



## Trends in Unintentional Childhood Injury Deaths

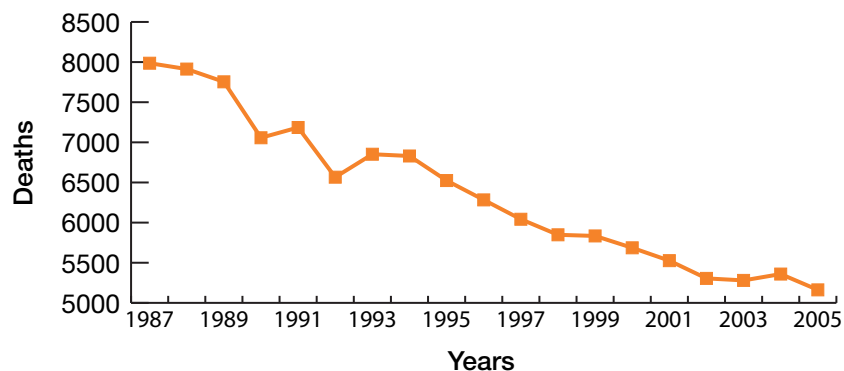


Safe Kids Worldwide is a national organization dedicated solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, the leading killer of children ages 14 and under. The U.S. has witnessed an overall reduction in unintentional injury-related mortality in the past two decades. Safe Kids Worldwide has supported research, development, and implementation of various preventative safety programs to meet these injury needs through a network of 300 coalitions and 16 member countries including the United States.

### Unintentional Injury-Related Death Rates

In 1987, there were 7,986 unintentional injury deaths among children less than 14 years of age. In 2005, there were 5,162 unintentional injury deaths among children less than 14 years of age.

1987 – 2005 Unintentional Injury Deaths, Ages 0 to 14, United States



- From 1987 – 2005 there has been a 45 percent decrease in unintentional injury deaths rate.

The number of unintentional injury deaths for leading causes among children less than 14 years of age has deteriorated from 1987 to 2005:

- Overall motor vehicle fatalities declined from 3,587 deaths to 2,210 deaths.
- Bicycle injury fatalities declined from 389 deaths to 121 deaths.
- Pedestrian injury fatalities declined from 1,283 deaths to 566 deaths.
- Drowning fatalities declined from 1,363 deaths to 810 deaths.
- Fire and/or burn injury fatalities declined from 1,233 deaths to 467 deaths.
- Suffocation and choking fatalities have risen from 690 deaths to 977 deaths.
- Unintentional firearm injury fatalities declined from 247 deaths to 75 deaths.
- Falls injury fatalities declined from 149 deaths to 82 deaths.
- Poisoning fatalities declined from 100 deaths to 92 deaths.

Type of Incident	Number of Deaths in 1987	Number of Deaths in 2005	Percent Decrease/ Increase
Motor vehicle crash	3,587	2,210	▼ 38%
Drowning	1,363	810	▼ 41%
Pedestrian injury	1,283	566	▼ 56%
Fire and/or burn injury	1,233	467	▼ 62%
Suffocation	690	977	▲ 242%
Bike	389	121	▼ 69%
Falls	149	82	▼ 45%
Poisoning	100	92	▼ 8%
Firearm	247	75	▼ 70%

## Injury Prevention Efforts

### Child Safety Seats

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have child restraint laws. In 42 states, including the District of Columbia, all children less than 16 years of age are covered by either safety belt laws or child restraint laws.
- As of April 2008, 43 states, including the District of Columbia, have upgraded their child restraint laws requiring the use of booster seats or other appropriate child restraint device by children as old as 9 years of age.

### Bicycle Helmets

- Twenty-one states, the District of Columbia and over 150 localities have enacted some form of mandatory child bicycle helmet legislation; more than half of the laws cover children less than 15 years of age.
- Eight states and Washington, D.C. now require children to wear a helmet while participating in other wheeled sports (e.g., scooters, inline skates, and skateboards) since the launch of Safe Kids.

### Fire and Burns

- All national and regional code-making bodies have amended their plumbing code language to require anti-scald technology and a maximum water heater temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit in all newly constructed residential units.