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 1: Leading Causes and Total 5-Year Incidence of Deaths by Age Group, Massachusetts, 2008-2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Causes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>1 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Short Gestation 389</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 282</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 136</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SIDS 124</td>
<td>Homicide 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Placenta Cord Membranes 102</td>
<td>Heart Disease ****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. **** = indicates that the cell values range from 1-9 and are suppressed for data confidentiality purposes.
<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>Suffocation</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>MVT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Poisoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fire/ Burn</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Pedestrian, Other</td>
<td>Undetermined Suffocation</td>
<td>Other specified, NEC</td>
<td>Poisoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Five Tied</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fire/ Burn</td>
<td>Three Tied</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Leading Causes and Total 5-Year Incidence of Injury Deaths by Age Group, Massachusetts, 2008-2012

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, five mechanisms were tied for the fifth ranking including Poisoning, Struck by/against, Unintentional Unspecified, Undetermined Drowning, and Undetermined Poisoning. **For ages 5-9, six mechanisms were tied for the fifth ranking including Fire/Burn; Pedal cyclist, other; Poisoning; Struck by/against; Suffocation; and Suicide. ***For ages 10-14, three mechanisms were tied for the fifth ranking including Other land transport, Other transport, and Suffocation. Each of these mechanisms had fewer than 10 deaths.
These results are preliminary

Table 3: Leading Causes and Annual Incidence of Hospital-Admitted Injuries by Age Group, Massachusetts Residents, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Age Groups</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>&lt;1</td>
<td>Other Specified, NEC 105</td>
<td>Fall 183</td>
<td>Fall 233</td>
<td>Self-Inflicted 365</td>
<td>Self-Inflicted 512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 - 4</td>
<td>Fall 89</td>
<td>Other Specified, NEC 93</td>
<td>MVT 49</td>
<td>Struck By/ Against 99</td>
<td>MVT 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 - 9</td>
<td>Assualt 31</td>
<td>Poisoning 70</td>
<td>Other Specified, NEC 39</td>
<td>Self-Inflicted 64</td>
<td>Fall 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>Suffocation 18</td>
<td>Bites &amp; Stings 57</td>
<td>Bites &amp; Stings 35</td>
<td>MVT 59</td>
<td>Other Spec, NEC 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>Poisoning 14</td>
<td>Struck By/ Against 27</td>
<td>Struck By/ Against 34</td>
<td>Pedal Cyclist, Other 43</td>
<td>Struck By/ Against 122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: MVT = Motor Vehicle Traffic. NEC = Not Elsewhere Classifiable. Spec = Specified. Each listed mechanism is unintentional except those otherwise noted. Source: Children’s Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center (CSN EDARC), at Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), Calverton, MD, January 2014. Incidence based on 2011 data from the state and obtained from the Massachusetts State Inpatient Databases (SID), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (Boston, MA). These injuries exclude patients who were dead at the time of discharge, readmission cases, transfers (e.g., from another short or long-term care facility, different acute care hospital), medical misadventures, and/or who suffered non-acute injuries. All counts were based on the patients’ state of residence.
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.

Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities by Type among Children Aged 0 through 14, Massachusetts, 2008-2012

38% of children ages 0 through 14 involved in a motor vehicle fatality were pedestrians.
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 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 (YRBS), 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 2008-2012 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.

75% of youth aged 15 through 19 completed suicide by suffocation.
Figure 8: Percentage of High School-Aged Children with Suicide Ideation, Massachusetts and US, 2005-2013

Figure 9: Percentage of High School-Aged Children Treated for Suicide Attempt, Massachusetts and US, 2005-2013

Figure 10: Completed Suicide Rate by Race among Youths Aged 15 through 24, Massachusetts, 2008-2012

Figure 11: Completed Suicide Rate by Gender among Youths Aged 15 through 24, Massachusetts, 2008-2012
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 2008-2012. 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.
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 drugs 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.
Figure 16 describes the rates of unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning by race for 15-19 and 20-24 year olds from 2008-2012. Although patterns among ages 15-19 and 20-24 vary nationally and among the states, the highest rates of these drug poisoning fatalities most often occur among Whites and Native American. Figure 17 shows the difference by gender for the same age groups and time period and here the male rate for both age groups is usually higher; for ages 20-24 the male rate is generally more than twice the female rate. Figure 18 presents variation in rate of unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning by urbanicity for 15-24 year olds. Unlike suicide and motor vehicle crashes fatality rates, urbanicity alone does not present a consistent pattern in the rate of fatal unintentional and undetermined drug poisonings. Risks associated with gender and race appear to be the target for prevention efforts related to unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning among youths age 15-25 years.
**IVP Health Status Indicators**

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.

![Figure 19: Nonfatal Injury Health Status Indicators, Massachusetts, 2009-2013](image1)

![Figure 20: Fatal Injury Health Status Indicators, Massachusetts, 2009-2013](image2)

**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.

Massachusetts has the following injury-related State Performance Measures:
- Increase the percentage of School Based Health Center clients for whom an assessment for intimate partner/teen dating/sexual violence was done.
- Reduce the rate (per 100,000) of unintentional motor vehicle traffic occupant deaths among youth aged 15-19 years.
- Reduce the percentage of high school students having missed a school day due to feeling unsafe at or on the way to school.

Massachusetts has the following injury-related Priority Needs:
- Enhance screening for and prevention of violence and bullying.
- Reduce unintentional injury and promote health behavior choices for adolescents.
Citations and Sources


Table 1 Source: WISQARS Leading Causes of Death Reports, 2003-2007
Table 2 Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death Data, 2008-2012
Table 3 Source: Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center (CSN EDARC), at Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), Calverton, MD, January 2013.
Figure 1 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2003-2007
Figure 2 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2012
Figure 3 Source: WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2008-2012
Figure 4 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2012
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, 2008-2012
Figure 7 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2012
Figures 8 & 9 Source: Youth Online: High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2005-2013
Figure 10 Source: WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 2008-2012
Figure 11 Source: WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2012
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.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Child and Adolescent Injury and Violence Prevention Resource Centers Cooperative Agreement (grant number U49MC07499) for $850,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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. A project of Education Development Center, Inc.