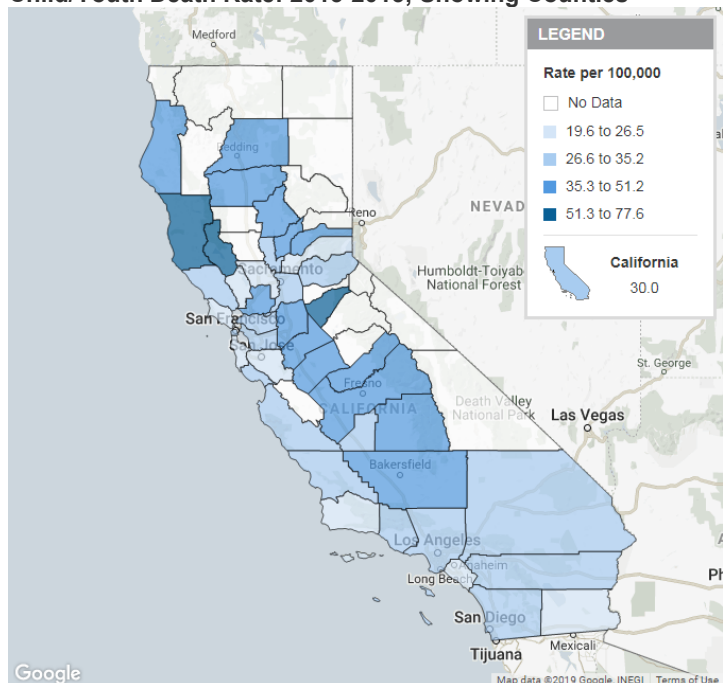


Child and Youth Deaths in California

Child/Youth Death Rate: 2013-2015; Showing Counties



Definition: Number of deaths per 100,000 children and youth ages 1-24 (e.g., there were 30 deaths per 100,000 California children and youth in 2013-2015).
Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Death Statistical Master Files; California Dept. of Finance, [Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail 1990-2009](#); Population Reference Bureau, [Population Estimates 2010-2015](#); CDC WONDER Online Database, [Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015](#) (Sept. 2017).

Child/Youth Death Rate, by Race/Ethnicity: 2013-2015

What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides county-level data on child and youth deaths in the following indicators:

- [Rates of death among children and youth, by age, by age and cause \(California and U.S. only\), by race/ethnicity, and by race/ethnicity and cause \(California and U.S. only\)](#)
- [Number of deaths among children and youth by age and cause](#)
- [Rates of firearm-related death among children and youth by age and cause, by gender and cause, and by race/ethnicity and cause](#)
- [Number of firearm-related deaths among children and youth by age and cause, by gender and cause, and by race/ethnicity and cause](#)

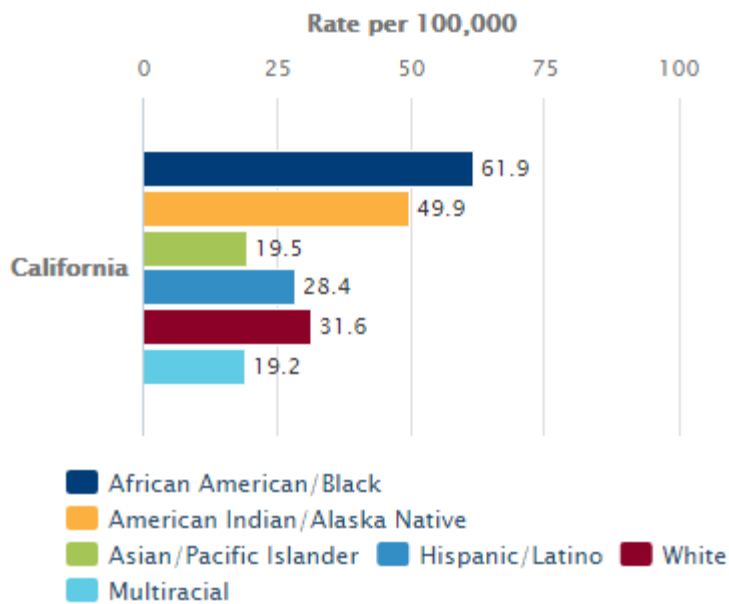
Why This Topic Is Important

The death of any young person is a tragedy. High child and youth death rates also can be an indicator of larger system issues, such as community violence or problems accessing health care. Preventable injuries (e.g., from car accidents) are the leading cause of death among children and youth ages 1-24 nationwide (1). Among young children ages 1-4, the most common cause of unintentional injury-related death is drowning; among 5- to 24-year-olds, it is motor vehicle accidents (1). Homicide, suicide, cancer, heart disease, and congenital anomalies (birth defects) are other leading causes of death for children and youth ages 1-24 in the U.S. (1). The majority of youth homicides and suicides are caused by firearms (1).

Death rates from injuries, and overall death rates, generally are higher for boys than girls (2). Inequities by race/ethnicity also persist, statewide and nationally; e.g., among groups with data, African American/black and American Indian/Alaska Native children and youth have had the highest death rates for many years (3). Many fatal injuries can be prevented through environmental, behavioral, social, and legislative change (4).

How Children Are Faring

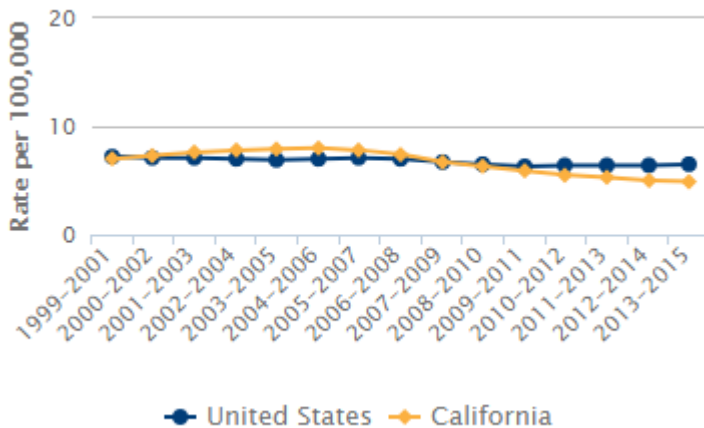
In 2013-15, the death rate among California children and young adults ages 1-24 was 30 per 100,000, down from 41.1 per 100,000 in 1996-98. California and U.S. rates have been on the decline since 2004-06, although California's



Definition: Number of deaths per 100,000 children and youth ages 1-24, by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2013-2015, there were 28.4 deaths per 100,000 Hispanic/Latino children and youth in California).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Death Statistical Master Files; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and Gender Detail 1990-2009; Population Reference Bureau, Population Estimates 2010-2015; CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015 (Sept. 2017).

Child/Youth Firearm Death Rate



Definition: Number of firearm-related deaths per 100,000 children and youth ages 0-24, by age group and cause (e.g., in 2013-2015, there were 6.6 deaths due to firearm-related homicide per 100,000 California youth ages 15-19).

Data Source: California Dept. of Public Health, Death Statistical Master Files; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates by Race/Ethnicity with Age and

rate has been consistently lower than the nation as a whole. Among counties with data, youth death rates vary widely, from 19.6 per 100,000 (Napa) to 77.6 per 100,000 (Lake) in 2013-15. Similar to the statewide trend, rates declined between 2004-06 and 2013-15 in 38 of 41 counties with data.

Young adults ages 20-24 consistently have the highest death rate (66.5 per 100,000 in 2013-15) when compared to other age groups in California, while children ages 5-14 have the lowest (10.2 per 100,000 in 2013-15). Since 2000-02, African American/black and American Indian/Alaska Native youth have had the highest rates of death among groups with data; in 2013-15, the death rate for African American/black youth in California (61.9 per 100,000) was about twice that for both white (31.6) and Hispanic/Latino youth (28.4), and more than three times that for Asian/Pacific Islander youth (19.5). Both in California and nationwide, unintentional injuries—such as car accidents, drowning, and falls—are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages 1-24 overall, for all age groups, and for all racial/ethnic groups with the exception of African American/black youth, for whom homicide is the leading cause of death.

In 2015, there were 649 firearm-related deaths among California children and young adults ages 24 and under, with boys and young men accounting for the vast majority (591). Homicide and suicide are the most common causes of firearm-related death across all age, gender, and racial/ethnic groups with data. Overall, the statewide rate of firearm-related deaths among youth (4.9 per 100,000 in 2013-15) has decreased since 2004-06, and has been lower than the national rate since 2008-10. Still, disparities persist among groups; e.g., in 2013-15, African American/black youth died from firearm-related injuries at a rate (23 per 100,000) almost five times that for Hispanic/Latino youth (4.7), and nearly eight times that for white youth (2.9).

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/49/deaths/summary>



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Gender Detail 1990-2009; Population Reference Bureau, Population Estimates 2010-2015; CDC WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015 (Sept. 2017).



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