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Child Injury infographic

Vital Signs

Updated Apr. 16, 2012

Print

INJURY

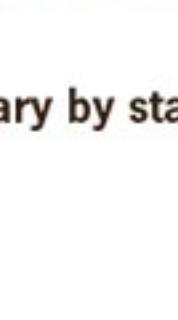
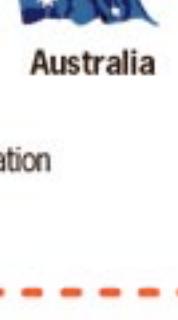
The #1 killer of children in the US

For every 1 child that dies there are...

25 hospitalizations

925 treated in ER

Many more treated in doctors' offices



In 2005, injuries that resulted in death, hospitalization or an ER visit cost nearly \$11.5 billion in medical expenses.

SOURCES: Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), CDC, 2009.

National Health Interview Survey, 2009 data release, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics.

Global view

The US child (0-14 years) injury death rate ranks among the worst of all high-income countries



State view

Child (0-19 years) injury death rates vary by state



In 2009, more than 5,700 children's lives would have been saved if the lowest state death rate was achieved nationally.

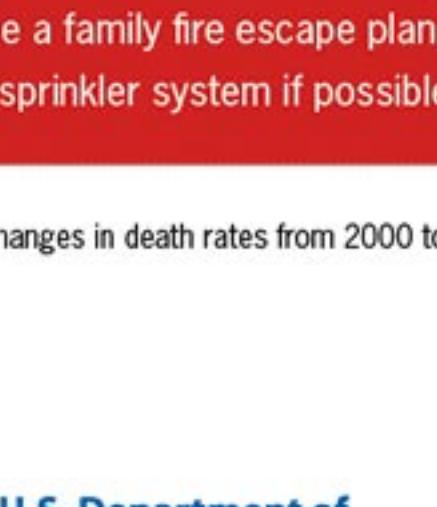
SOURCE: Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), CDC, 2009.

Causes of child injury and prevention tips

4,564 Deaths

Motor Vehicle

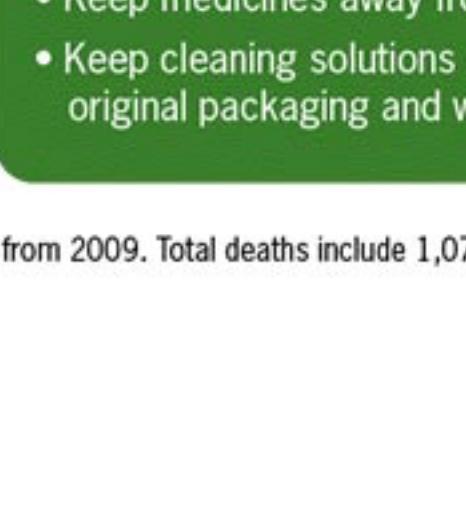
41% decrease



- Always use seat belts, child safety seats and booster seats that are correct for a child's age and weight.
- Use safe-driving agreements or contracts with teens.

Suffocation

1,160 Deaths

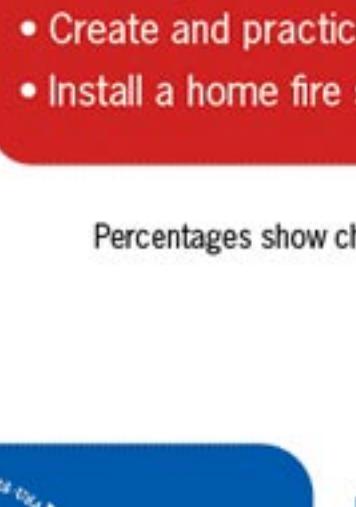


- Make sure infants sleep alone; placed on their backs on a firm surface.
- Be sure crib meets safety standards.
- Avoid loose bedding or soft toys in crib.

151 Deaths

Fall

19% decrease

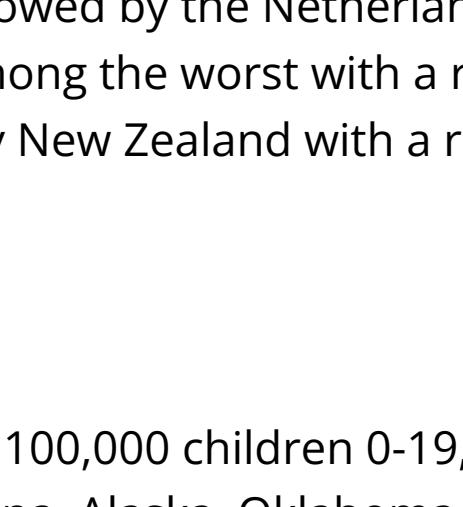


- Use a soft landing surface on playgrounds (such as sand or wood chips, not dirt or grass).
- Use protective gear, like a helmet, during sports and recreation.
- Install protective rails on bunk beds and loft beds.

Drowning

983 Deaths

28% decrease

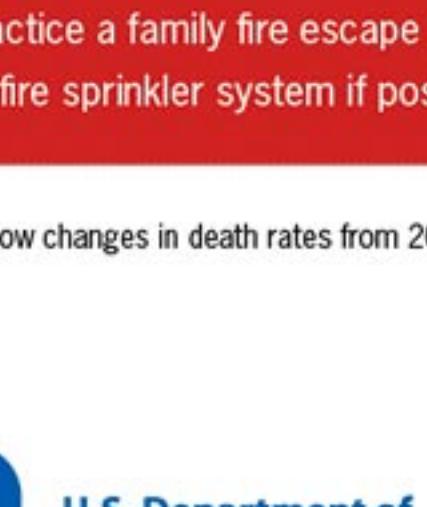


- Learn to swim – important for parents and kids.
- Use a four-sided fence with self-closing and self-latching gates around pool.
- Watch kids closely when they are in and around water.

391 Deaths

Fire/burn

45% decrease

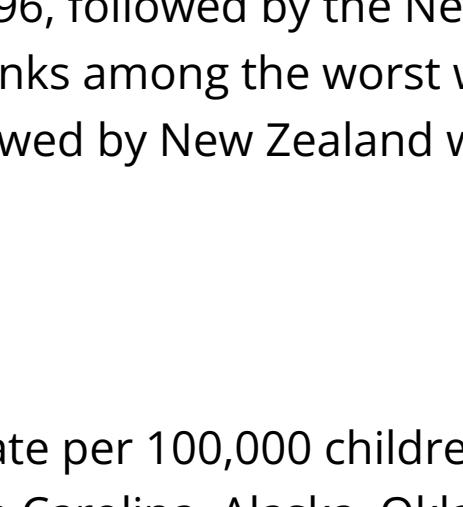


- Use smoke alarms – where people sleep and on every level of the home – and test monthly.
- Create and practice a family fire escape plan.
- Install a home fire sprinkler system if possible.

Poisoning

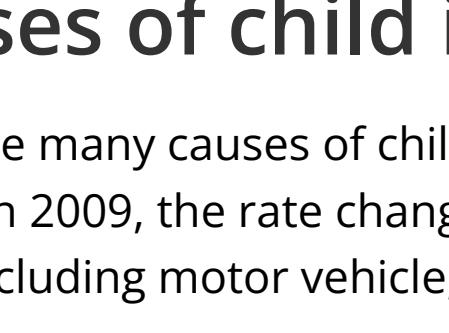
824 Deaths

80% increase



- Keep medicines away from children and teens.
- Keep cleaning solutions and other toxic products in original packaging and where children can't get them.

Percentages show changes in death rates from 2000 to 2009. Deaths are from 2009. Total deaths include 1,070 from other causes.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

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Global graphic:

This figure shows the child injury death rate among children 0-14 years of high-income countries old per 100,000 people, in 2008. The country with the lowest child injury death rate is Sweden with a rate of 1.96, followed by the Netherlands (2.38), United Kingdom (2.85), France (3.39), Canada (4.64), Australia (4.84), and Poland (5.97). The US ranks among the worst with a rate of 8.65, 4 times greater than the country with the lowest rate (Sweden, 1.96). The United States is followed by New Zealand with a rate of 11.08 and Mexico at 12.72.

State Map:

Map of the United States showing the child injury death rates for each state per 100,000 children 0-19, in 2009. States with the highest rates of child injury, 18.0 to 25.9 per 100,000 children 0-19, include: South Carolina, Alaska, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, and Mississippi.

States with child injury death rates from 11.0 to 17.9 per 100,000 children 0-19 include: Utah, Arizona, Maine, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Delaware, Michigan, West Virginia, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Idaho, Nevada, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, North Dakota, Alabama, Arkansas, and New Mexico.

States with the lowest rates of child injury death, 4.0 to 10.9 per 100,000 children 0-19 include: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, California, Rhode Island, Maryland, Illinois, Virginia, Oregon, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Colorado, Washington, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Georgia, and Hawaii.

Vermont and Washington, DC do not have enough child injury deaths to report and are suppressed on the map.

Causes of child injury and preventative tips

There are many causes of child injury. In 2009, 9,143 children died from injuries. This graphic includes information on the number of deaths in 2009, the rate change in deaths between 2000 and 2009, and injury prevention tips for each of the most common causes of injury including motor vehicle, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires/burns, and falls.

[Picture of an adult buckling a child in a car seat] In 2009, 4,564 children died from motor vehicle related injuries. Between 2000 and 2009, there was a 41% increase in the motor vehicle related injury death rates. To prevent motor vehicle related deaths: always use seat belts, child safety seats, and booster seats that are correct for a child's age and weight; and use safe-driving agreements or contracts with teens.

[Picture of an adult checking on a baby on its back on a firm surface in an empty crib] In 2009, 1,160 children died from suffocations. Between 2000 and 2009, there was a 30% increase in the suffocation death rate. To prevent suffocations: make sure infants sleep alone, placed on their backs, on a firm surface; be sure cribs meet safety standards; and avoid loose bedding or soft toys in the crib.

[Picture of an adult and child playing safely in pool together] In 2009, 983 children died due to drowning. Between 2000 and 2009, there was a 28% decrease in the drowning death rate. To further reduce the number of children dying from drowning, everyone should learn to swim; use a four-sided fence with self-closing and self-latching gates around pool; and watch kids closely when they are in or around water.

[Picture of an adult putting a cleaning solution in its original container away in a cabinet where a child cannot reach] In 2009, 824 children died from poisonings. Between 2000 and 2009 there was an 80% increase in the poisoning death rate, largely due to prescription drug overdoses. To prevent poisonings: keep medicine away from children and teens; keep cleaning solutions and other toxic products in original packaging and where children can't get them.

[Picture of an adult cooking safely over stove] In 2009, 391 children died from fires or burns. Between 2000 and 2009, there was a 45% decrease in the fire/burn death rate. To further reduce the number of children dying from fires and burns: use smoke alarms – where people sleep and on every level of the home – and test monthly; create and practice a family fire escape plan; and install a home fire sprinkler system if possible.

[Picture of an adult pushing a child on a swing] In 2009, 151 children died from falls. Between 2000 and 2009, there was a 19% decrease in the fall death rate. To further reduce the number of children dying from falls: use a soft landing surface on playgrounds (such as sand or wood chips, not dirt or grass); use protective gear, like a helmet, during sports and recreation; use soft landing surfaces on playgrounds (such as sand or wood chips, not dirt or grass); and install protective rails on bunk beds and loft beds.

Last Updated Apr. 16, 2012

Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention