

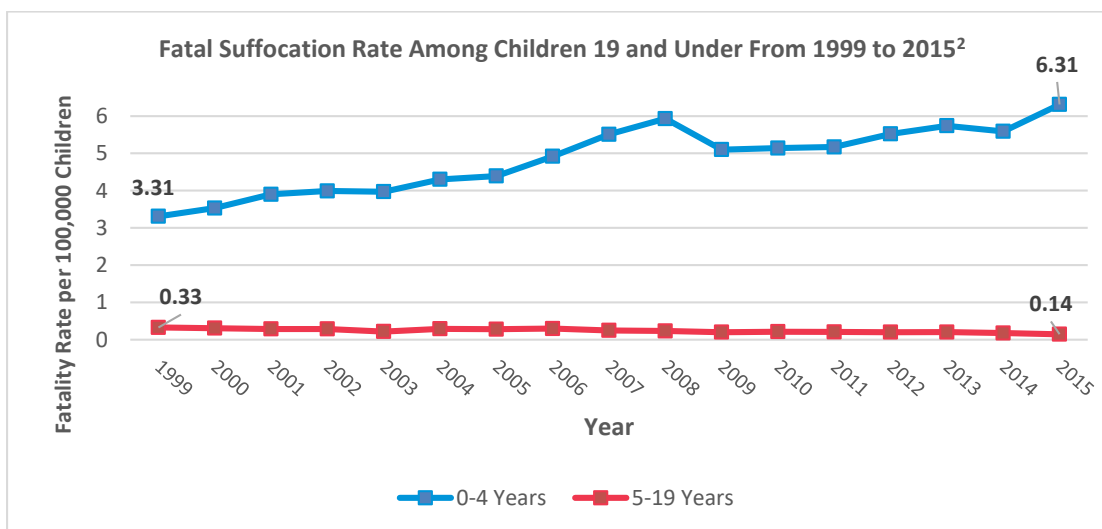
Suffocation Fact Sheet

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Suffocation is the leading cause of unintentional injury death for children under 1 year, and 3rd leading cause for children age 1 to 4 years.¹

Fatalities

- In 2015, **1,345** children died from suffocation, at a rate of **1.64** per 100,000 children.²
- Since 1999, there has been a **58 percent decrease** in the fatality rate due to suffocation among children 5 to 19 years, but a **91 percent increase** in rate among children under 5 years.²



Non-Fatal Injuries

- In 2014, **25,518** children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal suffocation or inhalation injuries.³

Risk Factors

- A majority of children who suffocated were **under the age of 1 year** (81 percent).²
- More **boys** than **girls** suffocated- 60 percent versus 40 percent.²
- Twice as many **white** children die from suffocation every year (856 versus 424 deaths), but the fatality rate for **black** children is double that of white children (3.1 versus 1.38 per 100,000).²

In 2015, the U.S. lost over **2.2 billion** dollars due to suffocation injuries and fatalities. On average, each death costs **1.3 million** dollars and each injury roughly **\$110,000**.⁶



- Compared to the other races, **Asian and Pacific Islander** children have the lowest numbers and rates of death from suffocation.²
- Children of **Hispanic** ethnicity are two times **less likely** to suffer a fatal suffocation than the counterparts who are not Hispanic (1 versus 1.8 per 100,000).²
- Although they account for smaller numbers of suffocation deaths, children living in **non-metro** areas have higher fatality rates than those living in metro areas (2.4 versus 1.5 per 100,000 children).⁴
- Choking hazards include **toys, household items, and food**.⁵
- Children age 5 and under are especially at risk of choking because the size of their windpipe is only about the size of a drinking straw in diameter.⁵

Suffocation Deaths Among Children 19 and Under Between 2012 and 2015²

State	# Deaths	Rate*	State	# Deaths	Rate*
Louisiana	200	5.41	Kansas	36	1.15
South Dakota	34	4.85	Kentucky	49	1.45
Mississippi	103	4.21	Oklahoma	46	1.45
Missouri	193	4.14	Virginia	89	1.42
Alaska	23	3.72	Idaho	20	1.4
Michigan	275	3.67	Arizona	69	1.28
South Carolina	113	3.1	Wisconsin	54	1.23
Indiana	156	2.94	Utah	35	1.18
Florida	338	2.49	Iowa	29	1.18
Nevada	54	2.47	Alabama	43	1.16
Tennessee	120	2.41	Maine	10	1.14
Wyoming	11	2.39	Texas	265	1.12
Ohio	175	1.98	Pennsylvania	99	1.08
New Mexico	33	1.97	Washington	56	1.05
Illinois	193	1.93	North Carolina	80	1.04
West Virginia	22	1.72	Nebraska	13	0.83
Minnesota	70	1.64	New York	111	0.78
Georgia	136	1.63	New Jersey	47	0.7
Colorado	68	1.63	California	178	0.58
Oregon	46	1.6	Maryland	26	0.58
Montana	12	1.59	Massachusetts	16	0.33
Arkansas	36	1.53	*Fatality rate per 100,000 children; states are listed from highest to lowest fatality rate		

* The following states had fewer than 10 deaths reported so are not listed: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont



References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC). 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States. Atlanta, GA; 2015. Accessed: January 12, 2017 [Search Criteria: Year 2015; Pedestrian; Ages 0-19]. Available from: <https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>
2. CDC. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Website. Fatal Injury Reports, 1999-2015, for National, Regional, and States (RESTRICTED). Atlanta, GA; 2016. Accessed: January 12, 2017. [Search criteria: 2015, unintentional, ICD-10 W75-W84, ages 19 and under.] Available from: <https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>.
3. CDC. WISQARS. Non-Fatal Injury Reports: Unintentional Inhalation/Suffocation Nonfatal Injuries and Rates per 100,000. Atlanta, GA; 2016. Accessed: January 12, 2017. [Search criteria: 2014, United States, all races, both sexes, ages 0 to 19, all dispositions, unintentional, suffocation/inhalation] Available from: <https://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2015. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2012, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Atlanta, GA; 2016. Accessed: January 12, 2017. [Search criteria: 2015, 0-19 years, all races, all genders, W75-W84]. Available from: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>.
5. New York State, Department of Health. Choking Prevention for Children. Accessed June 16, 2016. Available at: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/choking_prevention_for_children.htm.
6. CDC. WISQARS Cost of Injury Report. Atlanta, GA; 2015. Accessed: October 21, 2016. Available from: <http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html>

For more information or questions, contact Angie Steel in the Research department at Safe Kids Worldwide via email asteel@safekids.org or phone #202-662-0611.

