

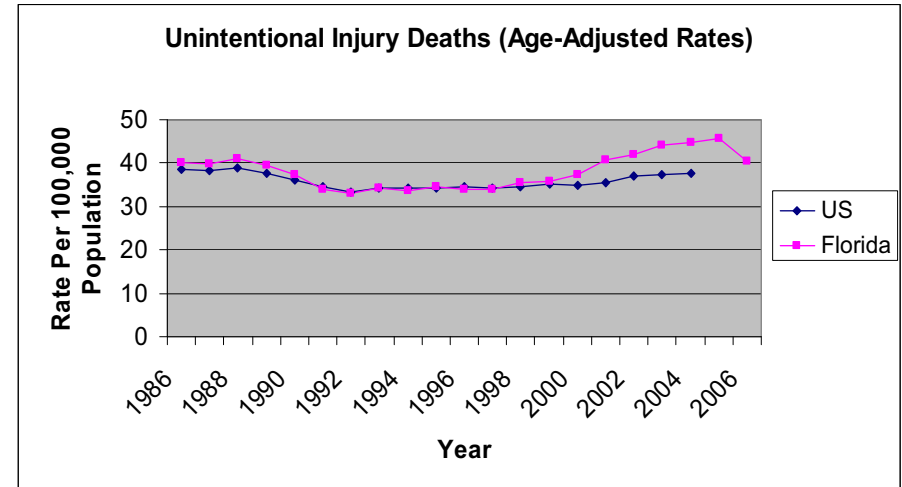


# Unintentional Injury

*The major categories of unintentional injuries include motor vehicle crash injuries, falls, fires, poisonings, drowning, suffocations, choking, animal bites, and recreational and sports-related activities.*

## Why is this Important?

- Unintentional injury is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death of Florida residents every year, and is the #1 killer of Florida residents ages 1-44 every year.
- Among the 5 largest states in the US (CA, TX, NY, FL, and IL), Florida had the highest unintentional injury death rate. According to a 2004 study by the Surface Transportation Policy Project, Florida has 5 of the top 10 most dangerous US cities for pedestrians.



Year	U S	F l o r i d a
1986	38.6	40.1
1987	38.2	39.8
1988	38.9	41.1
1989	37.7	39.6
1990	36.1	37.4
1991	34.7	34.1
1992	33.2	33.1
1993	34.2	34.4
1994	34.2	33.5
1995	34.4	34.6
1996	34.5	33.9
1997	34.2	34.1
1998	34.5	35.5
1999	35.3	35.7
2000	34.9	37.3
2001	35.5	40.6
2002	36.9	42.0
2003	37.2	44.1
2004	37.6	44.6
2005		45.6
2006		40.3

2004 is most current US data.  
2006 Florida data is provisional  
and subject to change.



## Unintentional Injury, cont'd

### How is Florida Doing?

- The leading cause of unintentional injury deaths in Florida is motor vehicle accidents, which account for over 3000 deaths annually. The rate dropped from a high of 25 deaths per 100,000 in 1988 to a low of 14.6 in 1999, but has increased gradually since then.
- US and Florida age-adjusted unintentional injury death rates were about the same throughout the 1990's. But beginning in 2000, Florida's rate began to surpass the US rate, from 7% higher than the US rate in 2000, to 19% higher than the US rate in 2004 (latest US data available).
- In 2004 (latest US data available), Florida's age-adjusted unintentional injury death rates were higher than the US rate by 19% for all unintentional injuries, 3% for falls of elders ages 65 and older, 23% for motor vehicle injuries, 55% for unintentional poisonings, and an overwhelming 137% for unintentional drownings of children ages 1-4.
- Florida has the highest unintentional drowning death rate in the US for children ages 1-4. Every year, about two-thirds of these drownings of children ages 1-4 in Florida occur in swimming pools. In 2003, Florida surpassed California for the first and only time in the number of children ages 1-4 who drowned (California 52, Florida 83). Every year, about 15% of all children ages 1-4 who drown in the US were from Florida.
- Although numbers are small, Florida's death rate from unintentional poisonings and poisonings of undetermined intent jumped 325% from 1990 through 2001, which was the largest jump of the 11 states in a 2004 CDC study.
- In 2005, over 80% of about 40,500 hospitalizations for unintentional injuries sustained by elder Floridians ages 65 and older were due to falls. The impact of these injuries on elder Floridians is profound. Total hospital charges for all unintentional injury-related hospitalizations of elder Floridians in 2005 were over \$1.3 billion, with Medicare billed for more than \$950 million. Almost two-thirds continued to require care and were discharged from the hospital to another facility.





## Unintentional Injury, cont'd

### What Influences Unintentional Injury?

- Adult supervision is one of the best ways to prevent childhood injuries. Constant, undistracted and even “touch” supervision of young children is essential for home and water safety/drowning prevention.
- Parents can lead by example by wearing helmets, wearing safety belts and buckling children in car seats.
- Many falls are preventable. However, awareness and education efforts center on home environments to eliminate hazards, especially for people over 65 (loose throw rugs, clutter, objects in major pathways, and pets).

### What is the State's Role?

#### States Can

- Facilitate and coordinate with injury prevention stakeholders and other State agencies.
- Collaborative to assemble available statewide resources and combine related programs for a higher profile and impact of injury prevention efforts.



### Florida Initiatives

#### The **Drowning Prevention Awareness**

**Campaign**-to decrease the number of drowning of children under age 5. Florida has the highest drowning death rate in the U.S. for children under age 5. Despite local ordinances and a state statute requiring safety features for residential swimming pools, last year enough children drowned in Florida to fill four preschool classrooms

#### **Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program**-

to increase bicycle helmet usage among children. Children ages 5 to 14 account for approximately 21% of all bicycle-related deaths and nearly half of all bicycle-related injuries.

**Safe Kids Florida** works to eliminate unintentional injury and death to children under age 15, the leading cause of injury or death for this age group. Florida has 16 Safe Kids coalitions, whose members are fire and rescue providers, health and medical professionals, educators, civic leaders, business leaders, operate in 27 counties. Eighty percent of Florida's under age 15 population live in a county with a Safe Kids presence.

#### The **Florida Special Needs Occupant**

**Protection Program** increases access to car seats for children with special health care needs. It operates within eight children's hospitals and provides a "loaner" child safety seat/restraint for children with acute special health care needs who can not use a regular child safety seat.

[www.doh.state.fl.us/injury](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury)