

Mississippi Child Death Review 2024 Annual Brief

Review of 2020 and 2021 Child Mortality
Mississippi State Department of Health, September 2024

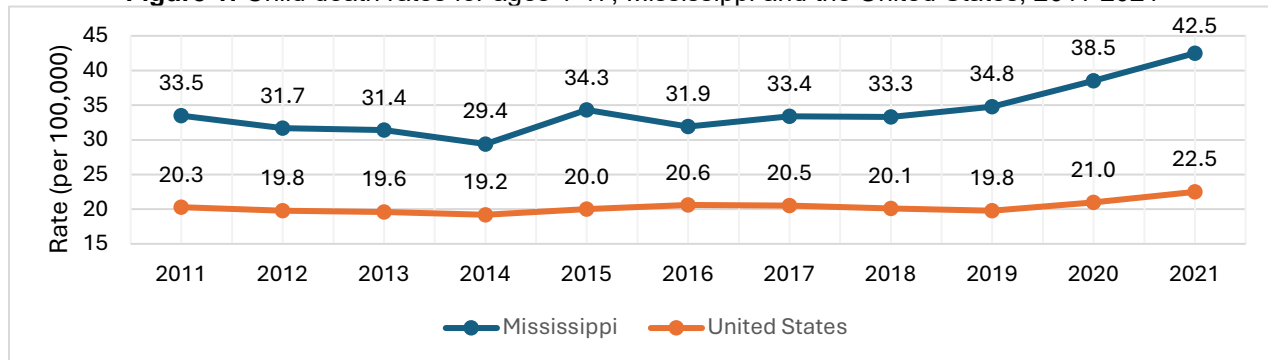
In 2020, a total of 253 child deaths occurred in children ages 1-17 years (Table 1). Children ages 15-17 accounted for 87 deaths (34.4%). Males accounted for 67.2% of deaths. A total of 128 deaths (50.6%) occurred among Black, non-Hispanic children (Black, NH). Followed by 2021 with a total of 280 child deaths occurred in children ages 1-17 years (Table 1). Children ages 15-17 accounted for 106 deaths (37.9%). Males accounted for 63.6% of deaths. A total of 143 deaths (51.1%) occurred among Black, NH children. *Note: Race/Ethnicity labeled as "Other" consists of American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and two or more races*

Table 1: Child deaths for ages 1-17, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	253	38.5	100.0	280	42.5	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	59	40.3	23.3	74	52.0	26.4
	5-9 (years)	44	23.4	17.4	37	20.0	13.2
	10-14 (years)	63	30.9	24.9	63	30.6	22.5
	15-17 (years)	87	72.4	34.4	106	85.1	37.9
Sex	Female	83	25.7	32.8	102	31.6	36.4
	Male	170	50.8	67.2	178	53.0	63.6
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	128	46.9	50.6	143	52.5	51.1
	White, NH	107	33.1	42.3	115	35.6	41.1
	Other, NH	7	25.0	2.8	11	38.7	3.9
	Hispanic	11	32.8	4.3	11	32.0	3.9

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population.

Figure 1: Child death rates for ages 1-17, Mississippi and the United States, 2011-2021



Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population. | Source: MSDH Office of Vital Statistics; CDC WONDER 2024

Since 2011, the child death rate for Mississippi children ages 1-17 has increased from 33.5 to 38.5 in 2020 and then 42.5 in 2021 (per 100,000 population) while consistently remaining higher than the rate for children 1-17 in the United States (Figure 1). Out of 50 rankable states, death rates for children ages 1-17 in Mississippi ranked 50th with the highest death rate in both 2020 and 2021. (CDC WONDER 2024).

Table 2: Child deaths by cause of death, ages 1-17, 2020 and 2021 in Mississippi

Cause of Death	2020		2021	
	Count	% of all deaths	Count	% of all deaths
All deaths	253	100.0	280	100.0
Natural causes	93	36.8	90	32.1
External causes	160	63.2	190	67.9
Motor vehicle/transport	56	22.1	65	23.2
Firearm	50	19.8	68	24.3
Homicide	41	16.2	51	18.2
Suicide	12	4.7	18	6.4
Drowning	14	5.5	12	4.3
Fire	12	4.7	18	6.4

Child motor vehicle accident (MVA) and transport deaths:

Table 3: Child MVA and transport deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	56	8.5	100.0	65	9.9	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	11	7.5	19.6	13	9.1	20.0
	5-9 (years)	11	5.9	19.6	11	5.9	16.9
	10-14 (years)	12	5.9	21.4	11	5.3	16.9
	15-17 (years)	22	18.3	39.3	30	24.1	46.2
Sex	Female	16	5.0	28.6	26	8.1	40.0
	Male	40	11.9	71.4	39	11.6	60.0
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	35	12.8	62.5	23	8.4	35.4
	White, NH	19	5.9	33.9	35	10.8	53.8
	Other, NH	0	0.0	0.0	3	10.6	4.6
	Hispanic	2	6.0	3.6	4	11.6	6.2

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population

- Children ages 15-17 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 39.3% in 2020, increasing to 46.2% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 71.4% in 2020 and decreasing to 60.0% in 2021.
- Black, NH children accounted for the most deaths in 2020 at 62.5%. However, in 2021 White, NH children accounted for the most deaths at 53.8%.

Child firearm-related deaths:

Table 4: Child firearm deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	50	7.6	100.0	68	10.3	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	2	1.4	4.0	7	4.9	10.3
	5-9 (years)	5	2.7	10.0	7	3.8	10.3
	10-14 (years)	14	6.9	28.0	15	7.3	22.1
	15-17 (years)	29	24.1	58.0	39	31.3	57.4
Sex	Female	12	3.7	24.0	10	3.1	14.7
	Male	38	11.3	76.0	58	17.3	85.3
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	34	12.5	68.0	48	17.6	70.6
	White, NH	14	4.3	28.0	17	5.3	25.0
	Other, NH	1	3.6	2.0	1	3.5	1.5
	Hispanic	1	3.0	2.0	2	5.8	2.9

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population

- Children ages 15-17 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 58.0% in 2020, decreasing to 57.4% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 76.0% in 2020 and increasing to 85.3% in 2021.
- Black, NH children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 68.0% in 2020 and increasing to 70.6% in 2021.

Child suicide deaths:

Table 5: Child suicide deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	12	1.8	100.0	18	2.7	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	5-9 (years)	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	10-14 (years)	5	2.5	41.7	5	2.4	27.8
	15-17 (years)	7	5.8	58.3	13	10.4	72.2
Sex	Female	3	0.9	25.0	4	1.2	22.2
	Male	9	2.7	75.0	14	4.2	77.8
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	5	1.8	41.7	7	2.6	38.9
	White, NH	6	1.9	50.0	9	2.8	50.0
	Other, NH	1	3.6	8.3	0	0.0	0.0
	Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	2	5.8	11.1

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population.

- Children ages 15-17 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 58.3% in 2020, increasing to 72.2% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 75.0% in 2020 and increasing to 77.8% in 2021.
- White, NH children accounted for the most deaths in both 2020 and 2021 with 50.0% in both years.

Child homicide deaths:

Table 6: Child homicide deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	41	6.2	100.0	51	7.7	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	3	2.1	7.3	8	5.6	15.7
	5-9 (years)	4	2.1	9.8	4	2.2	7.8
	10-14 (years)	9	4.4	22.0	13	6.3	25.5
	15-17 (years)	25	20.8	61.0	26	20.9	51.0
Sex	Female	11	3.4	26.8	11	3.4	21.6
	Male	30	9.0	73.2	40	11.9	78.4
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	31	11.4	75.6	41	15.1	80.4
	White, NH	8	2.5	19.5	9	2.8	17.6
	Other, NH	1	3.6	2.4	0	0.0	0.0
	Hispanic	1	3.0	2.4	1	2.9	2.0

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population

- Children ages 15-17 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 61.0% in 2020, decreasing to 51.0% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 73.2% in 2020 and increasing to 78.4% in 2021.
- Black, NH children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 75.6% in 2020 and increasing to 80.4% in 2021.

Child drowning deaths:

Table 7: Child drowning deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	14	2.1	100.0	12	1.8	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	7	4.8	50.0	5	3.5	41.7
	5-9 (years)	4	2.1	28.6	3	1.6	25.0
	10-14 (years)	1	0.5	7.1	1	0.5	8.3
	15-17 (years)	2	1.7	14.3	3	2.4	25.0
Sex	Female	3	0.9	21.4	7	2.2	58.3
	Male	11	3.3	78.6	5	1.5	41.7
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	4	1.5	28.6	5	1.8	41.7
	White, NH	9	2.8	64.3	7	2.2	58.3
	Other, NH	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	Hispanic	1	3.0	7.1	0	0.0	0.0

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population.

- Children ages 1-4 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 50.0% in 2020, decreasing to 41.7% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in 2020 at 78.6%. However, in 2021 female children accounted for the most deaths at 58.3%.
- White, NH children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 64.3% in 2020 and decreasing to 58.3% in 2021.

Child fire-related deaths:

Table 8: Child fire-related deaths by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2020 and 2021 Mississippi resident deaths

		2020			2021		
		Count	Rate	%	Count	Rate	%
	Total	12	1.8	100.0	18	2.7	100.0
Age	1-4 (years)	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	5-9 (years)	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	10-14 (years)	5	2.5	41.7	5	2.4	27.8
	15-17 (years)	7	5.8	58.3	13	10.4	72.2
Sex	Female	3	0.9	25.0	4	1.2	22.2
	Male	9	2.7	75.0	14	4.2	77.8
Race/ Ethnicity	Black, NH	5	1.8	41.7	7	2.6	38.9
	White, NH	6	1.9	50.0	9	2.8	50.0
	Other, NH	1	3.6	8.3	0	0.0	0.0
	Hispanic	0	0.0	0.0	2	5.8	11.1

Note: Rates calculated as per 100,000 population.

- Children ages 15-17 accounted for the most deaths in both years with 58.3% in 2020, increasing to 72.2% in 2021.
- Male children accounted for the most deaths in both years with 75.0% in 2020 and increasing to 77.8% in 2021.
- White, NH children accounted for the most deaths in both 2020 and 2021 with 50.0% in both years.

2020 Overview:

Leading causes of child death in children ages 1-17 years:

1. Motor vehicle/transport (56 child deaths)
2. Firearm (50 child deaths)
3. Homicide (41 child deaths)

Age-group:

- Children ages 15-17 years accounting for 34.4% of ALL child deaths ages 1-17 years.

Sex:

- Male children accounted for 67.2% of ALL child deaths ages 1-17 years.

Race/Ethnicity:

- Black, NH children accounted for 50.6% of all child deaths ages 1-17 years.

2021 Overview:

Leading causes of child death in children ages 1-17 years:

1. Firearm (68 child deaths)
2. Motor vehicle/transport (65 child deaths)
3. Homicide (51 child deaths)

Age-group:

- Children ages 15-17 years accounting for 37.9% of ALL child deaths ages 1-17 years.

Sex:

- Male children accounted for 63.6% of ALL child deaths ages 1-17 years.

Race/Ethnicity:

- Black, NH children accounted for 51.1% of all child deaths ages 1-17 years.

Recommendations and Prevention Effort

The Child Death Review Panel makes the following recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

State Leaders:

- Continued engagement with legislators about CDRP recommendations beyond the annual report.
- Continued partnership opportunities for CDRP members to present data and findings from the annual report with examples including legislature day for different organizations, trauma conferences, injury prevention conferences, and child health conferences.

Healthcare System and Providers:

- Mass media campaign discouraging co-sleeping and a realistic approach to helping put babies to sleep.
- Provide drowning education at well child visits.
- Provide education/partnership with Department of Mental Health's "Shatter the Silence: Suicide Prevention Campaign."
- Advocate that supervision is the main protective factor against drowning deaths.

Local Leaders, Communities, and Families:

- Public service announcements on water safety, swimming safety, and other safety precautions for residential lakes, ponds, and pools.
- Public Service announcements on fire safety and the importance of smoke alarms in homes.
- Collaboration/partnership with Department of Mental Health's "Shatter the Silence Suicide Prevention Campaign".

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>