

2020 Unintentional Motor Vehicle and Other Transportation-Related Fatalities of Children Ages 0-18

1st

Leading cause of accidental fatal injury in the U.S. and in Michigan was transportation-related.

3,315

U.S. children died as a result of unintentional motor vehicle and other transportation-related incidents.

84

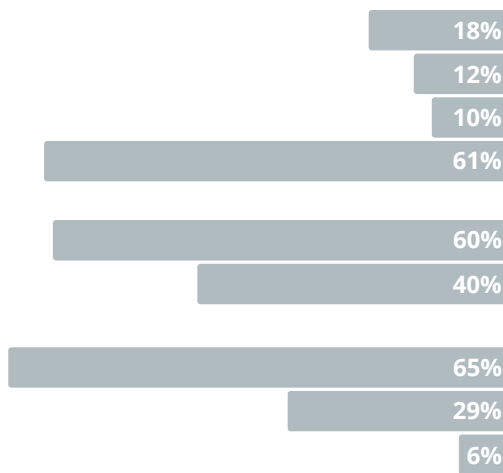
Michigan children died as a result of unintentional motor vehicle and other transportation-related incidents.

46

The circumstances leading to 46 unintentional motor vehicle and other transportation-related fatalities were reviewed by local Child Death Review (CDR) teams.

Child's Demographic Information

Michigan Fatalities in 2020



Age

Under 5
5 to 9
10 to 14
15 to 18

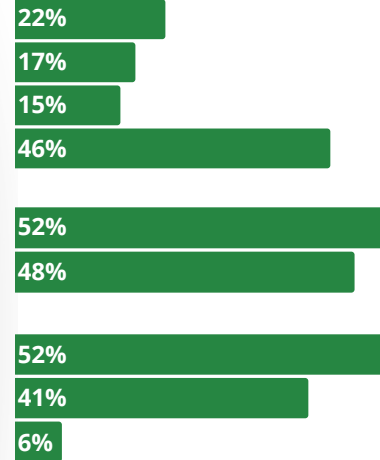
Sex

Male
Female

Race

White
Black
Additional Groups

Fatalities Reviewed in 2020



Characteristics of Unintentional Motor Vehicle and Other Transportation-Related Fatalities Reviewed by Local CDR Teams

25 Child Passengers

80%

were sitting in the backseat.

52%

were not using a safety measure or restraint.



6 Teens Drivers

100%

of the teen drivers were responsible for the incident.



Only 1 of the 6 teen drivers was known to have used a safety measure or restraint.

10 Pedestrians

40%

of child pedestrians were ages 15 to 18 years old.



The most common location of the incident was a city street. Causes of the incident were most likely to include poor visibility, speed, and/or poor sight lines.

Child Death State Advisory Team Recommendations

The Michigan Child Death State Advisory Team (SAT) was established to identify and make recommendations on policy and statutory changes pertaining to child fatalities and to guide statewide prevention, education, and training efforts. The SAT reviews Michigan's child mortality data as well as local child death review team findings and recommendations to identify causes, risk factors, and trends in child deaths. The SAT offers the following recommendations to policymakers to prevent unintentional motor vehicle and other transportation-related deaths:

- Encourage schools and driver education providers to spread awareness of STOPPED, which is a parental notification system aimed at reducing the number of young drivers who are involved in motor vehicle crashes each year. Parents voluntarily register their vehicles online with the Michigan Sheriffs' Association and if for any reason the vehicle is pulled over by a participating law enforcement agency while someone under the age of 21 is driving, a notification is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle.
- Promote the utilization of smart phone safety features and car safety controls to reduce distracted driving and encourage teen drivers to practice safer driving habits. The phone application Life360 can provide individual driver reports on a variety of safety points. Some vehicle manufacturers have built in controls regarding speeding, curfew, seatbelt usage, and maximum audio volume limits.
- Encourage local CDR team members to review and promote the 2023-2026 State of Michigan Strategic Highway Safety Plan within their local communities to facilitate applying a Safe System Approach through statewide strategies and initiatives that accommodate human mistakes and injury tolerance levels to move Michigan Toward Zero Deaths.
- Increase awareness of Michigan's 2023 legislation aimed at saving lives by reducing distracted driving and requiring drivers to use hands-free technology to ensure their full attention is on the road.

Opportunities for Prevention



Provide teen drivers with at least 30 to 50 hours of supervised driving practice over at least six months on a variety of roads, at different times of the day, and in varied weather and traffic conditions.



Encourage incentive and educational programs that provide rewards to parents and caregivers and/or children for the purchase and proper use of child safety seats.



Limit teen drivers to zero or one teen passenger for at least the first six months of licensure.



Lead by example and never drive while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or other substances.



Prohibit activities that take a teenager's attention away from driving, such as talking on a cell phone, texting, eating, or playing with the radio.



Encourage health care professionals in a clinical setting to provide information on child safety seat laws and education.

Local Initiatives:

CDR teams have implemented initiatives in their local communities to prevent unintentional motor vehicle and other transportation-related fatalities. **Dickinson and Iron Counties** created a brochure about choosing an appropriate vehicle for teen drivers and assessing vehicle safety and maintenance needs. **Berrien County** increased the number of trained child passenger safety technicians from zero to four over a three-year time period. The child passenger safety technicians provide free child safety seats, assess the safety of a child's existing seat, and collect and replace expired or poorly functioning child seats.

About This Data

The information presented in this brief is based on data gathered through Michigan's local CDR process. Data about deaths reviewed are presented by year of review by the local CDR team, which may not be the same as the year in which the child died. **It is important to note that not all child deaths in the state are reviewed. As not every child death is reviewed, Michigan's CDR Program dataset is not population-based and should not be directly compared with vital statistics data, nor should it be used to compute mortality rates.** It is recommended that complementary data sources are examined alongside the CDR Program data when making prevention, policy, or practice decisions.

References

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics. (2022). *2020 Michigan resident death files* [Unpublished raw data set].
- United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2021. Data are compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Apr 3, 2023

Contact Us

Additional CDR data, reports, and fact sheets can be found on our [website](#). Please contact the Michigan CDR Program at the Center for Child and Family Health (CCFH) at MPHI at MichiganCDR@mphi.org with any questions or requests for additional data.