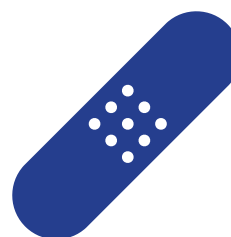


Injury is the Leading Cause of Death in Children

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 17 in the U.S., followed by homicide and suicide. For children under the age of 1 year, unintentional injuries are the fourth leading cause of death.¹

Impact and Magnitude of Injuries in Children

In 2024, more than 150,000 injuries were sustained by children in Indiana, including 257 deaths (16.2 per 100,000), 1,380 non-fatal hospitalizations (87.0 per 100,000), and 149,295 non-fatal ED visits (9,412.7 per 100,000).² Data are not available to calculate how many children with injuries were treated in other settings or went untreated.



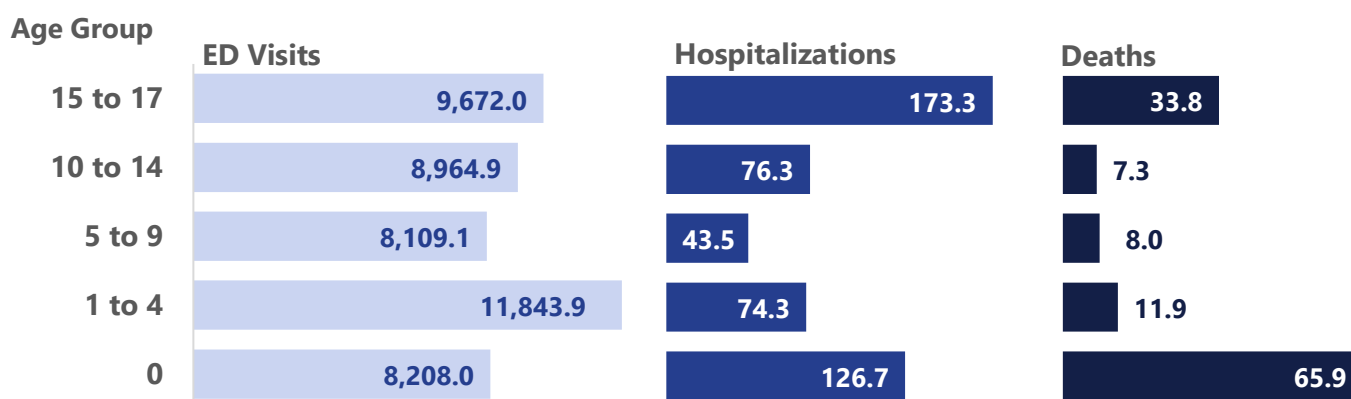
Child Injuries in Indiana, 2024:

257 deaths
1,380 hospitalizations
149,295 ED visits

Injuries by Age Group

Children between the ages of 1 and 4 had the highest rate of ED visits due to injury. In contrast, rates of injury-related hospitalization and death were highest among children under 1 year old and ages 15-17 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Crude rates per 100,000 of injury ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths, Indiana, 2024



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] [cited 2026 Feb 18]. Available from: www.wisqars.cdc.gov.

² Injury deaths are from Indiana vital records. Hospitalization and ED visit data are from Indiana hospital discharge data and include only non-fatal hospitalizations and ED visits. Deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits were calculated based on definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury-core-sipp/media/pdfs/2024/06/2022-Injury-Indicator-Instructions.pdf>.

Child Injuries by Sex

In 2024, a higher proportion of pediatric injury deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits occurred among males than females (Figure 2). Males accounted for more than six in 10 pediatric deaths and more than half of all pediatric hospitalizations and ED visits due to injury.

Figure 2. Child injury deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits by sex, Indiana, 2024

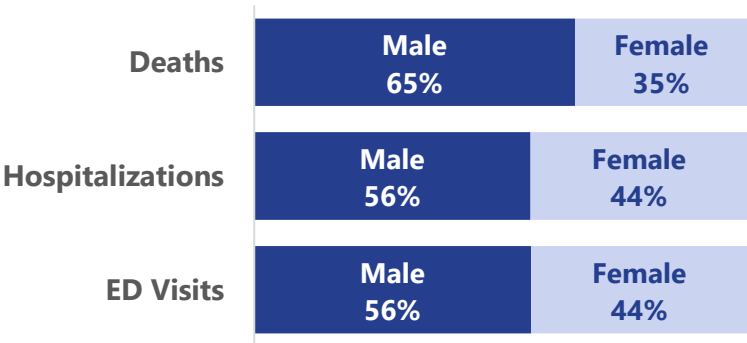
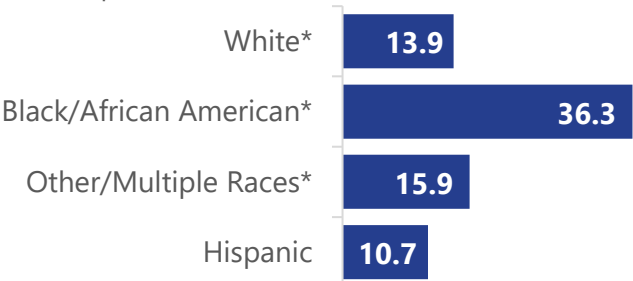


Figure 3. Child injury death rates by race/ethnicity, Indiana, 2024
(Crude rate per 100,000)



*Non-Hispanic or unknown ethnicity

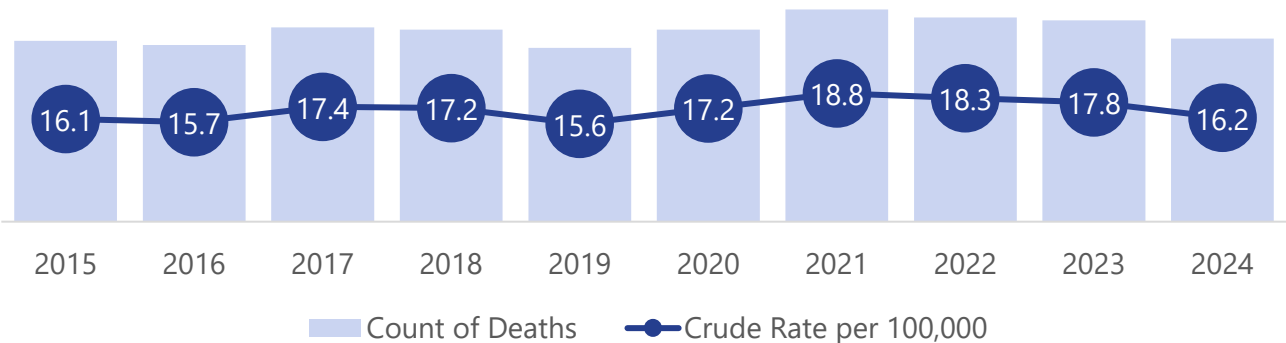
Child Injuries by Race and Ethnicity

In 2024, rates of injury deaths were highest among non-Hispanic Black or African American Children (36.3 per 100,000) and lowest among Hispanic children (10.7 per 100,000).

Trends in Child Injury Mortality

Rates of child injury mortality have remained stable from 2015-2024, although the number of child injury deaths has declined consistently over the last four years from a high of 298 deaths in 2021 to 257 deaths in 2024. Indiana’s child injury mortality rate in 2024 (16.2 per 100,000) was the lowest since 2019 (15.6 per 100,000).

Figure 4. Child injury deaths, Indiana, 2015-2024



Leading Causes of Child Injury Deaths

Leading causes of child injury deaths vary by age group. In 2020 to 2024, unintentional suffocation, drowning, and motor vehicle injuries were the leading causes of injury death for children ages <1 year, 1-4 years, and 5-9 years, respectively. Suicide was the leading cause for 10 to 14-year-olds, and homicide was the leading cause for adolescents ages 15 to 17.

Figure 5. Leading causes³ of child injury deaths in Indiana by age group, 2020 to 2024.

	<1 year	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 17
1	Suffocation: 195	Drowning: 61	Motor vehicle: 40	Suicide: 78	Homicide: 137
2	Homicide: 36	Motor vehicle: 42	Homicide: 27	Motor vehicle: 48	Motor vehicle: 134
3	Motor vehicle: 12	Homicide: 41	Drowning: 23	Homicide: 33	Suicide: 131
4	Unspecified: 9	Suffocation: 28	Suffocation: 10	Drowning, fire, poisoning: 11	Poisoning: 75
5	Poisoning: 3	Fire: 18	Fire: 9	Suffocation, firearm: 8	Firearm: 14

Child Injury Prevention Resources

Additional information about injury prevention is available at the links below:

- IDOH injury prevention resources:
<https://www.in.gov/health/trauma-system/injury-prevention/>
- CDC: Safety, Health, and Injury Prevention Recommendations:
https://www.cdc.gov/early-care/safety/index.html#cdc_preparedness_how_it-keeping-children-safe-from-injury
- CDC: Young Children: Safety in the Home & Community:
<https://www.cdc.gov/parents/children/safety-in-the-home-and-community.html>
- CDC: Youth Violence Prevention resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/youth-violence/prevention/index.html>

³ Other than suicides and homicides, all causes listed include unintentional injuries and injuries of undetermined intent. Motor vehicle injuries include only motor vehicle – traffic injuries and exclude motor vehicle non-traffic injuries. Poisoning injuries include both drug and non-drug poisoning. When more than one cause is listed, counts represent the deaths for each cause, not the combined total.

