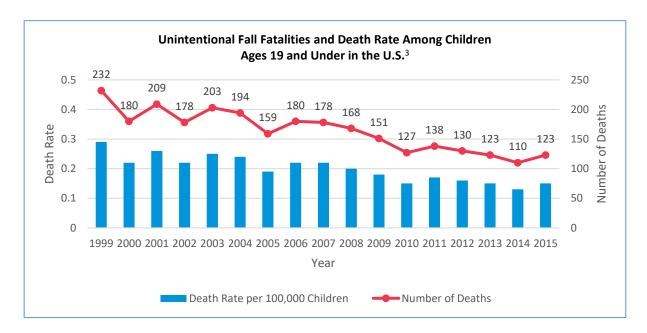


# Fall Safety Fact Sheet LAST UPDATED FEBRUARY 2017

Falls are the 1<sup>st</sup> leading cause of non-fatal unintentional injury for children under 15 years and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause for children ages 15 to 19 years in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
Every year, more than 60,000 children are hospitalized due to fall injuries.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Fatalities**

- In 2015, 123 children died from fall injuries, at a rate of 0.15 per 100,000 children.<sup>3</sup>
- Since 1999, there has been a 31 percent decrease in the fatality rate due to falls.<sup>3</sup>



## **Non-Fatal Injuries**

- In 2014, 2,533,125 children were seen in emergency departments for non-fatal falls.<sup>2</sup>
- Since 2001, there has been an eight percent decrease in the rate of non-fatal falls (0.26 to 0.15 per 100,000).<sup>2</sup>

## **Geographic Distribution**

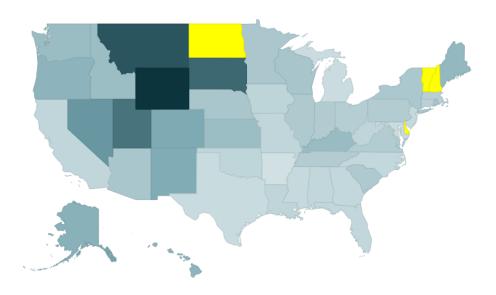
A majority of fatal falls among children occurred in urban (85 percent) versus rural (15 percent) settings. However, rural areas had a higher fatality rate than urban areas (0.26 versus 0.14 per 100,000 children).<sup>4</sup>





• The seven states with highest number of deaths (CA, NY, TX, IL, FL, PA and OH) were responsible for 41 percent of total fatal falls from 2006 to 2015,<sup>3</sup> while these states accounted for 45 percent of children ages 19 and under in the United States as of July 2015.<sup>5</sup> By contrast, WY, MT, SD and UT were responsible for five percent of total fatalities with two percent of child population.<sup>3,5</sup>

## Rate of Fatal Fall Injuries Among Children Ages 19 and Under (1999-2015)<sup>3</sup>



The darker the color, the higher the death rate.

Total death counts less than 10.

#### **Risk Factors**

- Between 1999 and 2015, Teenagers aged 15-19 years were responsible for nearly half of <u>fatal</u> falls among children (48 percent, 1,336 deaths) and died at 1.5 times the rate of children under five (0.37 versus 0.25 per 100,000 children).<sup>3</sup>
- From 2001 to 2014, **infants and toddlers** aged four and under had the highest rate of <u>non-fatal</u> fall injuries among the U.S. child population.<sup>2</sup>
- Seven out of 10 fatal falls were among **boys**. Three times more **boys** than girls suffered fatal falls (0.25 versus 0.07 per 100,000 children) from 1999 to 2015.<sup>3</sup>
- Children with Hispanic origin were responsible for 17 percent of fall fatalities from 1999 to 2015 and ten percent of non-fatal fall injuries from 2001 to 2014.<sup>4</sup>
- Children are more likely to die from falls during summer months (July and August) and on weekends.<sup>4</sup>





#### References

- 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Leading Causes of Nonfatal Injury Reports, 2001 2014. Atlanta, GA. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: <a href="https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfilead2001.html">https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfilead2001.html</a>
- 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Non-Fatal Injury Reports, 2001 2014. Atlanta, GA. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: <a href="https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html">https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html</a>
- 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Fatal Injury Reports, 1999-2015, for National, Regional, and States (RESTRICTED). Atlanta, GA. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\_injury\_reports.html
- 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2015. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2012, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Atlanta, GA; 2016. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html
- 5. U.S. Census Bureau. 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: <a href="http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2015/1-year.html">http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2015/1-year.html</a>
- 6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Cost of Injury Report. Atlanta, GA; 2015. Accessed: February 02, 2017. Available from: https://wisqars.cdc.gov:8443/costT/

