

Teen Deaths by Accidents, Homicide & Suicide

Definition

Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide

The Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide is the number of deaths from accidents, homicides and suicides, per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. The data are reported by county of residence, rather than by where the death occurred.

Significance

The teen years are a time in which young people confront increased dangers to their health and safety, and many engage in risk-taking behavior. The Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide remained virtually unchanged from 1985 to 1996. During this period, a decline in teen deaths due to accidents (primarily automobile accidents) was partly offset by a significant increase in the number of homicides. "However, between 1994 and 1996, the number of teen homicides fell by 18 percent, which may signal a change in long-term trends."¹

Risk Factors

Research indicates that poverty, the increased availability of handguns, gang activity and the increase in teens who drive automobiles are all risk factors associated with teen violent death.²

Impact

- ◆ In 1996, the death rate from all causes for adolescents ages 15 to 19 was 79 deaths per 100,000. Injury, which includes homicide, suicide and unintentional injuries, continues to account for four out of five deaths among this age group.³
- ◆ "Injuries from motor vehicles and firearms are the primary causes of death among youth ages 15-19.⁴ Motor-vehicle accidents accounted for 36 percent of deaths in this age group in 1996, while injuries from firearms accounted for 27 percent."⁵
- ◆ "In 1996, the motor-vehicle traffic death rate for males was nearly twice the rate for females, and the firearm death rate among males was seven times that for females."⁶
- ◆ The 1996 rate of firearm-related deaths for African-American males in this age group was 108.1 per 100,000, due largely to the high rate of deaths due to homicide. This was more than four and a half times the rate for their white peers.⁷
- ◆ The *Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report 1997* found that only 34 percent of Nevada high school students always wore a seatbelt in the car and 35 percent had ridden in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol within the previous 30 days.⁸

Nevada

The Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide in Nevada from 1996 to 1998 was **74** deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. During this period, a total of 248 teens between the ages of 15 and 19 died as a result of homicide, suicide or accident. According to the *1999 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being*, the 1996 rate for the United States was 62 per 100,000.⁹

Counties

Among the 12 counties in Nevada for which statistically reliable rates could be calculated, the Teen Violent Death Rate ranged from a low of 0 in Esmeralda and Mineral counties to a high of 102 in Nye County. For the five counties in which the calculated rates were not meaningful because of small population numbers, only raw numbers are provided. Five counties had a Teen Violent Death Rate higher than the state rate of 74.

- ◆ ***Nevada's 1999 National Rank on Teen Deaths by Accidents, Homicide & Suicide in 1996: 37***¹⁰
- ◆ ***Nevada's 1999 National Rank on Deaths by Accidents in 1995: 28***¹¹
- ◆ ***Nevada's 1999 National Rank on Deaths by Homicide in 1995: 35***¹²

"Fifteen percent of Nevada high school students drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol during the 30 days preceding the [1997] survey."¹³

Teen Deaths by Accidents, Homicide & Suicide

Rate of Teen Deaths by Accidents, Homicide & Suicide, 1996-1998

(Deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19)

	1996 Teen Violent Deaths	1996 Population Ages 15-19	1997 Teen Violent Deaths	1997 Population Ages 15-19	1998 Teen Violent Deaths	1998 Population Ages 15-19	Teen Violent Death * Rates
Carson City	0	2,827	1	2,935	0	3,116	11
Churchill County	2	1,707	1	1,750	1	1,792	76
Clark County	52	67,873	49	72,897	66	78,832	76
Douglas County	3	2,720	2	2,947	1	3,162	68
Elko County	4	3,745	0	3,963	5	4,155	76
Esmeralda County	0	104	0	107	0	100	0
Eureka County	0	129	1	117	0	126	N.M. ***
Humboldt County	2	1,315	0	1,412	0	1,455	48
Lander County	0	611	0	627	4	597	N.M. ***
Lincoln County	0	384	0	393	2	393	N.M. ***
Lyon County	0	2,126	1	2,261	3	2,443	59
Mineral County	0	525	0	553	0	513	0
Nye County	0	1,769	5	1,982	1	2,158	102
Pershing County	0	488	1	514	0	617	62
Storey County	0	233	0	246	0	253	N.M. ***
Washoe County	12	17,478	9	17,861	20	18,551	76
White Pine County	0	809	0	823	0	854	N.M. ***
Nevada **	75	104,843	70	111,388	103	119,117	74

* Teen Violent Deaths includes: homicide, suicide and accidents

** 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