Youth Health

Childhood Injury

Importance: Primary cause of death in children nationwide.

National statistic: Injury mortality in 2005: 14.2 per 100,000 children age 1-17

- On average, 46 children age 1 to 17 years died from injuries in Baltimore City each year from 2002 to 2006.
- The child injury death rate in Baltimore City declined 29% from 2002 to 2006.

The majority of injury deaths among Baltimore City children were due to homicide. From 2002 to 2006, 59% of deaths among children aged 1 to 17 in Baltimore were due to homicide; while 35% were due to accidents, 4% to suicides, and 2% were of undetermined intent.

From 2002-2006, children were twice as likely to die in Baltimore as in Maryland or the nation as a whole. The rate of injuries among children aged 1 to 17 in Baltimore during 2002-2006 was 30.7 per 100,000 children compared to 14.7 per 100,000 children in the U.S. for 2002-2005 (data not displayed). This difference is primarily due to homicide—the child homicide rate in Baltimore was over eight times higher than the national rate.