

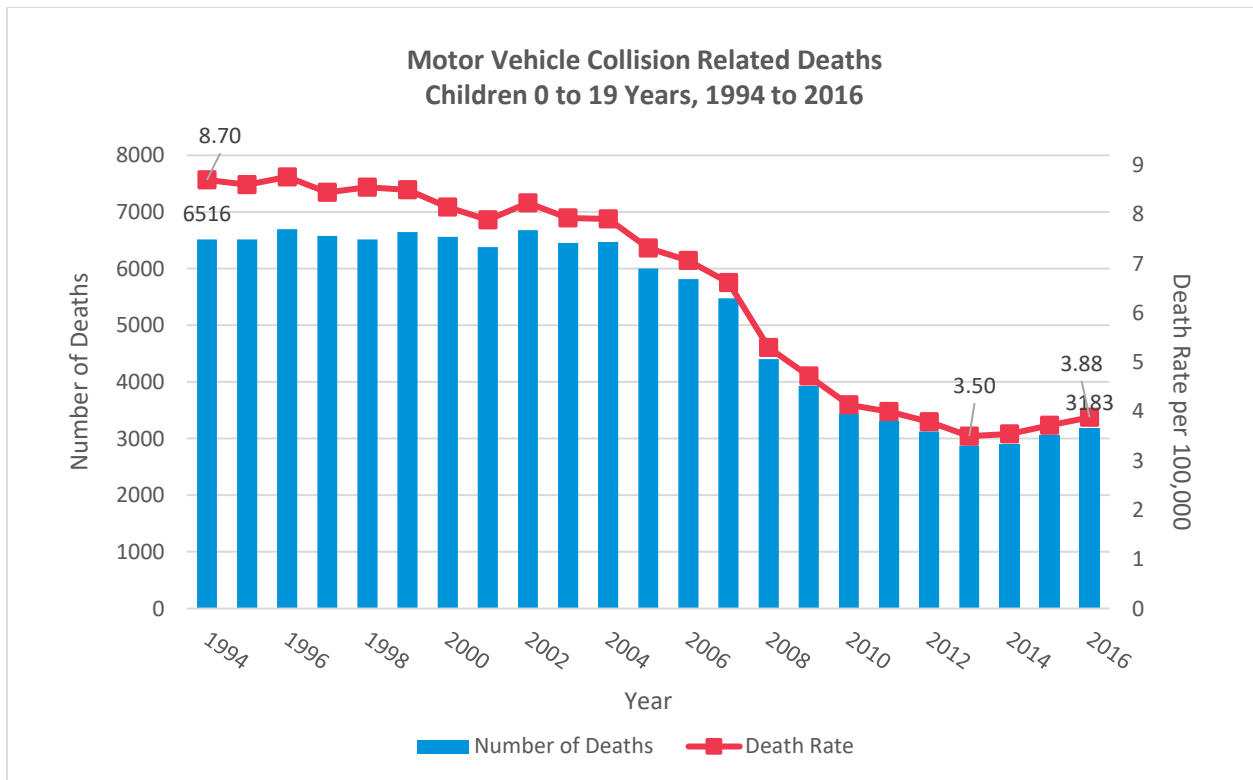
Motor Vehicle Safety Fact Sheet

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Motor vehicle collisions (MVC) are the number one cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 19 years.¹

Fatalities

- In 2016, **3,183** children¹ died as occupants of motor vehicles during collisions, at a rate of **3.88** per 100,000 children.¹
- Between 1994 and 2016, there has been a 51 percent decrease in the number of MVC occupant deaths and a **55** percent reduction in the fatality rate.¹ However, both the annual number and rate have been increasing since 2013. Between 2013 and 2016, there has been an 11 percent increase in both the number and rate of deaths.



¹ For the purposes of this fact sheet, children include those ages 19 years and under. Teenagers include those ages 14 to 19 years.



- From 2007 to 2011, an average of **37** children ages 14 years and under died per year in MVCs that did not occur on public roadways, but on private land such as driveways and parking lots.²
- In 2017, **42** children, ranging in age from 5 days to 14 years, died from heatstroke or suspected heatstroke while left in cars.³
- An estimated **267** deaths per year are caused when a vehicle **backs up** onto a person and **31** percent of these deaths are children **under 5** years of age.⁵

In 2015, motor vehicle fatalities among children cost the U.S. more than **5.5 billion** dollars in medical and work loss costs. On average, each death costs over **\$1.8 million** in medical bills and work loss.⁴

Non-fatal Injuries

- In 2015, there were more than **427,000** visits to Emergency Departments by children due to motor vehicle collisions.⁶
- Based on data collected in 2001-2012, an estimated **95,000** children ages 14 and under are seen in emergency rooms for not-in-traffic crash injuries each year.²

Risk Factors

- In 2016, teenagers ages 14-19 years accounted for **74 percent** of MVC fatalities among children and died at more than **6 times** the rate of children under 14 (9.29 per 100,000 teens versus 1.47 per 100,000 children 0 to 13 years).¹
- **Boys** are more likely to suffer fatal MVC injuries than girls; **61** percent of fatalities are among boys and **39** percent among girls.¹
- Fatality rates are highest among **American-Indian and Alaska Native** children and lowest among **Asian** children.¹
- While only 21 percent of the population lives in **rural** areas, this is where **60 percent** of MVC fatalities occurred in 2016.¹
- For the 2,839 child fatalities where restrained use was known and applicable in 2016, **44 percent** were **unrestrained**, and **teens** were less likely to be restrained than those under 14 years. The proportions of unrestrained fatalities by age group were **48** percent for **teens**, **43** percent for children ages **9 to 13 years**, and **26** percent for children **under 9 years**.¹

Prevention

- Vehicle safety technologies first introduced in 1956, such as seat belts, air bags and electronic stability control, are responsible for 613,501 lives saved in motor vehicle collisions from 1960 to 2012.⁷
- It is estimated that in 2015 seat belts saved the lives of 13,941 children ages 5 and older, while child restraint systems were responsible for saving another 266 children under age 5.⁸



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- When installed and used correctly, child safety seats decrease the risk of a fatal injury by 71 percent among infants, 54 percent among toddlers and 45 percent among children ages 4 to 8.^{9,10}
 - Back up cameras on vehicles may reduce the blind zone by an average of 94 percent.¹¹

References

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