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 between Memorial Day and Labor Day when the number of unintentional injuries among children tend to rise. This Fast Facts highlights Trauma Season by presenting data on unintentional injury deaths among children ages 0 to 14 occurring between May and August between 2019 and 2021.

On average between 2019 and 2021 there were 4,056 UI deaths each year among children ages 0 to 14 years in the U.S. Forty-one percent of these deaths occurred between May and August, despite these months only making up a third of the year. The average monthly unintentional injury death rate was highest in July at 0.78 deaths per 100,000 children.

The average monthly rate of fatal unintentional injury between May and August was 1.7 times higher for children ages 1-4 years and 1.5 times higher for children ages 5-9 years and 10-14 years than the rate between September and April. There was less of a difference during Trauma Season for children under 1 year of age.
The average rate of fatal unintentional injury between May and August was 2.1 times higher among Asian/Pacific Islander children, 1.5 times higher among American Indian/Alaska Native children, 1.4 times higher among White children and children of more than one race, and 1.3 times higher among Black/African American children compared to the average rate between September and April.

The leading causes of fatal unintentional injury during Trauma Season varied by age group for 2019-2021, providing potential topic areas for targeting prevention efforts:

- Children under 1: Suffocation, drowning, and motor vehicle occupant injuries
- Children ages 1-4: Drowning, pedestrian, and suffocation injuries
- Children ages 5-9 and 10-14: Motor vehicle occupant, drowning, and pedestrian injuries
Twenty-three states had an average rate of unintentional injury death for Trauma Season that was above the national average (0.78 per 100,000). Among those states, rates were highest for Wyoming (1.51 per 100,000), Mississippi (1.51 per 100,000), and Louisiana (1.37 per 100,000).

*Rates unavailable for District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, 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 single race estimates for years 2019-2021. 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 March 2024