

Injury Fatalities among MA Children Aged 0-17 Years

2021

Injuries are a leading cause of death among Massachusetts children. In 2021, there were 65 injury-related fatalities among Massachusetts children, a rate of 5.1 per 100,000 persons.¹ Leading causes of injury deaths among Massachusetts children were suffocations, poisonings, and drownings.

Key Indicators	INJURY INTENT					Totals
	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Other & Legal ²	
Total Counts by Intent	36	18	9	2	0	65
Percent by Intent	55.4%	27.7%	13.8%	3.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Rate per 100,000 population ³	2.8	1.4	0.7	--	0.0	5.1

Injury Mechanism	INJURY INTENT					Subtotals	Percent of Total Count
	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Other & Legal ²		
Cut/pierce	0	0	1	0	0	1	1.5%
Drowning/submersion	11	0	0	0	0	11	16.9%
Fall	0	1	0	0		1	1.5%
Fire/flame and burns	0	0	0	0		0	0.0%
Firearms	0	2	4	0	0	6	9.2%
Machinery	0					0	0.0%
Natural/environmental	0	0		0		0	0.0%
Poisoning/overdoses	10	2	1	0	0	13	20.0%
Struck by, against	1		0	0	0	1	1.5%
Suffocation ⁴	3	13	1	1	0	18	27.7%
Transport Injuries: ⁵	9	0	0	0		9	13.8%
<i>Motor vehicle traffic-related</i>	7					7	10.8%
<i>MV Occupant⁶</i>	4					4	6.2%
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	0					0	0.0%
<i>Pedal Cyclist</i>	1					1	1.5%
<i>Pedestrian</i>	2					2	3.1%
<i>Pedal cyclist, non-traffic</i>	0					0	0.0%
<i>Pedestrian, non-traffic</i>	1					1	1.5%
<i>Other land transport</i>	0					0	0.0%
<i>Other transport</i>	1					1	1.5%
Other specified & classifiable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other specified, not classifiable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Unspecified	2	0	2	1	0	5	7.7%

Data Source: Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2021

Injury case definition: An injury-related fatality is defined as any death with an ICD-10 code of U01-U03 or V01-Y89 in the underlying cause field. Injury mechanism/intent categories are based on the CDC Recommended framework of E-code groupings for presenting injury mortality and morbidity data. This framework does not provide for intentionality for certain cause categories as indicated by gray shading.

1) Includes MA residents who died in or out of state.

2) Includes injuries resulting from police actions, terrorism and war.

3) Crude rates per 100,000 MA residents; based on postcensal estimates for the 2020 MA population aged 0-17 years of 1,279,086 (UMass Donahue Institute). Rates provided here are not age-adjusted and may differ slightly from other department publications. Rates are not calculated on counts of less than five. Rates that are based on counts less than twenty may be unstable.

4) Includes asphyxiation and hanging.

5) Transport includes several subcategories (shown in italics). These subtotals are not included in the overall totals.

6) Includes motor vehicle drivers, passengers, and unspecified persons.