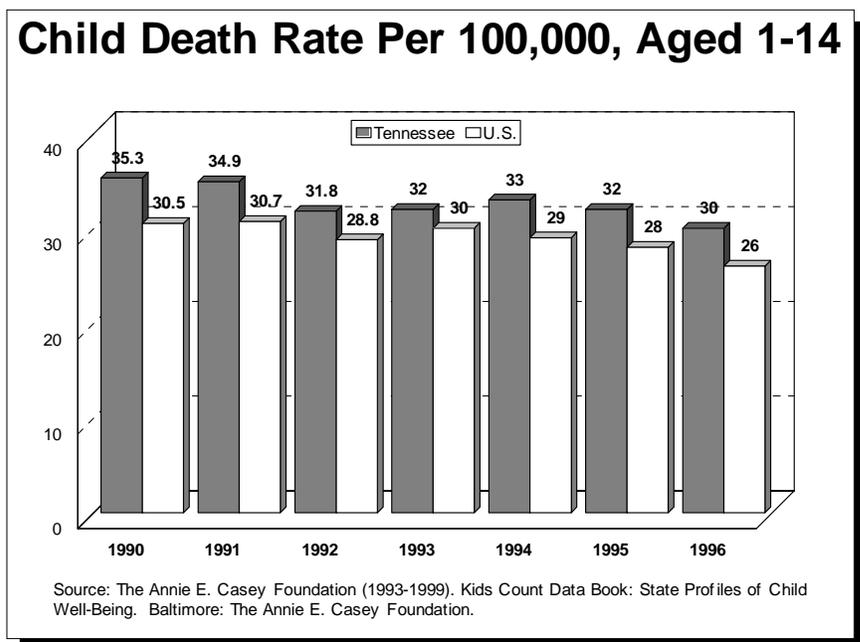


Child Death

The death of a child is a terrible tragedy for both families and communities. Tennessee has increased its efforts to improve the safety and health of children by ensuring health care for more children, promoting seat belt use, encouraging people to wear bicycle helmets, and promoting the “Back To Sleep” campaign to reduce the number of deaths attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Tennessee’s child death rate has declined from 32.7 in 1995 to 29.3 deaths per 100,000 in 1997. However, according to the national comparison in 1996, Tennessee ranked 32nd worst, with a rate of 30 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 26 per 100,000. Community efforts to make our children safe need to continue vigorously to further reduce the child death rate.



The Child Fatality Review and Prevention Act of 1995 established procedures across Tennessee’s 31 judicial districts to review all deaths of residents under the age of 17. The purpose of the Child Fatality Review Team is to recommend statewide education campaigns that assist in reducing the number of child deaths and to improve the health and safety of Tennessee children.

Child Fatality Findings		
Children/Teen Deaths Under Age 17		
Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 1996	Number of Deaths 1997
Vehicular Accidents	147	150
Firearms	65	12
Fire/Burning	25	20
Drowning	24	27
Inflicted Injury	15	NA
Suffocation	NA	19

Source: Child Fatality Review Board, Tennessee Department of Health

The 1996 Child Fatality Findings determined that males were 1.5 times more likely to die from injuries than females.