

# Child Deaths

## DEFINITION

*Child deaths* is the number of deaths from all causes among 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.<sup>1,2</sup>

The U.S. child death rate has declined over the past three decades but disparities still exist by age group, gender, and race and ethnicity. Children ages one to four are more likely to die than children ages five to 14, and the child death rate is higher for boys than girls. The child death rate is also higher for Black children than for children of other racial and ethnic groups.<sup>3,4</sup>

In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, there were 90 deaths of children ages one to 14 (a rate of 11.06 per 100,000 children). Of these children, 36 (40%) lived in the four core cities and 54 (60%) lived in the remainder of the state. Of the 90 deaths, 64 (71%) were due to disease, 18 (20%) were due to unintentional injuries, and 8 (9%) were due to intentional injuries (six

suicides and two homicides).<sup>5,6</sup>

Children are particularly vulnerable to unintentional injury deaths due to their size, development, inexperience, and natural curiosity.<sup>7</sup> Unintentional injuries are the second highest cause of death for children ages one to 14 in Rhode Island and the leading cause in the U.S. accounting for more than a quarter of all deaths among children ages one to 14 nationally.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

Nationally, the leading causes of child injury deaths are motor vehicle crashes and drowning.<sup>11</sup> Child injury deaths can be reduced by raising awareness about injury prevention strategies and the importance of using safety products (such as seat belts), enforcing laws that promote safety (such as speed limits and the mandatory use of child passenger restraints), and through continued environmental and product design improvements (such as flame-resistant sleepwear and safety surfacing on playgrounds).<sup>12</sup>

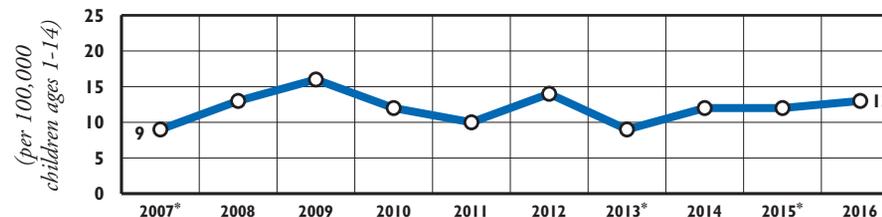
Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14)		
	2006	2016
RI	16	13
US	19	17
National Rank*		4th
New England Rank**		3rd

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

\*\*1st is best; 6th is worst

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

**Child Death Rate per 100,000 Children Ages One to 14, Rhode Island, 2007-2016**

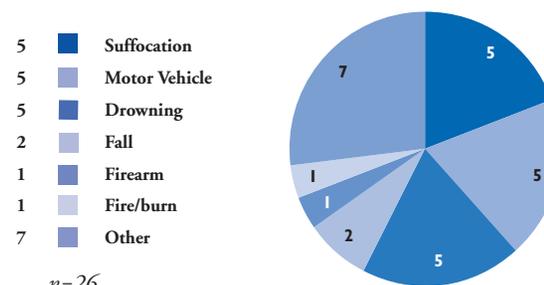


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, wonder.cdc.gov

\*Caution should be used with small numbers in numerators and denominators.

◆ In 2016, Rhode Island's child death rate for children ages one to 14 was 13 per 100,000 children, which was a small increase from 2015. Rhode Island's New England rank improved from fourth in 2015 to third in 2016, and its U.S. rank remained the same at fourth lowest.<sup>13</sup>

**Child Deaths Due to Injury, by Cause, Rhode Island, 2012-2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2012-2016.

◆ Between 2012 and 2016, 26 Rhode Island children ages one to 14 died as a result of injury. Suffocation, motor vehicle crashes, and drowning were the leading causes of child deaths due to injury in Rhode Island during this time period.<sup>14</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> 2017 KIDS COUNT data book. (2017). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

<sup>2,3,10</sup> Infant, child, and teen mortality. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

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