

Child Deaths

Definition

Child Death Rate

The Child Death Rate is the number of deaths (from all causes) of children between the ages of 1 and 14, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, rather than by place of death.

Significance

The Child Death Rate is an indication of the physical health of children, the dangers children are exposed to at home and in the community and the level of adult supervision children receive. Injuries not resulting in death can cause disability and disfigurement, which may greatly affect a child's future development, well-being and achievement.¹

Risk Factors

"In general, children are primarily at risk of unintentional injury-related death from: motor vehicle injuries which include children as occupants, pedestrians and bicyclists; drowning; fire and burns; suffocation; choking; unintentional firearm injuries; poisoning; and falls. Injury rates vary with a child's age, gender, race and socioeconomic status. Younger children, male, minorities and poor children suffer disproportionately."² The majority of unintentional injury-related child deaths occur in the evening hours when children are likely to be out of school and unsupervised.³

Impact

- ◆ Among American children ages one to four, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death, followed by birth defects and cancer. From ages 5 to 14, unintentional injuries, cancer and homicide were the leading causes of death.⁴
- ◆ For every childhood death caused by injury, there are approximately 1,000 nonfatal injuries that result in emergency room treatment, visits to private physicians and school nurses or treatment at home.⁵
- ◆ Nationally, 20-25 percent of all children sustain an injury severe enough to require medical attention, missed school and/or bed rest.⁶
- ◆ Approximately 90 percent of unintentional injuries are preventable.⁷
- ◆ "Between 1980 and 1997, the death rate declined by almost half for children ages one to four. Declines in deaths from unintentional injury and cancer were the main causes of the overall drop in mortality."⁸
- ◆ The Child Death Rate for African-American children ages one to four remains almost twice that for white children in the same age group (59.2 per 100,000 vs. 31.5 per 100,000), according to 1997 statistics.⁹

Nevada

Between 1996 and 1998, the Child Death Rate in Nevada was **27** per 100,000 children. During this period, 298 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Nevada. According to the *1999 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being*, the 1996 Child Death Rate in the United States was 26 per 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14.¹⁰

Counties

The Child Death Rate in the 13 counties for which statistically reliable rates could be calculated, ranged from a low of 0 in Esmeralda, Lincoln and Mineral counties to a high of 49 in Lyon County.

Nevada's 1999 National Rank: 32¹¹

"Nearly 50% of all child deaths reviewed by the Team [Clark County Child Death Review Team] are preventable. Lack of supervision by the caretaker is the number one cause of most accidental/preventable child deaths."¹²

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Child Deaths and Death Rate, 1996 - 1998

(Deaths per 100,000 children, ages 1-14)

	1996 Child Deaths	1996 Population Ages 1-14	1997 Child Deaths	1997 Population Ages 1-14	1998 Child Deaths	1998 Population Ages 1-14	Child Death Rates 1996-1998
Carson City	3	8,755	4	9,365	2	9,575	32
Churchill County	1	4,742	1	5,226	0	5,205	13
Clark County	61	229,657	69	252,458	72	265,361	27
Douglas County	0	7,380	1	7,259	1	7,435	N.M. **
Elko County	7	10,860	0	11,716	4	11,880	32
Esmeralda County	0	272	0	226	0	216	0
Eureka County	0	334	1	323	0	302	N.M. **
Humboldt County	2	3,684	2	4,201	1	4,198	41
Lander County	1	1,587	0	1,796	2	1,766	N.M. **
Lincoln County	0	812	0	761	0	755	0
Lyon County	7	5,739	2	6,198	0	6,353	49
Mineral County	0	1,457	0	1,425	0	1,369	0
Nye County	1	4,720	5	4,982	1	5,251	47
Pershing County	1	1,517	0	1,589	1	1,711	42
Storey County	0	624	0	546	1	545	N.M. **
Washoe County	13	60,668	14	62,233	16	62,738	23
White Pine County	1	2,083	0	2,083	0	2,104	16
Nevada *	98	344,530	99	372,387	101	386,764	27

* The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data

** N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1996, 1997, 1998