

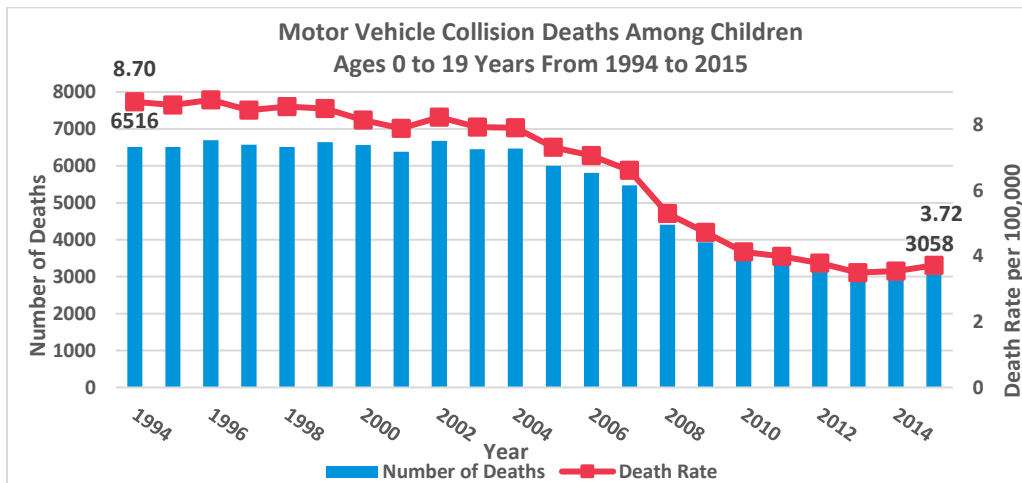
## Motor Vehicle Safety Fact Sheet

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Motor vehicle collisions (MVC) are the number one cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 19 years.<sup>1</sup>

### Fatalities

- In 2015, **3,058** children<sup>1</sup> died as occupants of motor vehicles during collisions, at a rate of **3.72** per 100,000 children.<sup>1</sup>
- Since 1997, there has been a **53** percent decrease in the number of deaths due to MVCs and a **56** percent reduction in the fatality rate.<sup>1</sup>



- From 2007 to 2011, an average of **37** children ages 14 years and under died per year in MVCs that did not occur on public roadways, but on private land such as driveways and parking lots.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2015, **39** children, ranging in age from 5 days to 14 years, died from heatstroke or suspected heatstroke while left in cars.<sup>3</sup>
- An estimated **267** deaths per year are caused when a vehicle **backs up** onto a person and **31** percent of these deaths are children **under 5** years of age.<sup>5</sup>

In 2015, motor vehicle fatalities among children cost the U.S. more than **5.5 billion** dollars in medical and work loss costs. On average, each death costs over **\$1.8 million in medical bills and work loss.**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this fact sheet, children include those ages 19 years and under. Teenagers include those ages 14 to 19 years.



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## Non-fatal Injuries

- In 2015, there were more than **427,000** visits to Emergency Departments by children due to motor vehicle collisions.<sup>6</sup>
- Based on data collected in 2001-2012, an estimated **95,000** children ages 14 and under are seen in emergency rooms for not-in-traffic crash injuries each year.<sup>2</sup>

## Risk Factors

- **Teenagers** account for **76 percent** of MVC fatalities among children and die at more than **7 times** the rate of children under 14 (9.5 per 100,000 teens versus 1.3 per 100,000 children 0 to 13 years).<sup>1</sup>
- **Boys** are more likely to suffer fatal MVC injuries than girls- **62 percent** of fatalities are among boys and **38 percent** among girls.<sup>1</sup>
- Fatality rates are highest among **American-Indian and Alaska Native** children (6.0 per 100,000) and lowest among **Asian** children (1.4 per 100,000).<sup>1</sup>
- While only 21 percent of the population lives in **rural** areas, this is where **58 percent** of MVC fatalities occurred in 2015.<sup>1</sup>
- Almost half (**48 percent**) of all children killed during MVCs in 2015 were **unrestrained**, and **teens** were less likely to be restrained than those under 14 years. The proportions of unrestrained fatalities by age group were **52 percent** for **teens**, **41 percent** for children ages **9 to 13 years**, and **31 percent** for children **under 9 years**.<sup>1</sup>

## Prevention

- Vehicle safety technologies first introduced in 1956, such as seat belts, air bags and electronic stability control, are responsible for 613,501 lives saved in motor vehicle collisions from 1960 to 2012.<sup>7</sup>
- It is estimated that in 2015 seat belts saved the lives of 13,941 children ages 5 and older, while child restraint systems were responsible for saving another 266 children under age 5.<sup>8</sup>
- When installed and used correctly, child safety seats decrease the risk of a fatal injury by 71 percent among infants, 54 percent among toddlers and 45 percent among children ages 4 to 8.<sup>9,10</sup>
- Back up cameras on vehicles may reduce the blind zone by an average of 94 percent.<sup>11</sup>



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