FAST FACTS
Trauma Season Injuries Among Children Ages 0–14

Trauma season, often referred to as the “100 deadliest days of summer,” is the period starting with Memorial Day and ending around Labor Day when unintentional injuries (UI) among children tend to rise. This Fast Facts highlights the issue by presenting data on UI deaths among children ages 0 to 14 occurring from May through August.

On average there are 3,880 UI deaths among children ages 0 to 14 years each year in the U.S. Forty-two percent of these deaths occur between May and August, despite these months only making up 34 percent of the year. The UI death rate reaches its peak in July at 0.76 deaths per 100,000 children.

The average monthly UI death rate between May and August is 1.8 times higher for children ages 1-4 years and 1.5 times higher for children ages 5-9 years and 10-14 years compared to the months between September and April. There is less of a difference during Trauma Season for children under 1 year of age.
The average monthly UI death rate during May-August is 1.4 times higher among American Indian/Alaska Native children and Black/African American children, 1.7 times higher among Asian/Pacific Islander children, and 1.5 times higher among White children compared to the rest of the year.

The leading causes of UI death that increase during trauma season varied by age group for 2018-2020 providing potential target areas for prevention efforts:

- Children under 1: Natural/environmental (often vehicular heatstroke-related) and occupant injuries
- Children ages 1-4: Drowning, natural/environmental, pedestrian, and suffocation injuries
- Children ages 5-9 and 10-14: Drowning, occupant, and other land transport injuries
Twenty-two States have monthly child UI death rates above the national average (0.78 per 100,000). Among those states, rates are highest for Mississippi (1.34 per 100,000), Alaska (1.26 per 100,000), and Louisiana (1.26 per 100,000).

*Rates unavailable for Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont due to small numbers.

Notes and References

Statistics in this Fast Facts were compiled using data from the CDC WONDER Underlying Cause of Death Database using years 2018-2020. Monthly death rates were calculated using the annual population as the denominator and the monthly death count as the numerator. To obtain monthly averages, the rate for each month across the 3 years was averaged.

Released May 2023