Unintentional injuries and violence are the leading causes of death, hospitalization, and disability for children ages 1-18. This fact sheet provides a state snapshot of data on the injury-related Maternal and Child Health Block Grant National Performance Measures and Health Status Indicators, with a special focus on disparities based on race, gender, and rural/urban residence. The fact sheet is intended to be a helpful and easy-to-use tool for needs assessments, planning, program development, and presentations.

The Children’s Safety Network (CSN) National Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Center, funded by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau, works with states to utilize a science-based, public health approach for injury and violence prevention (IVP). CSN is available to provide information and technical assistance on injury surveillance and data; needs assessments; best practices; and the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs to prevent child and adolescent injuries.

**Major Causes of Injury Death**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>&lt;1</th>
<th>1 - 4</th>
<th>5 - 9</th>
<th>10 - 14</th>
<th>15-19</th>
<th>20-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 70</td>
<td>Maternal Neoplasms ****</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury ****</td>
<td>Homicide ****</td>
<td>Homicide 96</td>
<td>Homicide 141</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 69</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury ****</td>
<td>Homicide ****</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury ****</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 21</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Short Gestation 69</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies ****</td>
<td>Five Tied ****</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms ****</td>
<td>Suicide ****</td>
<td>Suicide 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Placenta Cord Membranes 40</td>
<td>Homicide ****</td>
<td>Five Tied ****</td>
<td>Suicide ****</td>
<td>Heart Disease ****</td>
<td>Complicated Pregnancy ****</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SIDS 27</td>
<td>Influenza &amp; Pneumonia ****</td>
<td>Five Tied ****</td>
<td>Four Tied ****</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms ****</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms ****</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. **** = indicates that the cell values range from 1-9 and are suppressed for data confidentiality purposes. For ages 5-9, five mechanisms were tied for the third through seventh ranking including Cerebro-vascular, Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, Influenza & Pneumonia, Malignant Neoplasms, and Perinatal Period. For ages 10-14, four mechanisms were tied for the fifth through eighth ranking including Cerebro-vascular, Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, Influenza & Pneumonia, Malignant Neoplasms, and Perinatal Period. Anemias, Cerebro-vascular, and Congenital Anomalies. Each of these mechanisms had fewer than 10 deaths.
Table 2: Leading Causes and Total 5-Year Incidence of Injury Deaths by Age Group, District of Columbia, 2008-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>&lt;1</th>
<th>1 - 4</th>
<th>5 - 9</th>
<th>10 - 14</th>
<th>15-19</th>
<th>20-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Homicide ****</td>
<td>Fire/Burn ****</td>
<td>Homicide ****</td>
<td>Homicide 96</td>
<td>Homicide 141</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Suffocation ****</td>
<td>Four Tied ****</td>
<td>Fire/Burn ****</td>
<td>MVT ****</td>
<td>MVT 19</td>
<td>MVT 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall ****</td>
<td>Undetermined Suffocation ****</td>
<td>Drowning ****</td>
<td>Fire/Burn ****</td>
<td>Suicide ****</td>
<td>Suicide 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Undetermined Suffocation ****</td>
<td>Suicide ****</td>
<td>Legal/Military ****</td>
<td>Three Tied ****</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. All mechanisms of suicide and homicide were combined according to intent. Each listed mechanism is unintentional except those otherwise noted. **** = indicates that the cell values range from 1-9 and are suppressed for data confidentiality purposes. *For ages 1-4, four mechanisms were tied for the second ranking including MVT; Pedestrian, other; Undetermined Fire/Burn; and Undetermined Suffocation. **For ages 15-19, three mechanisms were tied for the fifth ranking including Poisoning, Suffocation, and Undetermined Poisoning. ***For ages 20-24, three mechanisms were tied for the fourth ranking including Fire/Burn, Poisoning, and Undetermined Poisoning. ****For ages 20-24, seven mechanisms were tied for the fifth ranking including Drowning; Pedestrian, other; Other land transport; Unintentional Unspecified; Undetermined Fire/Burn; Undetermined Other specified; and Legal/Military. Each of these mechanisms had fewer than 10 deaths.

Motor Vehicle-Related Deaths for Children 0-14 Years of Age

Motor vehicle-related deaths remain a major cause of death for children 14 and under. Figure 1 shows the change in the rate of state motor vehicle-related deaths compared to the US rate from 2003-2007. Overall, the rate of death per 100,000 population declined steadily across the US during this period. Figure 2 provides a breakout of the fatalities by type distinguishing motor vehicle occupant deaths (of any vehicle type) from pedestrian and pedal cyclist fatalities. This information allows states to understand which types are responsible for most of the fatalities.

Figure 3 breaks out the fatalities by race and age group. There are considerable differences between races suggesting variations in social norms, safety practices, and the presence of risk factors, including child restraint system (CRS) or safety belt usage, alcohol involved crashes, and the use of helmets. Many factors may affect this variation. Figure 4 provides a breakdown of fatalities by gender and, although there is little variability between males and females for the 10-14 age group, there is an increasing difference in the 15-24 age group. Figure 4 suggests that the female rate decreased for 20-24 year olds compared with the 15-19 year olds while male fatalities increased for 20-24 year olds.
53% of children ages 0 through 14 involved in a motor vehicle fatality were pedestrians.

Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities by Type among Children Aged 0 through 14, District of Columbia, 2003-2007

Figure 3: Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rate by Race among Children and Youths Aged 0 through 24, District of Columbia, 2003-2007

Figure 4: Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rate by Gender among Children and Youths Aged 10 through 24 for District of Columbia, 2003-2007
One way of understanding disparities is to look at the rate of injuries by place of occurrence. To show this, CSN has provided the rates for the 0–14, 15-19 and 20-24 age groups using the urban-rural classification system developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). To show how injury rates vary by level of urbanization, a table based on the classification system can be found here and defines six levels of urbanization: large central metro, large fringe metro, medium metro, small metro, micropolitan, and noncore. Figure 5 shows how the rate varies by age group by place of occurrence/urban-rural setting. This information allows the state to better understand any disparity that may occur between the different settings. Data are provided only for those areas in which 20 or more deaths occurred. Many of these motor vehicle related deaths can be prevented through the implementation of a broad range of evidence-informed interventions and programs. These data are intended to provide a broad overview of the magnitude of the problem and to highlight possible disparities which may exist by race, gender, and urbanicity.

Suicide Deaths for Youths 15-19 Years of Age

Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death and the 3rd leading cause of injury-related death among US youth 10-24 years of age. According to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS), 15.8% of students seriously considered attempting suicide and 7.8% of students attempted suicide one or more times in the 12 months prior to the survey. Although progress has been made over the past decade in reducing the rate of completed suicides nationally, this reduction has leveled off in the last few years.

The following figures provide state-specific data related to suicide. Figure 6 shows the state rate from 2003-2007 for 15-19 year olds in comparison to the US rate for the same age group and time period. Figure 7 provides information on the means used by the 15-19 year olds for completed suicides. It is important to note that the actual number of suicides is often quite small thus resulting in considerable variation when looking at year to year rates.
50% of youth aged 15 through 19 completed suicide by suffocation.
The YRBS provides information about behaviors that contribute to unintentional and intentional violence among youth. Figures 8 and 9 provide information on the percentage of high school students with suicide ideation and the percentage who reported being medically treated for a suicide attempt from 2005-2013, respectively. This information and other information available in the YRBS can help states understand how behaviors are changing within this age group.

Figure 10 shows how the rate differs by race for 15-19 and 20-24 year olds from 2003-2007. Figure 11 shows the difference by gender for the same age group and time period with the male rate for both age groups exceeding the female rate. Figure 12 looks at the variation in rate by urbanicity for 15-24 year olds with the rate increasing as rurality increases (see definition of urbanicity in Motor Vehicle section). This information provides a better understanding of the magnitude of the problem in different parts of the state, helping the state to identify environmental risk factors and facilitate decision making on where to target its suicide prevention efforts.
Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisoning Deaths for Youths 15 -24 Years of Age

Poisoning is the 3rd leading cause of injury-related death among US youth ages 20-24 and the 5th leading cause of injury-related death among US youth ages 15-19. Drug overdose death rates among all ages in the US have more than tripled since 1990 and have never been higher. (1) Poisoning can be intentional or unintentional; poisoning cases reported here include prescription medications, illicit drugs and other, unspecified drugs. According to the national survey Monitoring the Future, in 2013 15 percent of high school seniors used a prescription drug non-medically in the past year. (2) Every day in the U.S., an average of 2,000 teenagers use prescription medications for the first time without a doctor’s guidance. Youth who abuse prescription medications are also more likely to report use of other drugs. (3) Many teens falsely believe that because prescription medicines are prescribed by a physician, are inexpensive, and are widely available that they are safer than illicit drugs.

Figure 13 provides state-specific fatality rates for motor vehicle traffic, suicide, and drug poisoning for youth aged 15 through 24 for the period 2008-2012. Figure 14 provides data on the rate of unintentional and undetermined drug overdoses in the state compared to the national rate. Figure 15 shows the percentage distribution of fatal unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning by drug type for the period 2008-2012.

The Data for Figure 14: Fatal Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisonings Rate among Youths Aged 15 through 24, District of Columbia and U.S., 2008-2012 is not available.

The Data for Figure 15: Percentage Distribution of Fatal Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisoning by Drug Type, Youths Aged 15 through 24, District of Columbia, 2008-2012 is not available.

The Data for Figure 16: Fatal Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisoning Rate by Race among Youths Aged 15 through 24, District of Columbia, 2008-2012 is not available.

The Data for Figure 17: Fatal Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisonings Rate by Gender among Youths Aged 15 through 24, District of Columbia, 2008-2012 is not available.

The Data for Figure 18: Fatal Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Poisonings Rate by Urbanicity among Youths Aged 15 through 24, District of Columbia, 2008-2012 is not available.
The Maternal and Child Health Bureau requires every state to report on 12 Health Status Indicators. Six of the indicators are related to IVP. The two figures below reflect the data reported for the IVP Health Status Indicators by the state on TVIS for the current application year.

The Data for Figure 19: Nonfatal Injury Health Status Indicators, District of Columbia, 2009-2013 is not available

State Specific Performance Measures and Priority Needs

Each state develops up to 10 State Performance Measures and Priority Needs. The following provides information about the states’ selected 2015 injury-related Performance Measures and Priority Needs.

District of Columbia has the following injury-related State Performance Measures:
- Reduce the percentage of high school students who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times in the past 12 months.
- Reduce the prevalence of elevated blood lead among children less than 6 years of age.

District of Columbia has the following injury-related Priority Needs:
- Reduce intentional injuries among children and youth.
- Increase lead screening for children under six years of age.
Children's Safety Network is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Citations and Sources


Table 1 Source: WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports, 2008-2012
Table 2 Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death Data, 2008-2012
Figure 1 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 2 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 3 Source: WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 4 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 5 Source: CDC WONDER Multiple Cause of Death data, 2008-2012 and Urban-Rural Definition Classification System

The classification scheme can be found at: http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/CMF/Urbanization-Methodology.html. 2006 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties, by Deborah D. Ingram and Sheila Franco.

Figure 6 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 7 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figures 8 & 9 Source: Youth Online: High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2005-2013
Figure 10 Source: WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 11 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 12 Source: CDC WONDER Multiple Cause of Death data, 2008-2012 and Urban-Rural Definition Classification System


Figure 15 Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause-of-Death Data, 2008-2012.
Figure 16 Source: WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2008-2012
Figure 17 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2012
Figure 18 Source: CDC WONDER Multiple Cause of Death data, 2008-2012 Urban-Rural Definition Classification System

Figures 19 & 20 Source: HRSA, Title V Information System Multi-Year Report. Some states may have changed their method of calculation.

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