Child Deaths

Definition

Child deaths is the number of deaths among children ages 1-14 and the rate per 100,000 children.

Data in context

The loss of a child is a tragedy both for the family and the community. The child death rate is the most powerful measure of child well-being, capturing not only the health of children but also the risks they face and how well the community protects them from those risks.

In 2005, Kentucky ranked 38th among the 50 states on child deaths.[1] Recent changes to Kentucky law are likely to reduce child fatalities.

Unintentional injuries, specifically motor vehicle crashes, are the leading cause of death among children ages 1-14.[2] Motor vehicle crashes account for a greater portion of child deaths in Kentucky than nationally.[3] The Kentucky General Assembly has taken action in recent years to reduce those deaths with passage of a booster seat law in 2008 to help protect children ages 4 to 7 years old in car crashes and passage of laws in 2006 to strengthen the seat belt law and require children to wear helmets when riding on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Communities can reduce injuries by providing education about these laws.

Other major causes of accidental injury include drowning and fire and fire-related injuries.[4] Smoke alarms can reduce the risk of death from a residential fire by half, yet a study has found that smoke detectors in 75 percent of U.S. households did not work, usually due to old batteries. [5] Drowning accounted for 33 child deaths in Kentucky from 2004-2006.[6] States can prevent drowning deaths among older children by passing laws to increase boating safety and requiring children to wear life jackets at all times.[7]

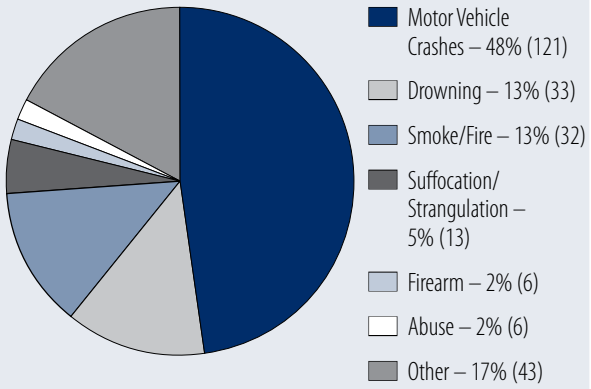
Child abuse and neglect led to a small but clearly preventable number of child deaths (6 deaths from 2004-2006).[8] Kentucky can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect through preventative interventions: parenting education, support groups, improved training for social workers and health care providers, and ways to track long-term abuse within families.[9]

Between 2004 and 2006, 509 children ages 1-14 lost their lives. Rates of child deaths in Graves, Hopkins, and Knox Counties were more than twice the state rate of 22 deaths per 100,000 children. Many of Kentucky's more populated counties have child death rates much lower than the state rate: Boone (10), Campbell (12), and Daviess and Madison (both with 15).

Structural conditions in communities, such as poor housing quality, contribute to racial disparities in child deaths.[10] Disparities in access to education and health care further contribute to growing risks faced by populations of color.[11]

Child death rates in Kentucky during 2004-2006 were 21 per 100,000 for White children and slightly higher among Black children at 26 per 100,000. Rates were highest among Hispanic children at 29 per 100,000, and a greater proportion of Hispanic children died from natural causes than White and Black children.

Injury Deaths by Type among Children Ages 1-14, 2004-2006



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

Kentucky can reduce deaths among children by supporting parents and caregivers by ensuring they have the appropriate information on protecting their children from injuries and presenting the information in a culturally-appropriate way.[12] This includes expanding programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as addressing leading causes of unintentional injury.[13]

Data Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute. Number of children in 2000 from the U.S. Decennial Census. Number of children in 2004 from Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.
Data Note: County reflects the child's residence.
Rate Calculation: (average number of deaths among children ages 1–14 between 1999–2001 * 100,000) / (number of children ages 1–14 in 2000)
(average number of deaths among children ages 1–14 between 2004–2006 * 100,000) / (number of children ages 1–14 in 2005)

1 Annie E. Casey Foundation (2008). *2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. WISQARS data online. Available at http://www.cdc.gov. Accessed August 2008.
3 Ibid.
4 Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, July 2008, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.
5 Shore, R. (2003). *KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing the Child Death Rate*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
6 Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, July 2008, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.
7 Shore, R. (2003). *KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing the Child Death Rate*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
8 Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, July 2008, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.
9 Shore, R. (2003). *KIDS COUNT Indicator Brief: Reducing the Child Death Rate*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
10 Ibid.
11 Healthy People 2010. *Maternal, Infant and Child Health*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration. Available at http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/pdf/Volume2/16MICH.pdf. Accessed August 2008.
12 Shore, R. (2003). KIDS COUNT *Indicator Brief: Reducing the Child Death Rate*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation.
13 Ibid.

Child deaths (number & rate per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Kentucky	536	23	509	22
Adair	2	*	5	*
Allen	2	*	2	*
Anderson	6	49	1	*
Ballard	1	*	3	*
Barren	3	*	6	28
Bath	2	*	3	*
Bell	3	*	2	*
Boone	6	10	7	10
Bourbon	5	*	1	*
Boyd	6	24	2	*
Boyle	4	*	2	*
Bracken	0	*	3	*
Breathitt	8	86	5	*
Breckinridge	1	*	5	*
Bullitt	6	15	7	17
Butler	2	*	1	*
Caldwell	3	*	1	*
Calloway	2	*	3	*
Campbell	4	*	6	12
Carlisle	1	*	1	*
Carroll	3	*	3	*
Carter	4	*	2	*
Casey	3	*	4	*
Christian	20	41	17	29
Clark	4	*	6	31
Clay	3	*	4	*
Clinton	1	*	1	*
Crittenden	2	*	4	*
Cumberland	1	*	1	*
Daviess	16	29	8	15
Edmonson	1	*	1	*
Elliott	1	*	1	*
Estill	1	*	2	*
Fayette	24	18	30	22
Fleming	3	*	2	*
Floyd	8	35	7	32
Franklin	5	*	5	*
Fulton	2	*	0	*
Gallatin	0	*	1	*
Garrard	2	*	2	*

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Grant	1	*	4	*
Graves	8	38	10	48
Grayson	5	*	2	*
Green	1	*	3	*
Greenup	4	*	5	*
Hancock	2	*	0	*
Hardin	19	32	13	22
Harlan	7	37	4	*
Harrison	1	*	4	*
Hart	2	*	3	*
Henderson	6	24	8	32
Henry	3	*	1	*
Hickman	1	*	0	*
Hopkins	3	*	13	53
Jackson	2	*	1	*
Jefferson	88	22	65	17
Jessamine	6	25	7	27
Johnson	3	*	1	*
Kenton	12	13	19	21
Knott	1	*	1	*
Knox	4	*	11	58
LaRue	1	*	2	*
Laurel	6	19	8	25
Lawrence	2	*	0	*
Lee	1	*	1	*
Leslie	1	*	3	*
Letcher	2	*	3	*
Lewis	1	*	2	*
Lincoln	1	*	3	*
Livingston	1	*	0	*
Logan	3	*	5	*
Lyon	0	*	0	*
McCracken	10	28	7	21
McCreary	3	*	2	*
McLean	1	*	0	*
Madison	4	*	6	15
Magoffin	0	*	0	*
Marion	2	*	1	*
Marshall	4	*	3	*
Martin	3	*	3	*
Mason	0	*	3	*

	1999-2001		2004-2006	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Meade	5	*	1	*
Menifee	0	*	3	*
Mercer	3	*	2	*
Metcalfe	1	*	1	*
Monroe	4	*	4	*
Montgomery	4	*	6	43
Morgan	3	*	3	*
Muhlenberg	2	*	6	38
Nelson	12	49	5	*
Nicholas	1	*	0	*
Ohio	3	*	2	*
Oldham	7	24	4	*
Owen	0	*	1	*
Owsley	1	*	1	*
Pendleton	5	*	0	*
Perry	3	*	5	*
Pike	13	35	10	30
Powell	2	*	1	*
Pulaski	9	30	10	32
Robertson	0	*	0	*
Rockcastle	2	*	3	*
Rowan	2	*	1	*
Russell	2	*	2	*
Scott	6	29	4	*
Shelby	2	*	5	*
Simpson	1	*	0	*
Spencer	1	*	0	*
Taylor	4	*	2	*
Todd	2	*	3	*
Trigg	1	*	1	*
Trimble	1	*	2	*
Union	2	*	0	*
Warren	11	22	10	19
Washington	2	*	1	*
Wayne	2	*	4	*
Webster	3	*	3	*
Whitley	11	51	7	33
Wolfe	1	*	0	*
Woodford	6	43	2	*

* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.