

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 access to health care, children's mental and physical health, 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}

The U.S. child death rate has declined steadily since 1980, but disparities still exist by age, 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 all other racial and ethnic groups.^{3,4}

In Rhode Island between 2013 and 2017, there were 81 deaths of children ages one to 14 (a rate of 10.04 per 100,000 children).⁵ Of these children, 31 (38%) lived in the four core cities and 50 (62%) lived in the remainder of the state. Of the 81 deaths, 57 (70%) were due to disease, 16 (20%) were due to unintentional injuries, and 8 (10%)

were due to intentional injuries (six suicides and two homicides).^{6,7}

Children are particularly vulnerable to injury deaths due to their size, development, inexperience, and natural curiosity.⁸ 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.^{9,10}

Nationally, the leading causes of child injury deaths are motor vehicle crashes and drowning.¹¹ Child injury deaths can be reduced by educating families about injury prevention strategies and the importance of using safety products (such as seat belts and fencing around pools), 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 safely engineered toys and safety surfacing on playgrounds).¹²

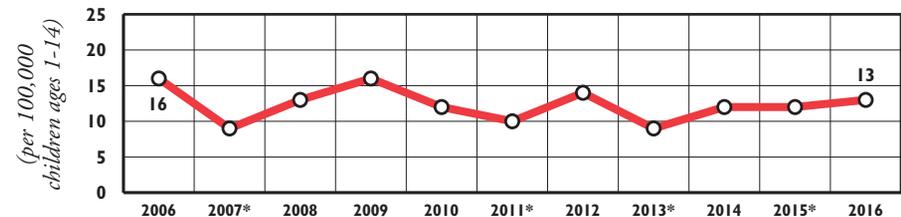
Child Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14)		
	2006	2016
RI	16	13
US	19	17
National Rank*		4th
New England Rank**		3rd

*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, 2006-2016



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

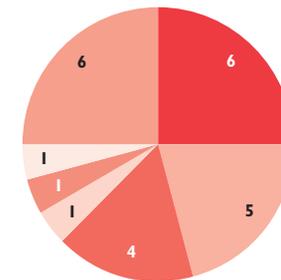
*Caution should be used with small numbers in numerators and denominators.

◆ 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.¹³

Child Deaths Due to Injury, by Cause, Rhode Island, 2013-2017

- 6 Motor Vehicle Crash
- 5 Suffocation
- 4 Drowning
- 1 Fall
- 1 Firearm
- 1 Fire/burn
- 6 Other

n=24



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2013-2017.

◆ Between 2013 and 2017, 24 Rhode Island children ages one to 14 died as a result of injury. Motor vehicle crashes, suffocation, and drowning were the leading causes of these child deaths in Rhode Island during this time period.¹⁴

References

¹ 2018 KIDS COUNT data book. (2018). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

^{23,10} Infant, child, and teen mortality. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

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