

DHSC Statsheet

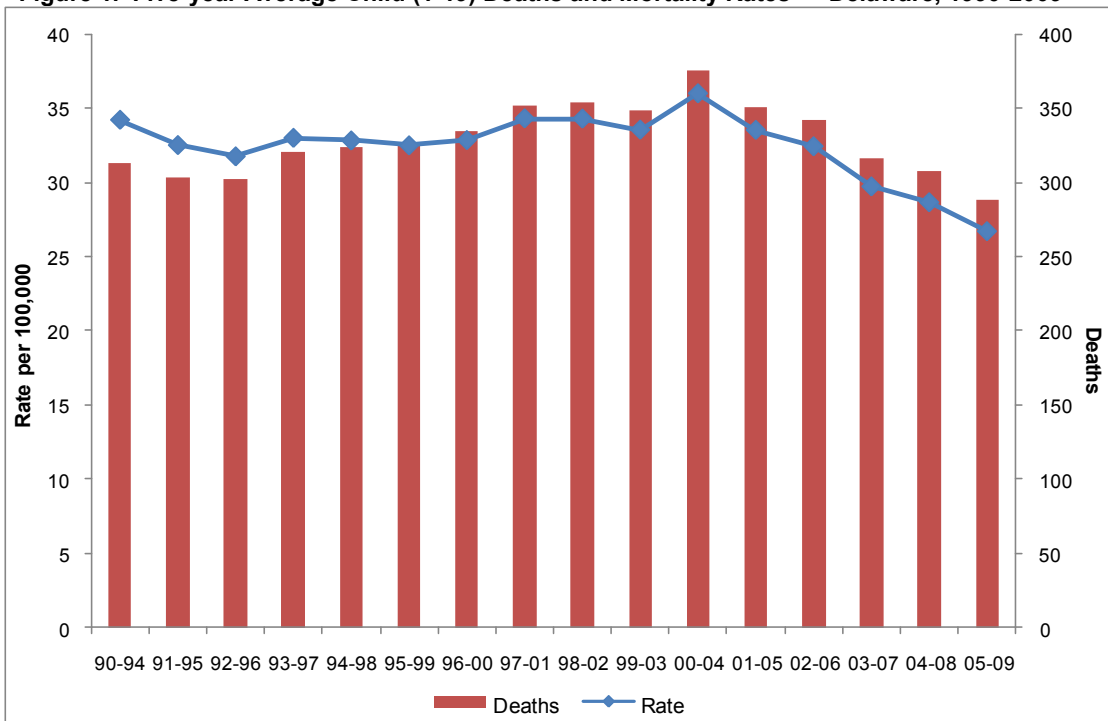
Delaware Health Statistics Center

Division of Public Health
Department of Health
and Social Services

Child Mortality in Delaware

Between 1990-1994 and 1999-2003, child mortality rates fluctuated between 32 and 34 deaths per 100,000 children 1-19 years of age; in 2000-2004 the rate rose to 36. Since that time, child mortality rates have declined steadily, dropping 22 percent, to 26.7 in 2005-2009.

Figure 1. Five-year Average Child (1-19) Deaths and Mortality Rates — Delaware, 1990-2009



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

In 2005-2009, 289 children aged 1-19 years died. Teens 15-19 years of age accounted for 62 percent of all child deaths, 16 percent were children in the 1-4 age group, 10 percent were children in the 5-9 age group, and 12 percent were in the 10-14 age group.

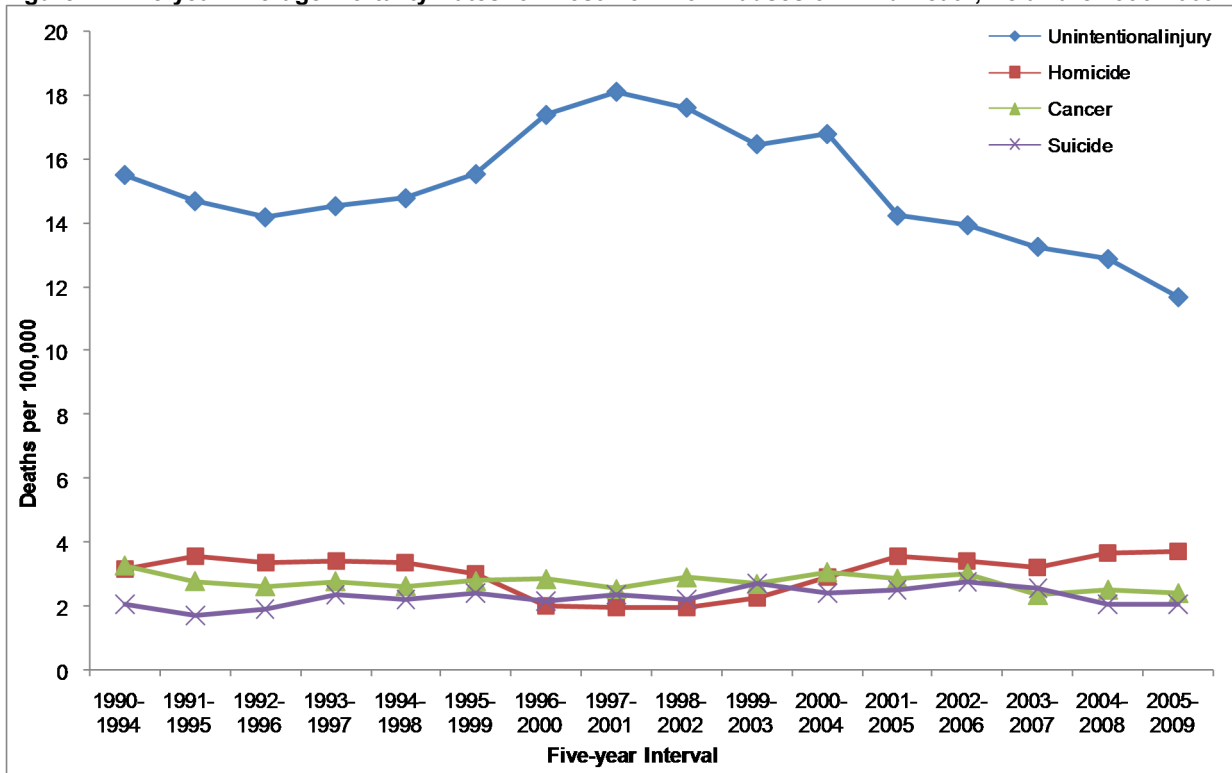
Males accounted for nearly two-thirds of child deaths.

Unintentional injuries caused by motor vehicle traffic accounted for more child deaths than any other cause.

Accidents, or unintentional injuries, were responsible for the greatest number of deaths of children and youth ages 1-19. Homicides, cancer, and suicides were the second, third, and fourth most common causes of child death in 2005-2009.

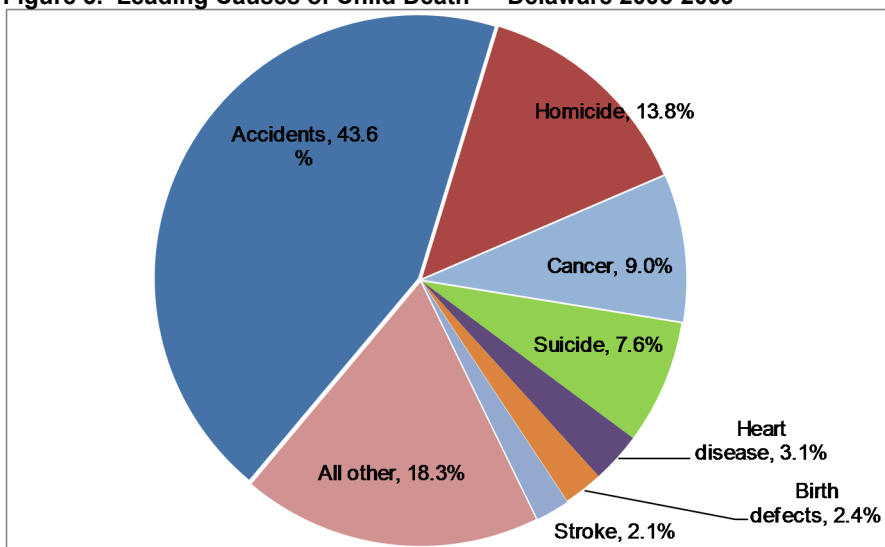
Child mortality rates due to unintentional injury decreased 36 percent between 1997-2001 and 2005-2009, dropping from 18.1 to 11.6 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-19. During the same time period, child mortality rates due to cancer were stable, and child mortality rates due to suicide demonstrated a small decrease. Homicide mortality rates for children ages 1-19 rose 90 percent in the same time span. The jump in homicide mortality rates was due the increase in homicide deaths of teens aged 15-19, who accounted for 90 percent of all homicides of children in 2005-2009.

Figure 2. Five-year Average Mortality Rates for Most Common Causes of Child Death, Delaware 1990-2009



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Figure 3. Leading Causes of Child Death — Delaware 2005-2009



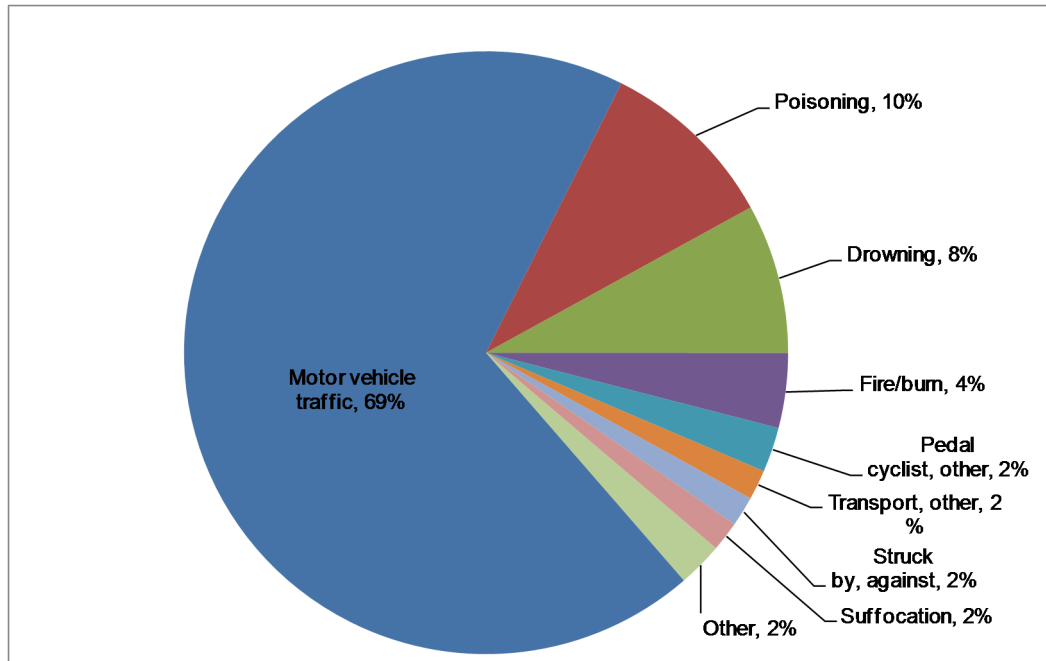
In 2005-2009:

- Firearms were used in 78 percent of homicides.
- Cancers of the brain and central nervous system and leukemias accounted for 65 percent of all child deaths due to cancer.
- Suffocation was the most commonly used mechanism of suicide.

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

In 2005-2009, accidents or unintentional injuries, accounted for the greatest number of child deaths. Within the category of accidental, or unintentional injury-related deaths, motor vehicle traffic accidents were the most common cause of unintentional injury death; 69 percent of all unintentional injury deaths to children ages 1-19 were due to motor vehicle traffic injuries. Poisoning was responsible for one in ten unintentional child deaths; drowning accounted for 8 percent of unintentional child injury deaths.

Figure 4. Distribution of Unintentional Injury Deaths for Ages 1-19, Delaware, 2005-2009



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact the Delaware Health Statistics Center at (302) 744-4541.

Reported by Barbara Gladders