

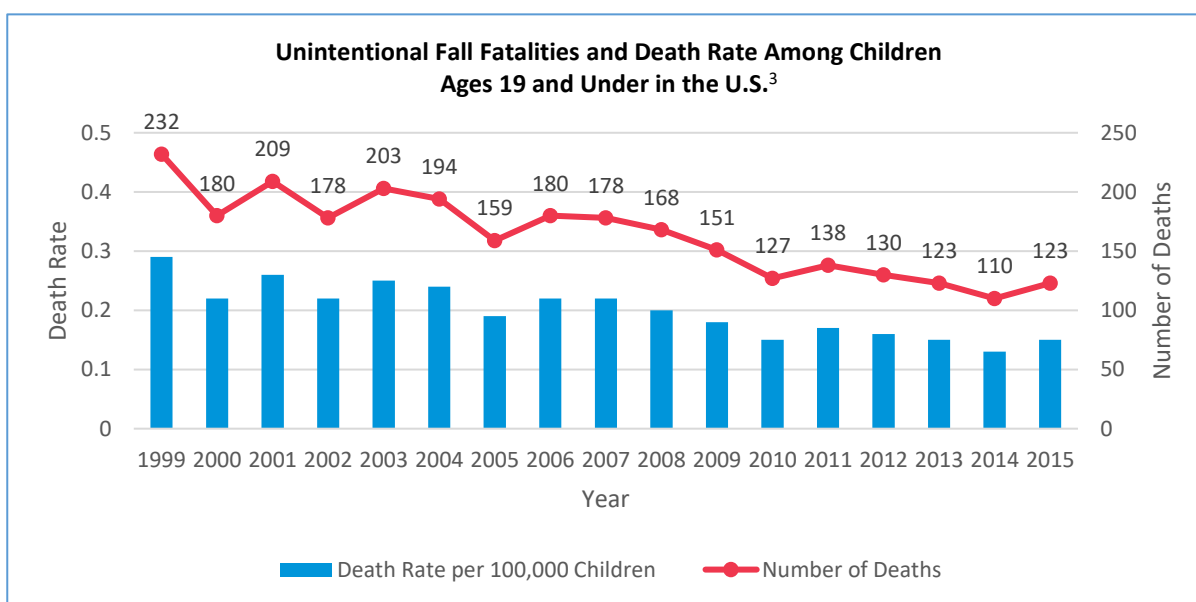
Fall Safety Fact Sheet

LAST UPDATED FEBRUARY 2017

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

Fatalities

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



Non-Fatal Injuries

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

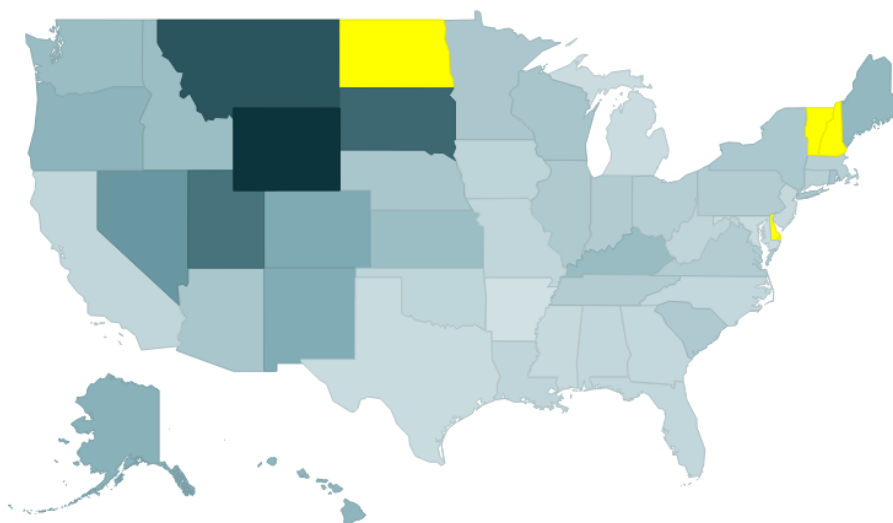
Geographic Distribution

- 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).⁴



- 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 2015,³ while these states accounted for **45 percent** of children ages 19 and under in the United States as of July 2015.⁵ By contrast, WY, MT, SD and UT were responsible for **five percent** of total fatalities with **two percent** of child population.^{3,5}

Rate of Fatal Fall Injuries Among Children Ages 19 and Under (1999-2015)³



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 fatal 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).³
- From 2001 to 2014, **infants and toddlers** aged four and under had the highest rate of non-fatal fall injuries among the U.S. child population.²
- 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 2015.³
- 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 2014.⁴
- Children are more likely to die from falls during **summer** months (July and August) and on **weekends**.⁴



References

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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/>