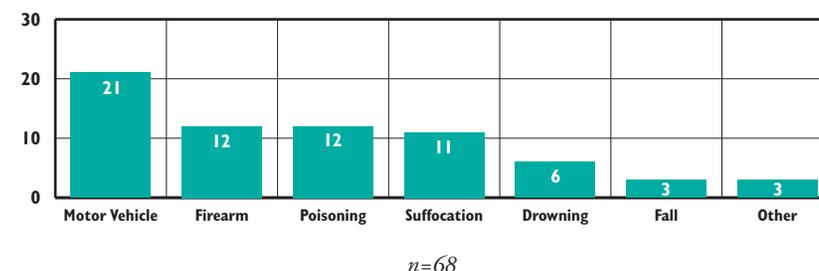
Teen Death Rate (per 100,000 Youth Ages 15-19)		
	2004	2014
RI	54	22
US	66	46
National Rank*		1st
New England Rank**		1st

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, wonder.cdc.gov

Injury Deaths by Cause, Teens Ages 15 to 19, Rhode Island, 2010-2014



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2010-2014. This chart and the first bullet below report deaths of teens residing in Rhode Island. Data reported in the second, third, and fourth bullets below reflect teen motor vehicle deaths that occurred in Rhode Island, regardless of residence. Data for 2014 are provisional.

◆ Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, 59% of the 68 teen deaths caused by injury were unintentional. Thirty-one percent of all injury deaths involved motor vehicles.¹⁶

◆ Among the 23 teens ages 15 to 19 killed in Rhode Island motor vehicle crashes between 2010 and 2014, 13 were driving, nine were passengers in vehicles driven by others, and one was a bicyclist.¹⁷

◆ Six (46%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014 had been drinking and two teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.¹⁸

◆ Thirteen (65%) of teen drivers and passengers killed in automobile accidents in Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014 were not wearing a seatbelt.¹⁹

◆ Eighteen percent of Rhode Island high school students report riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking in the past month and 6% report that they never or rarely wear a seatbelt while riding in a car driven by someone else. Forty-six percent reported texting or e-mailing while driving on at least one day in the past month.²⁰

References

¹⁶ Shore, R. & Shore, B. (2009). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the teen death rate*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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