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, Pennsylvania, 2008-2012

<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Short Gestation 997</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 223</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 135</td>
<td>Unintentional Injury 163</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 913</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms 75</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms 79</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms 72</td>
<td>Homicide 429</td>
<td>Homicide 733</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 472</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 68</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 23</td>
<td>Suicide 60</td>
<td>Suicide 321</td>
<td>Suicide 620</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SIDS 361</td>
<td>Homicide 55</td>
<td>Heart Disease 16</td>
<td>Congenital Anomalies 26</td>
<td>Homicide 26</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Placenta Cord Membranes 260</td>
<td>Heart Disease 21</td>
<td>Homicide 15</td>
<td>Heart Disease 25</td>
<td>Heart Disease 55</td>
<td>Heart Disease 121</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2: Leading Causes and Total 5-Year Incidence of Injury Deaths by Age Group, Pennsylvania, 2008-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Fire/Burn</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Poisoning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>801</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other spec &amp; classifiable</td>
<td>Fire/Burn</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Fire/Burn</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>****</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>733</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fire/Burn</td>
<td>MVT</td>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Poisoning</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>****</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>620</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Suffocation</td>
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<td>Drowning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>****</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>53</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.
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 2008-2012. 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.

35% 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 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 (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.

Figure 6: Suicide Death Rate among Youths Aged 15 through 19, Pennsylvania and U.S., 2008-2012

![Graph showing suicide death rate among youths aged 15 through 19, Pennsylvania and U.S., 2008-2012.]

45%
of youth aged 15 through 19 completed suicide by suffocation.

Figure 7: Percentage Distribution of Completed Suicides by Means among Youths Aged 15 through 19, Pennsylvania, 2008-2012

![Pie chart showing percentage distribution of completed suicides by means among youths aged 15 through 19, Pennsylvania, 2008-2012.]

- Suffocation: 45%
- Firearm: 41%
- Poisoning: 8%
- Other: 6%

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.
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, Pennsylvania, 2009-2012**

**Figure 20: Fatal Injury Health Status Indicators, Pennsylvania, 2009-2012**

**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.

Pennsylvania has the following injury-related State Performance Measure:
- Reduce the death rate per 100,000 due to unintentional injuries among children aged 19 years and younger.

Pennsylvania has the following injury-related Priority Needs:
- Increase behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) screening, diagnosis, and treatment for pregnant women and mothers (this includes postpartum depression).
- Increase screening for mental health issues among infants, children, and adolescents.
- Expand injury prevention activities (including suicide prevention) for infants, children, and adolescents.
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, 2008-2012
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-Methology.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.

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