



# Special Emphasis Report: Infant and Early Childhood Injury, 2019



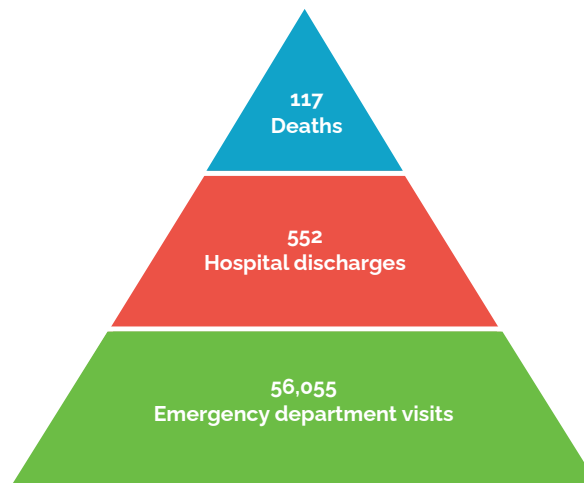
# Injury is a Leading Cause of Death in Children

## By the Numbers

Injuries are a major public health problem across the United States and in Indiana. Injuries are not random events. They follow a predictable sequence of events and can be prevented using specific injury prevention strategies. In 2019, there were 117 injury-related deaths of children ages 0-5. Of those, 64 were less than one year of age and 53 children were ages 1-5.

In addition to injury-related mortality, there were 552 hospitalizations and 56,055 emergency department (ED) visits. Children who received treatment in physician's offices or at home were not included in this frequency report.

**Figure 1: Annual Injuries among Children Ages 0-5 Years, Indiana, 2019**

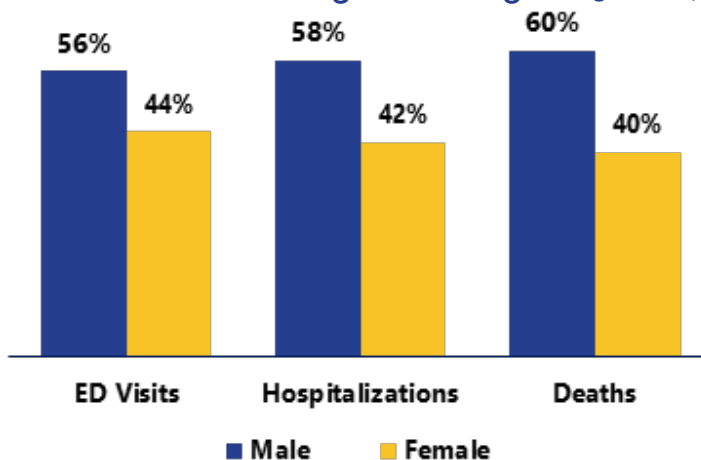


*For every child who died, four children were hospitalized and 479 were treated in emergency departments.*

## Childhood Injuries by Sex

Males consistently had a higher percentage of injury-related ED visits and hospitalizations than females aged 0-5 and account for a larger number of injuries overall in Indiana. However, there is not a vast difference between injury-related deaths in males and females.

**Figure 2: Percent of Injury Deaths, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Department Visits among Children Ages 0-5 Years, by Sex, Indiana, 2019**



*\*ED visits, hospitalizations, and mortality data are all based on ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes or ICD-10 underlying cause codes of unintentional and intentional injury for the calendar year 2019. This document was produced in conjunction with CDC's Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program under Cooperative Agreement 11-1101.*

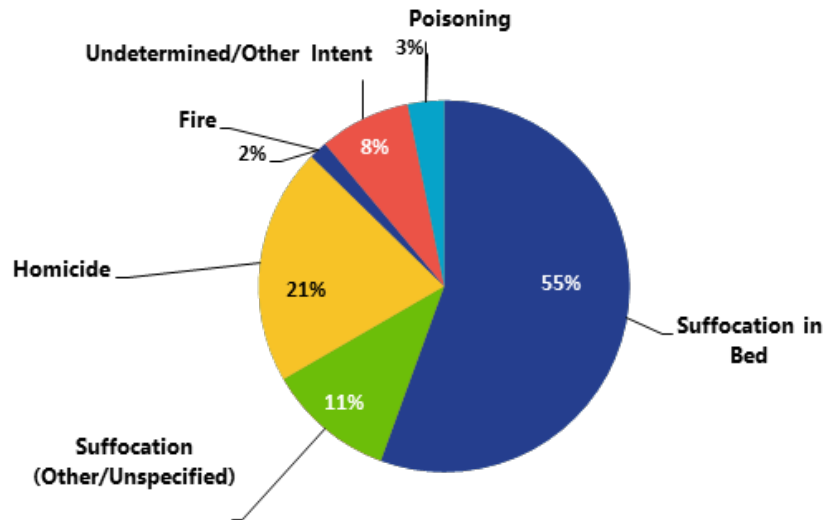
## Injury Deaths in Infants

There were 64 deaths in children younger than 1 year old that resulted from injury. Forty-eight were unintentional, 13 were homicides, and three were undetermined.

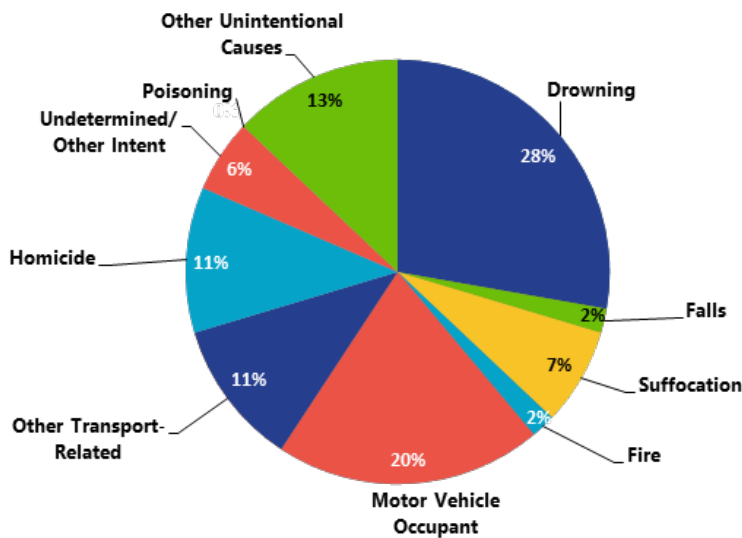
The leading cause (55%) of injury death was suffocation in bed. The next two resulted from homicide at 21% and other/unspecified suffocation at 11%.

Unsafe sleeping environments, which include linens, pillows, or other objects in the crib or another body in the bed or on the same sleeping surface, often result in suffocations.

**Figure 3: Injury Deaths among Infants Younger than 1 Year, Indiana, 2019**



**Figure 4: Injury Deaths in Children Ages 1-5 Years, Indiana, 2019**



## Injury Deaths in Young Children

There were 54 deaths in children ages 1-5 that resulted from injury. Forty-five were unintentional, six were homicides, and three were undetermined or unspecified.

The leading cause (28%) of injury-related death was due to drownings. The second leading cause (20%) of injury deaths were motor vehicle occupant.

Using car seats have been shown to reduce death in motor vehicle-related accidents.

## Indiana Child Injury Prevention Activities

Because injury is the leading cause of death for Hoosiers ages 1-44 years, the Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention at the Indiana Department of Health works to prevent injuries and create a healthier and safer Indiana.

Division mission: To develop, implement and provide oversight of a statewide comprehensive trauma care system that:

- Prevents injuries.
- Saves lives.
- Improves the care and outcomes of trauma patients.

Division Vision: Prevent injuries in Indiana.



## Resources

**Child Passenger Safety and Booster Bashes:** Motor vehicle-related injuries are the leading cause of death for children. One preventive measure that is successful in reducing these injuries are child safety restraints or car seats, yet studies have found that 73% of child restraints are used incorrectly. The IDOH is working closely with partners to reduce the number of misused seats and increase the number of properly used car seats through access and education. Big Kid Booster Bash events target children ages 4-8 who are not big enough to use a seat belt properly but still require additional protections.

**The Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Scholarship Program,** sponsored through the Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention, is dedicated to preventing injuries and trauma throughout Indiana. Through a Maternal and Child Health Services grant, recipients can be reimbursed up to \$250 for participating in a training course to become a CPST. The CPST Scholarship Program funds must be used toward fees related to the training class. Email: [IndianaTrauma@isdh.in.gov](mailto:IndianaTrauma@isdh.in.gov)

**Preventing Injuries in Indiana:** The Injury Prevention Resource Guide serves as a tool to provide easily accessible and understandable information and data on the size and scope of specific injuries in Indiana, while highlighting effective evidence-based solutions to the problem of injury.

**The Indiana Statewide Trauma System Injury Prevention Plan** includes statewide direction and focus for child injury prevention, specifically safe sleep, child passenger safety, and bullying.

**Overdose Data to Action:** The IDOH has received federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help prevent overdose deaths in the state of Indiana, with a special focus on opioids and stimulants. Funding supports enhancements to the state's prescription drug monitoring program, prescription opioid messaging campaigns, prevention efforts at the state and community levels to address new and emerging problems related to drug overdoses, efforts to educate law enforcement on harm reduction practices, and more. Through this funding, the IDOH is further expanding the collection of overdose-related data to provide additional information to local- and state-level stakeholders and expand the use of data for public health surveillance.

**Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence:** The IDOH is requesting to receive federal funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to train school personnel and educate students on preventing student violence against others and themselves to include anti-bullying training. This also includes specialized training for school officials to respond to mental health crises. By partnering with the Indiana Department of Education and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, we can expand Youth Mental Health First Aid to three school systems in Indiana. This class focuses on identifying, understanding, and responding to the signs of addiction and mental health. The result of these trainings is to implement a procedure to aid schools in recognizing the needs of their student body when it comes to mental health resources.

**Communications:** The IDOH Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention is active on Twitter, @INDTrauma, with the hashtag #SafetyIN to deliver up-to-date safety and injury prevention information.

**Partnerships:** The Indiana Injury Prevention Advisory Council, made up of members working in injury and violence prevention, strives to reduce the number and severity of preventable injuries in Indiana through leadership and advocacy.

**Surveillance:** The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide injury surveillance through death certificates, hospitalizations, and ED visits. The Indiana Trauma Registry captures statewide trauma data for all seriously injured for the purposes of identifying the trauma population, statewide process improvement activities, and research.

## Indiana Infant Mortality Initiatives

Because Indiana's infant mortality rate is consistently one of the highest in the nation, reducing infant mortality is a top IDOH priority. Numerous initiatives are underway to address reducing infant mortality.

**Labor of Love** public awareness campaign: This campaign is a sustained, statewide information effort to raise awareness of the problem of infant mortality and encourage support for education and prevention. The fundamental premise of the campaign is to educate citizens that everyone has a role to play to ensure our babies reach their first birthdays. Website: <https://www.in.gov/health/laboroflove/>. Application: <https://askliv.com/>

**MOMS Helpline:** This program is committed to improving pregnant women's access to early and regular prenatal care and connecting them with a network of prenatal and child healthcare services within their local communities, state agencies, and other organizations in Indiana. The MOMS Helpline goal is to help reduce Indiana's infant mortality rate, and its dedicated specialists provide valuable information and referrals and educate and advocate on behalf of moms and pregnant women. Phone number: 1-844-MCH-MOMS (1-844-624-6667).

**Indiana Safe Sleep Program:** IDOH has implemented a statewide program that provides education and outreach through partnerships with local community action teams. These teams identify prominent risk factors in local infant deaths in coordination with their local fatality review teams. They are then able to develop targeted local prevention initiatives that reflect the strengths and needs of their communities. The educational messages focus on three key risk reduction recommendations or the ABCs of safe sleep: babies sleep safest ALONE, on their BACKS, and in a CRIB or other separate, safe sleep environment. The messaging encourages breastfeeding and safe bonding practices that can occur while the baby and mother are awake and outside of the adult bed. Email IDOH SUID prevention staff at [SafeSleep@isdh.in.gov](mailto:SafeSleep@isdh.in.gov) for more information.

**Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE) Can Make a Difference in Your Community:** DOSE is an innovative program aimed at eliminating sleep-related infant death due to suffocation, strangulation, or positional asphyxia by using first responders to identify and remove hazards while delivering education on scene. First responders are trained to identify infant safe sleep hazards while responding to emergency and nonemergency calls. Operations personnel are quick to educate families in an attempt to lower infant deaths due to unsafe sleep environments. If a first responder finds an expectant mother or infant younger than 1 year old, they will initiate an environmental check and distribute a survival kit. If any hazards are found in the home or in the baby's sleep space, they are identified and removed and the family is educated as to why these hazards must be kept away from the baby. The verbal education is the key to behavior change in the field. First responders are on scene to help, providing a better opportunity for their message to make a lasting impression. If your organization is interested in becoming DOSE trained, please email Gretchen Martin, MSW, at [GMartin1@isdh.in.gov](mailto:GMartin1@isdh.in.gov).

## Indiana Child Fatality Review Program

The Child Fatality Review (CFR) Program is a collaborative process that can help us better understand why children die within the community and help us identify how we can prevent future deaths. CFR teams are multidisciplinary, professional teams that conduct a comprehensive, in-depth review of a child's death and the circumstances and risk factors involved and then seek to understand how and why the child died so that future injury and death can be prevented.

### Operating Principles

- The death of a child is a community responsibility and should motivate community members into action to prevent future injury and death.
- Review requires multidisciplinary participation and should lead to an understanding of the risk factors involved in the death.
- Reviews should focus on prevention and lead to effective recommendations and action steps to keep children safe.

### Objectives

- Ensure the accurate identification and uniform, consistent reporting of cause and manner of death of every child
- Improve agency responses in the investigation of child deaths
- Identify significant risk factors and trends in child deaths
- Identify and advocate for needed changes in legislation, policy, and practice to prevent child deaths
- Increase public awareness of the issues that affect the health and safety of our children

## Fetal and Infant Mortality Review

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community-based and action-oriented process to improve service systems and resources for women, infants, and families. This evidence-based process examines fetal and infant deaths, determines preventability, and engages communities to take action. FIMR engages a multidisciplinary case review team to review the case summaries from de-identified infant and fetal deaths. These case summaries include maternal interviews for their perspective on why the death occurred. Based on these reviews, the team makes recommendations for system changes. A team of community leaders (community action team) is then assembled to take recommendations to action. Email Gretchen Martin, MSW, at [GMartin1@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:GMartin1@isdh.IN.gov) for more information.

## Indiana Violent Death Reporting System

All 50 states receive funding for the CDC's Collecting Violent Death Data Using the National Violent Death Reporting System. The purpose of the funding is to improve the planning, implementation, and evaluation of violence prevention programs. The INVDRS monitors and assesses the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of violent deaths by collecting comprehensive data from various existing data sources. Email: [INVDRS@isdh.in.gov](mailto:INVDRS@isdh.in.gov)

### The INVDRS:

- Collects comprehensive, objective, and accurate population-based information on victims, suspects, weapons, and circumstances related to homicides, suicides, unintentional firearm injuries, legal intervention deaths, deaths of undetermined intent, and terrorism deaths.
- Combines data from multiple sources, including death certificates, coroner records, law enforcement reports, and other additional data to increase scientific understanding of violent injury to be translated into prevention strategies for state, local, and national efforts.

Contributes de-identified data to the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) funded by the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

# Resources

## Indiana Department of Health

2 N. Meridian St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

[www.Health.IN.gov](http://www.Health.IN.gov)

## Indiana Child Fatality Review and FIMR Programs

(317) 233-1240

[GMartin1@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:GMartin1@isdh.IN.gov)

<https://www.in.gov/health/cfr/>

## Maternal and Child Health Division

(317) 233-7940

<https://www.in.gov/health/mch/>

## Trauma and Injury Prevention Division

[Indianatrauma@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:Indianatrauma@isdh.IN.gov)

<https://www.in.gov/health/trauma-system>

Twitter: @INDTrauma

## Indiana Department of Child Services

402 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 234-KIDS

[Communications@dcs.IN.gov](mailto:Communications@dcs.IN.gov)

<https://www.in.gov/dcs/2370.htm>

## CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/>

## Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline

1-800-800-5556

## Indiana Poison Control

Phone: 1-800-222-1222

<http://indianapoison.org/>

## American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.aap.org/>

## Automotive Safety Program

<http://www.preventinjury.org/>

## Children's Safety Network

<https://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/>

## Indiana Labor of Love

<https://www.in.gov/laboroflove/>

## Cribs for Kids

<https://cribsforkids.org/>

## Safe Kids Indiana/Safe Kids Worldwide

<https://www.safekids.org/>

## First Candle

<https://firstcandle.org/>

## Safe to Sleep

<https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/>