This Fast Facts focuses on unintentional suffocation injuries (fatal and nonfatal) among 0–5-year-olds in the U.S. in 2018.

**Magnitude of Suffocation Among 0–5-year-olds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths in 2018</td>
<td>1,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations in 2018</td>
<td>1,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Room (ER) visits in 2018</td>
<td>14,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, suffocations among 0–5-year-olds resulted in:

- **21** deaths per week
- **29** hospitalizations per week
- **276** ER visits per week

The rate of suffocation death among 0–5-year-olds increased by 28 percent from 2004–2018.

**Deaths by Age, 2018**

- Children ages <1 year were at significantly greater risk of suffocation death.
  - Deaths per 100,000:
    - <1 year: 25.4
    - 1–2 years: 1.2
    - 3–5 years: 0.2

**Deaths by Gender, 2018**

- Boys made up a larger proportion of suffocation deaths among 0–5-year-olds.
  - Boys: 40%
  - Girls: 60%

**Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 2018**

- Am. Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American 0–5-year-olds were at greater risk of suffocation death.
  - Am. Indian/AN: 10.6
  - Black/AA: 9.8
  - White: 4.2
  - Hispanic: 2.6
  - Asian/Pacific...: 1.9

**Deaths by Suffocation Cause, 2018**

- 3 in 4 suffocation deaths among 0–5-year-olds were the result of accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed.
  - Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed: 22%
  - All other causes: 78%

**Deaths by Geographical Area, 2018**

- 0–5-year-olds living in non-metro areas were at greater risk of suffocation death.
  - Metro areas: 4.2
  - Non-metro areas: 7.1
Cost of Suffocation Injuries, 2017 (the latest year for which cost data are available)\(^3\)

**Medical costs in 2017**

$190.13 million

**Work-loss costs in 2017**

$1.81 billion

**Combined costs 2017**

$2 billion

**Rate of Fatal Suffocation by State, 2014–2018\(^1\)**

The risk of suffocation death among 0– to 5-year-olds was greater in Louisiana, South Dakota and Missouri.

![Map showing rates of suffocation death per 100,000 people in different states.]

**Notes and References**

1. Data on fatal suffocations were retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports online query system.

2. Data on ER treated and released and hospitalized suffocations were retrieved from the CDC WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports, 2000 - 2018 online query system.

3. Cost of injury data were calculated using 2017 data (the latest year of data available) within the WISQARS Cost of Injury Reports application and includes unintentional suffocations that were serious enough to require an ED visit. Total combined medical and work loss costs are likely underestimated, as WISQARS cost estimates do not include ED treatment costs for injured children who were hospitalized.

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