

# Child and Adolescent Injury Fact Sheet

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## **How big is the problem of injuries for U.S. children & adolescents?**

- An average of 8,684 children and adolescents (0 to 19 years of age) die each year from an unintentional injury.<sup>1</sup>
- Over 9 million children in 2012 had a nonfatal unintentional injury.<sup>1</sup>
- Unintentional injury was the leading cause of death for those aged 1-24 years.<sup>2</sup>

## **Who is most at risk for injury death?**

- In general, males have higher nonfatal injury and injury death rates than females.
- In 2010, the overall injury death rate among males 0 to 19 years was 22.10 per 100,000 while among females it was 9.91 per 100,000.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2012, the nonfatal injury rate among males 0 to 19 years was 13,001 per 100,000 compared with 9,964 per 100,000 among females.<sup>1</sup>

## **What are the leading causes of injury deaths?**

- For children less than 1 year of age, suffocation is the leading cause of injury death. Drowning is the leading cause of injury death for those 1 to 4 years of age. For children 5 to 19 years of age, most injury deaths are due to motor vehicle traffic crashes.<sup>3</sup>

## **What are the leading causes of non-fatal injuries?**

- Unintentional falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for those aged 0-14 years. Nonfatal suffocation is highest for those less than 1 year of age. Those aged 15-24 years have the highest number of non-fatal injuries as occupants in unintentional motor vehicle crashes.<sup>4</sup>

## **Why are motor vehicle injuries the most common for adolescents, especially males?**

- In the United States during 2010, 2,895 teens ages 15 to 19 died of injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. In the same year, nearly 330,000 motor vehicle occupants in this age group sustained nonfatal injuries that required treatment in an emergency department.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2010, the motor vehicle death rate for male drivers and passengers ages 16 to 19 was almost two times that of their female counterparts.<sup>5</sup>
- Among male drivers between 15 and 20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes in 2010, 39% were speeding at the time of the crash and 25% had been drinking.<sup>5</sup>
- Teens are more likely than older drivers to speed and allow shorter headways (the distance from the front of one vehicle to the front of the next). The presence of male teenage passengers increases the likelihood of this risky driving behavior.<sup>5</sup>
- Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use. In 2011, only 54% of high school students reported they always wear a seat belt when riding with someone else.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2010, 56% of drivers aged 15 to 20 who were killed in motor vehicle crashes after drinking and driving were not wearing a seat belt.<sup>5</sup>
- Reaching for a phone, dialing, or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times.<sup>6</sup>
  - 11% of all drivers under 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted.

## **References**

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Website. Available at: <http://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *10 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group*. 2010. Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCID\\_All\\_Deaths\\_By\\_Age\\_Group\\_2010-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCID_All_Deaths_By_Age_Group_2010-a.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group*. 2010. Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCID\\_Unintentional\\_Deaths\\_2010-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCID_Unintentional_Deaths_2010-a.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Estimates of the 10 Leading Causes of Nonfatal Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*. 2011. Injury Prevention and Control: Data and Statistics. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCI\\_Nonfatal\\_InjuryTreated\\_In\\_Hospital%20Emergency\\_Dept\\_2011-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/pdf/10LCI_Nonfatal_InjuryTreated_In_Hospital%20Emergency_Dept_2011-a.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Teen Drivers: Fact Sheet*. 2012. Injury Prevention and Control: Motor Vehicle Safety. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen\\_drivers/teendrivers\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html)

<sup>6</sup>NHTSA. *Stop the Texts, Stop the Wrecks*. Available online at: <http://www.stoptextsstopwrecks.org/#home>



Men's Health Network – An informational and educational organization recognizing men's health as a specific social concern.  
[www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org)

## **What are some other injuries affecting children and adolescents today, especially males?**

- **Bicycling**
  - Children, adolescents, and young adults (5-24 years) account for almost 60% of all bicycle-related injuries.<sup>i</sup>
  - Males are much more likely to be killed or injured on bicycles than females.<sup>i</sup>
- **Dog Bites**
  - Each year, 885,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children.<sup>ii</sup>
  - The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years.<sup>ii</sup>
  - Males are significantly more likely than females to be bitten.<sup>ii</sup>
- **Drowning**
  - Drowning accounts for nearly 4,000 deaths per year, averaging 10 people per day.<sup>iii</sup>
  - Among those aged 1-14 years, fatal drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths.<sup>iii</sup>
  - Males account for nearly 80% of all fatal drownings in the U.S.<sup>iii</sup>
- **Homicide**
  - In 2010, 4,828 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered—an average of 13 each day.<sup>iv</sup>
  - Homicide was the second leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24 years old.<sup>iv</sup>
  - Among 10 to 24 year-olds, 86% (4,171) of homicide victims were male and 14% (657) were female.<sup>iv</sup>
  - Among homicide victims ages 10 to 24 years-old, 82.8% were killed with a firearm.<sup>iv</sup>
- **Pedestrian Injuries**
  - Pedestrians are 1.5 times more likely than passenger vehicle occupants to be killed in a car crash.<sup>v</sup>
  - In 2010, nearly one in every five children between the ages of 5 and 9 who were killed in traffic crashes was a pedestrian.<sup>v</sup>
- **Poisoning**
  - 838 children ages 19 and under died from poisonings in 2010.<sup>vi</sup>
    - 89% of children who died from poisonings were ages 15 to 19.
    - 73% of children who died from a poisoning were boys.
  - The number of children dying from poisoning has more than doubled since 1999.<sup>vi</sup>
- **Suicide**
  - Males take their own lives at approximately four times the rate of females and represent 79% of all U.S. suicides.<sup>vii</sup>
  - Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death for all ages.<sup>vii</sup>
  - Suicide is the third leading cause of death among persons aged 15-24 years.<sup>vii</sup>
- **Youth Violence:**
  - In a 2011 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:
    - 32.8% reported being in a physical fight in the 12 months preceding the survey.<sup>iv</sup>
    - 16% of male students and 7.8% of female students reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey.<sup>iv</sup>

### **References**

<sup>i</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Bicycle-Related Injuries*. 2013. Home and Recreational Safety. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Bicycle/>

<sup>ii</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Dog Bites*. 2013. Home and Recreational Safety. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/dog-bites/>

<sup>iii</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Unintentional Drowning: Get the Facts*. 2014. Home and Recreational Safety. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/water-safety/waterinjuries-factsheet.html>

<sup>iv</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Youth Violence: Facts at a Glance*. 2012. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/yv-datashet-a.pdf>

<sup>v</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Pedestrian Safety: Fact Sheet*. 2013. Injury Prevention and Control: Motor Vehicle Safety. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pedestrian\\_safety/factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pedestrian_safety/factsheet.html)

<sup>vi</sup>Safe Kids Worldwide. *Poisoning Safety Fact Sheet (2013)*. Available at: <https://www.preventinjury.org/PDF/2013-Poisoning>

<sup>vii</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Protection. *Suicide Facts at a Glance*. 2012. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/Suicide\\_DataSheet-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/Suicide_DataSheet-a.pdf)