

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.¹ Teens' mental health, including mood disorders and depression, further impacts their safety.² Nationally in 2016, 75% of teen deaths were accidents, homicides, and suicides, all of which are preventable.^{3,4}

Factors that protect against teen deaths include parent and family involvement, access to mental health services, state regulated teen driving programs, as well as violence and substance abuse prevention programs. Individual and group therapeutic programs in family, school, and community settings can support positive behavior changes and increase mental health awareness.^{5,6,7}

Between 2013 and 2017, there were 94 deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 in Rhode Island, a rate of 25.5 per 100,000 teens. Of these teens, 36 (38%) lived in the four core cities and 58 (62%) lived in the remainder of the state.^{8,9} Of these 94 teen deaths, 36 (38%) were due to unintentional injuries, 26 (28%) were due to

intentional injuries (18 suicides and eight homicides), 21 (22%) were due to disease, and 11 (1%) were due to overdose.¹⁰

According to the *2017 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times in the 12 months before the survey was administered, which was the same as in 2015.¹¹ Of the 18 youth ages 15 to 19 who died from suicide between 2013 and 2017, 16 were male and two were female.¹² Nationally, depression and suicide among adolescents have increased in recent years, with more females reporting symptoms of depression and committing suicide nationally than males.¹³ Mental health problems, depression, attempting suicide, substance abuse, experiencing partner violence, and having a family member or friend attempt suicide are associated with an increased risk of suicide or attempted suicide among youth.¹⁴

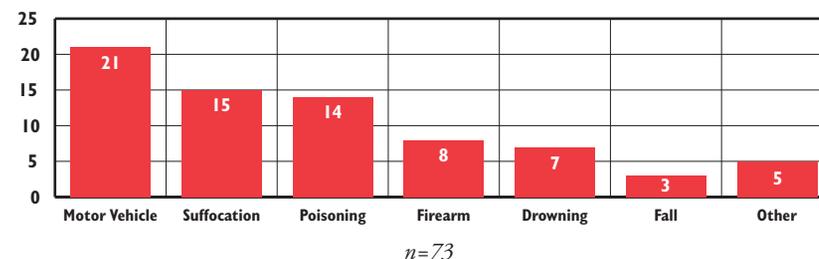
Teen Death Rate (per 100,000 Children Ages 15-19)		
	2006	2016
RI	34	22
US	63	51
National Rank*	1st	
New England Rank**	1st	

*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, 2013-2017



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2013-2017. 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. Effective October 1, 2015, the International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes changed from the 9th classification to the 10th classification, which may impact comparability across the years.

- ◆ **Between 2013 and 2017 in Rhode Island, 58% of the 73 teen deaths caused by injury were unintentional. Twenty-nine percent of all injury deaths involved motor vehicles.¹⁵**
- ◆ **Among the 26 teens ages 15 to 19 killed in Rhode Island motor vehicle crashes between 2013 and 2017, 12 were driving, eight were passengers in vehicles driven by others, four were pedestrians, and two were bicyclists.¹⁶**
- ◆ **Two (17%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2013 and 2017 had been drinking, and two teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.¹⁷**
- ◆ **Ten (59%) of teen drivers and passengers killed in automobile accidents in Rhode Island between 2013 and 2017 were not wearing a seatbelt.¹⁸**
- ◆ **In 2017, 37% of Rhode Island high school students reported texting or e-mailing while driving on at least one day in the month prior to taking the *Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Fourteen percent reported riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking in the prior month, and 7% reported that they never or rarely wear a seatbelt while riding in a car driven by someone else.¹⁹**

References

- ¹⁵ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2019). *Healthy People 2020: Adolescent health*. Retrieved February 21, 2019, from www.healthypeople.gov
- ² *Teen homicide, suicide, and firearm deaths*. (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

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