

OK-VDRS BRIEF REPORT

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System

Violent Deaths among Children 0-17 Years of Age, Oklahoma, 2004-2009

From 2004-2009 there were more than 18,000 deaths in the United States among children 0-17 years of age that resulted from violence or unintentional firearm injuries. This equates to nearly 50 deaths each day. Data from the Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) were used to determine the extent of violent deaths among Oklahoma's infants and children.

- From 2004-2009, 280 infants and children under 18 years of age died as a result of violence, an average of 47 deaths per year.
- Fifty-eight percent (162) of the deaths were homicides, 32% (89) were suicides, 9% (26) were unintentional firearm injury deaths, and 1% (3) were legal intervention (person was killed by law enforcement acting in the line of duty).
 - 71% of the children were males and 29% were females.
 - 28% were age 4 or younger, 23% were ages 5-14, and 49% were ages 15-17.
- The highest violent death rate was among blacks (11.3 per 100,000 population), followed by whites (5.2) and Native Americans (5.1). Among children of Hispanic ethnicity, the violent death rate was 4.3 (Table 1).
- Violent death rates were highest among children 15-17 years of age in nearly all racial and gender groups. Among Native American, black, and Hispanic females, violent death rates were highest among females age 0-4 years of age (Table 1).
- Black males 15-17 years of age had the highest rate of violent death among all racial and gender groups, followed by Hispanic males 15-17 years of age (75.2 and 28.4, respectively).
- Among children 15-17 years of age, 50% of the deaths were suicides, 39% were homicides, 9% were unintentional firearm injury deaths, and 2% were legal interventions (Figure 1).

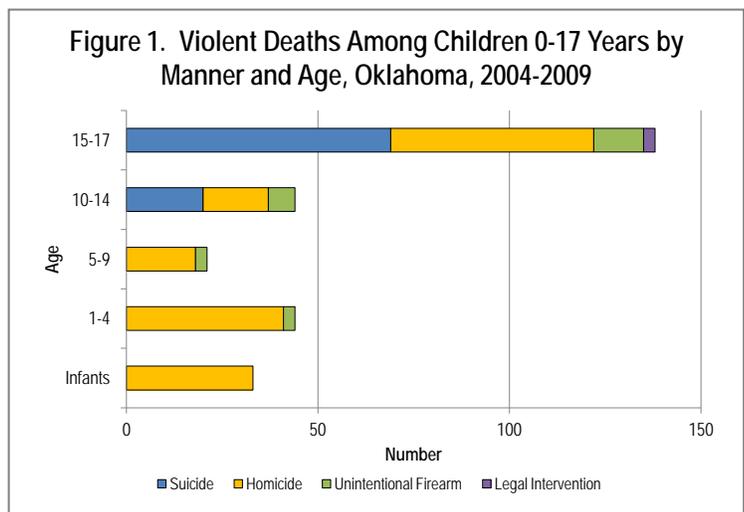


Table 1. Violent Death Rates Among Children 0-17 Years By Age, Gender, Race*, and Ethnicity, Oklahoma, 2004-2009**

	Total		White		Native American		Black		Hispanic**	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
Male										
0-4	45	4.7	28	4.7	3	3.2	11	12.4	4	3.4
5-14	38	4.3	26	2.3	3	1.7	7	4.2	3	1.8
15-17	117	12.7	57	16.1	11	19.2	38	75.2	12	28.4
All Males	200	7.2	111	5.3	17	5.2	56	18.2	19	5.9
Females										
0-4	32	3.5	16	2.8	7	7.7	6	7.1	6	5.3
5-14	27	3.2	16	1.5	7	4.1	4	2.5	2	1.3
15-17	21	2.4	17	5.1	2	3.7	2	4.1	0	0.0
All Females	80	3.0	49	2.5	16	5.1	12	4.1	8	2.6
Both Genders										
0-4	77	5.0	44	3.8	10	5.4	17	9.8	10	4.4
5-14	65	2.2	42	1.9	10	2.9	11	3.4	5	1.6
15-17	138	15.0	74	10.7	13	11.7	40	40.2	12	14.8
Total	280	5.2	160	4.0	33	5.1	68	11.3	27	4.3

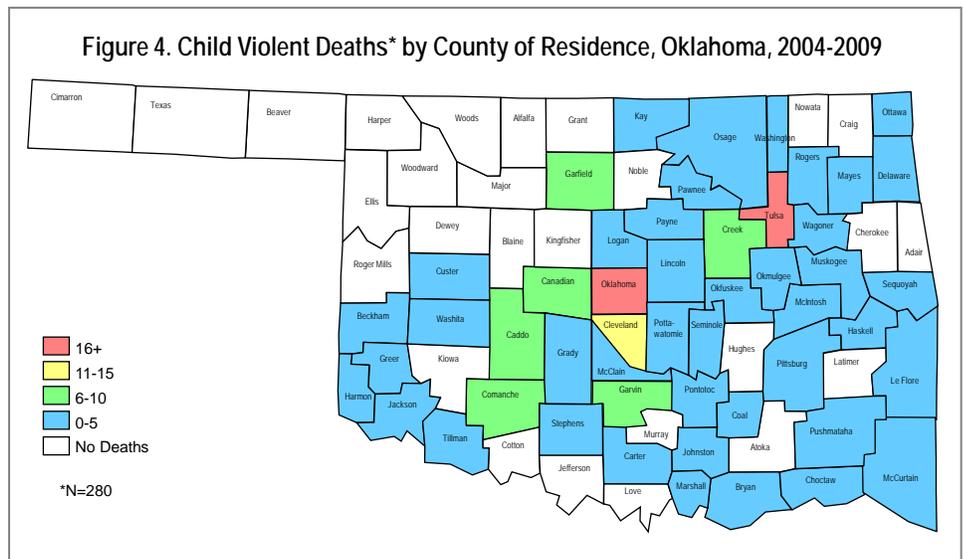
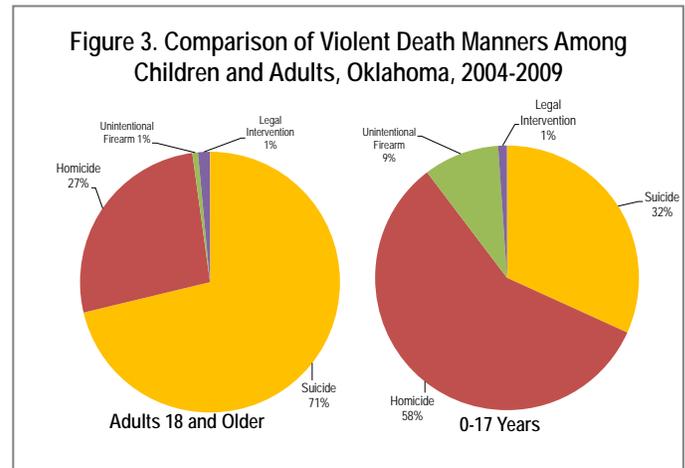
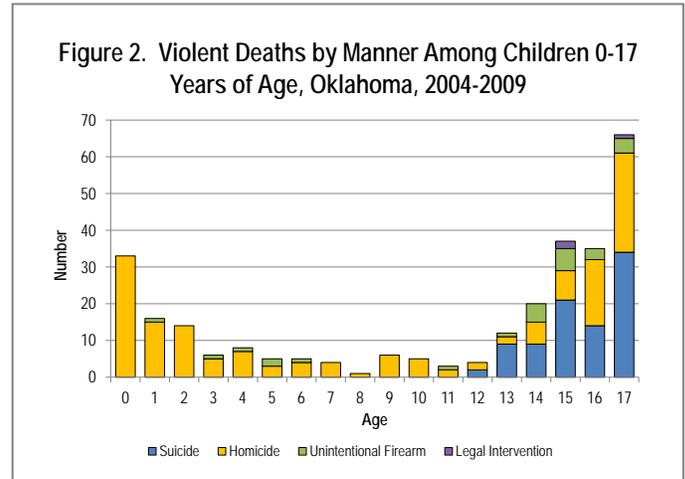
*Rates per 100,000 population. There were no deaths among Asian/Pacific Islander children. Race was mixed, other, or unknown for 19 persons.

**Hispanic ethnicity is counted separately from race and is not a racial category.

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Violent Deaths among Children 0-17 Years of Age in Oklahoma

- Children ages 3-12 years had the lowest number of violent deaths; the number of violent deaths peaked at age 17 (Figure 2).
- Among persons 15-17 years of age, the suicide rate among males (11.9) was 4 times higher than the rate among females (2.9), and the homicide rate among males in this age group (10.0) was nearly 8 times higher than the rate among females (1.3).
- Among infants (less than one year of age), the homicide rate among females (10.0) was similar to the homicide rate among males (9.8). Among children 1-4 years of age, the homicide rate among males was nearly twice the homicide rate among females (4.3 and 2.3, respectively).
- Compared to adults 18 years of age and older, children 0-17 years of age had a higher percentage of homicides (58% v. 27%) and unintentional firearm deaths (9% v. 1%). Suicide accounted for 71% of violent deaths among adults and 32% of violent deaths among children (Figure 3).
- Fifty counties experienced one or more violent deaths of children with nearly half (47%) of the deaths occurring in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties (Figure 4).
- There were no violent deaths of infants and children during this time period in 27 counties (Figure 4).



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The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and child fatality review data. The data are included in the National Violent Death Reporting System and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>.