

Understanding Child Injury
Deaths

Child Fatality Review Advisory Team Annual Report

2025

NYC Health Department



About This Report

Local Law 115 of 2005 and its 2012 extension requires the NYC Health Department and the Child Fatality Review Advisory Team it chairs to produce an annual report on injury-related child fatalities in NYC. The report features the most current data on injury-related deaths among children ages 1 to 12 years and offers recommendations for preventing child injury deaths in NYC.

Data and implications for prevention are presented in four sections:

- **Section 1** examines child injury fatality rates over a 10-year period and compares them with national data. The most current data are for 2023.
- **Section 2** describes the demographic characteristics of NYC’s child injury fatalities, pooling data from 2014 to 2023 to stabilize small counts and to allow for reliable statistical description. Findings are organized by injury intent (see definitions below).
- **Section 3** summarizes child injury deaths from 2014 to 2023 by place of occurrence of the fatal injury.
- **Section 4** recommends strategies for preventing child injury deaths in NYC.

Injury Intent Definitions

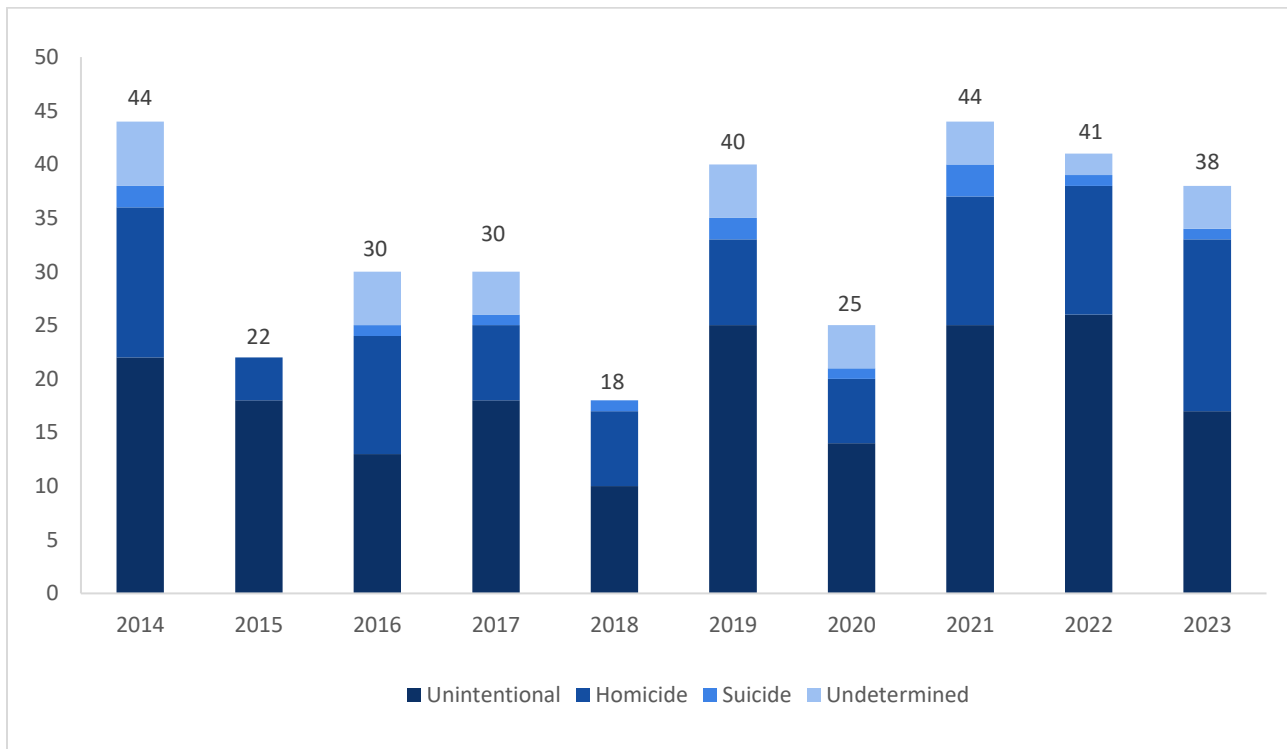
The intent of actions that lead to injury deaths are defined as follows:

- **Unintentional:** Injury death that occurred without intent to cause harm, also known as “accidental.”
- **Intentional:** Injury death that occurred with the intent to cause harm. Intentional deaths are further classified as:
 - **Homicide:** Intentional death resulting from injuries inflicted by another person.
 - **Suicide:** Intentional injury death resulting from self-harm.
- **Undetermined:** Injury death for which the intent cannot be determined.

Section 1: Trends and Comparison With National Data

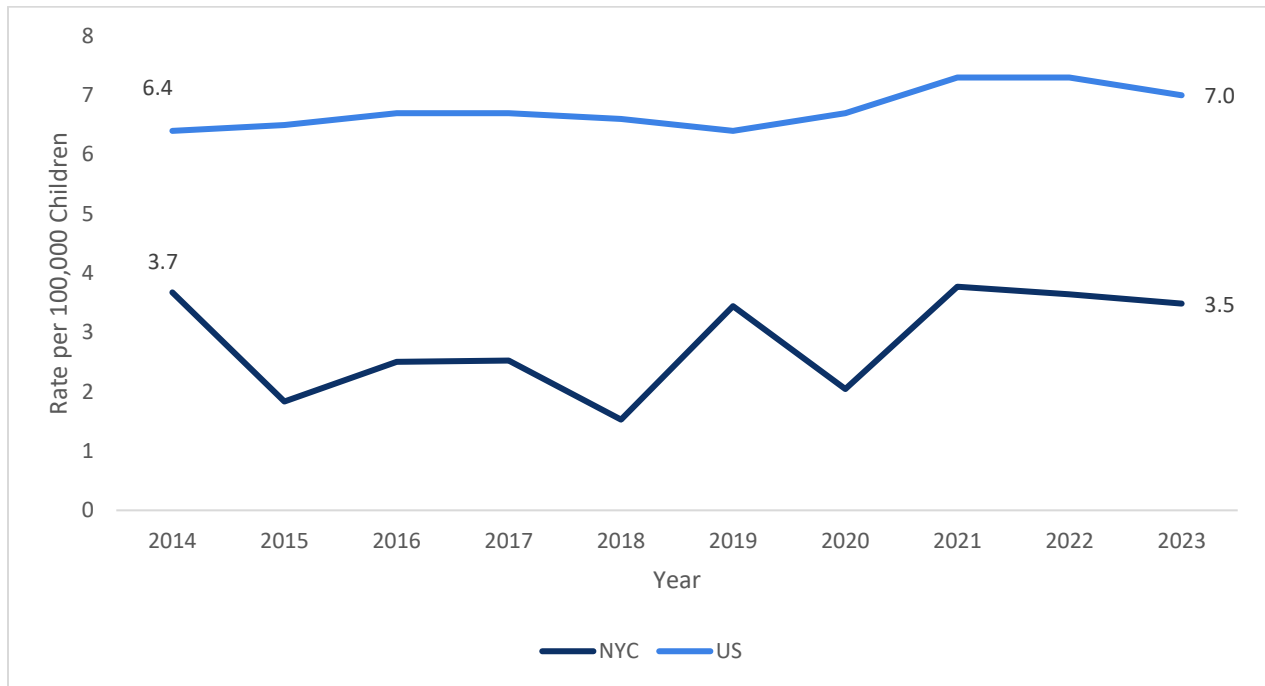
- The number of injury deaths among NYC children declined each year from 2021 to 2023. While injury deaths among NYC children fell to 18 in 2018, they reached 38 in 2023. The rate was 3.5 deaths per 100,000 children in 2023.
- NYC’s injury death rates among children ages 1 to 12 years have been consistently lower than national rates.
- Out of the 38 injury deaths in 2023, 17 were unintentional, 16 were homicides, 1 was by suicide, and 4 were of undetermined intent.

Figure 1. Each year from 2014 to 2023, between 18 and 44 NYC children ages 1 to 12 years died from injuries¹



¹Source: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics

Figure 2. Injury death rates* among children ages 1 to 12 years are lower in NYC than in the US²

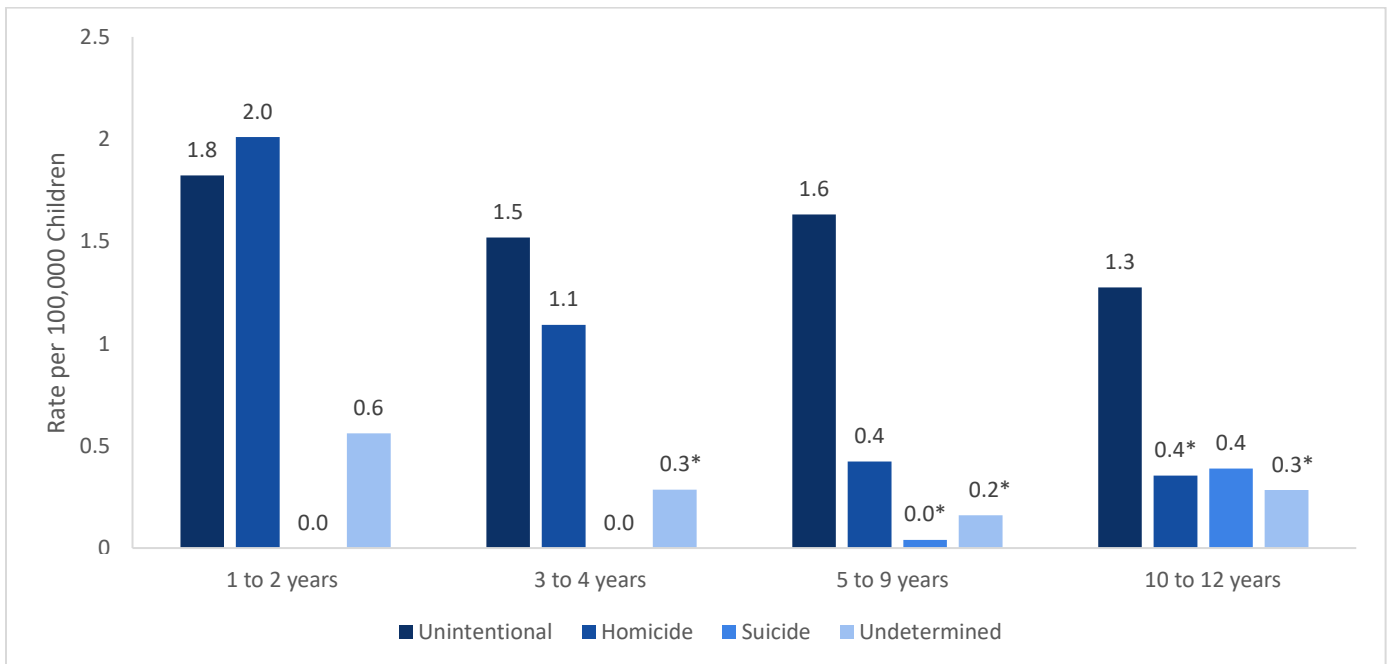


*Rates were calculated using interpolated intercensal population estimates updated in 2020 and may differ from previously reported rates based on the 2000 Census or previous versions of population estimates.
²Sources: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics and NYC Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, 2000-2023. Updated September 2024. CDC WONDER accessed August 2025.

Section 2: Demographics of Child Injury Deaths

- Between 2014 and 2023, there were 332 injury deaths among NYC children ages 1 to 12 years. Of those 332 deaths, 57% (N = 188) were unintentional, 29% (N = 92) were homicides, 4% (N = 13) were suicides, and 10% (N = 34) were deaths of undetermined intent.
- In NYC, fatal injuries disproportionately affected younger children (ages 1 to 4 years), boys, Black children, children living in the Bronx, and children living in very high poverty areas. Racial and economic disparities in child injury deaths persist, signaling systemic and structural issues, such as racism, at their foundation.

Figure 3. From 2014 to 2023, homicide injury death rates were higher among children ages 1 to 4 years than among children ages 5 to 12 years³



³Source: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics and NYC Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2023. Updated September 2024.

*The estimate should be interpreted with caution. The estimate's relative standard error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

Figure 4. From 2014 to 2023, unintentional and homicide injury death rates were higher among boys than girls⁴

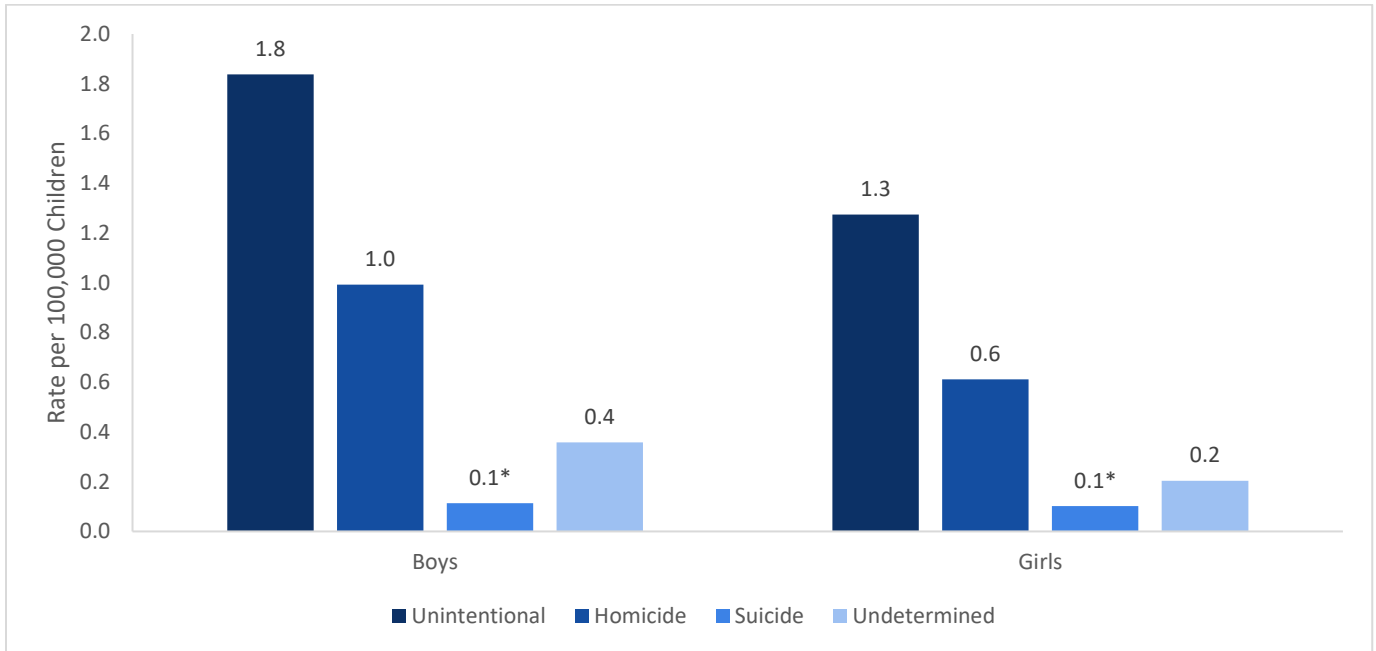
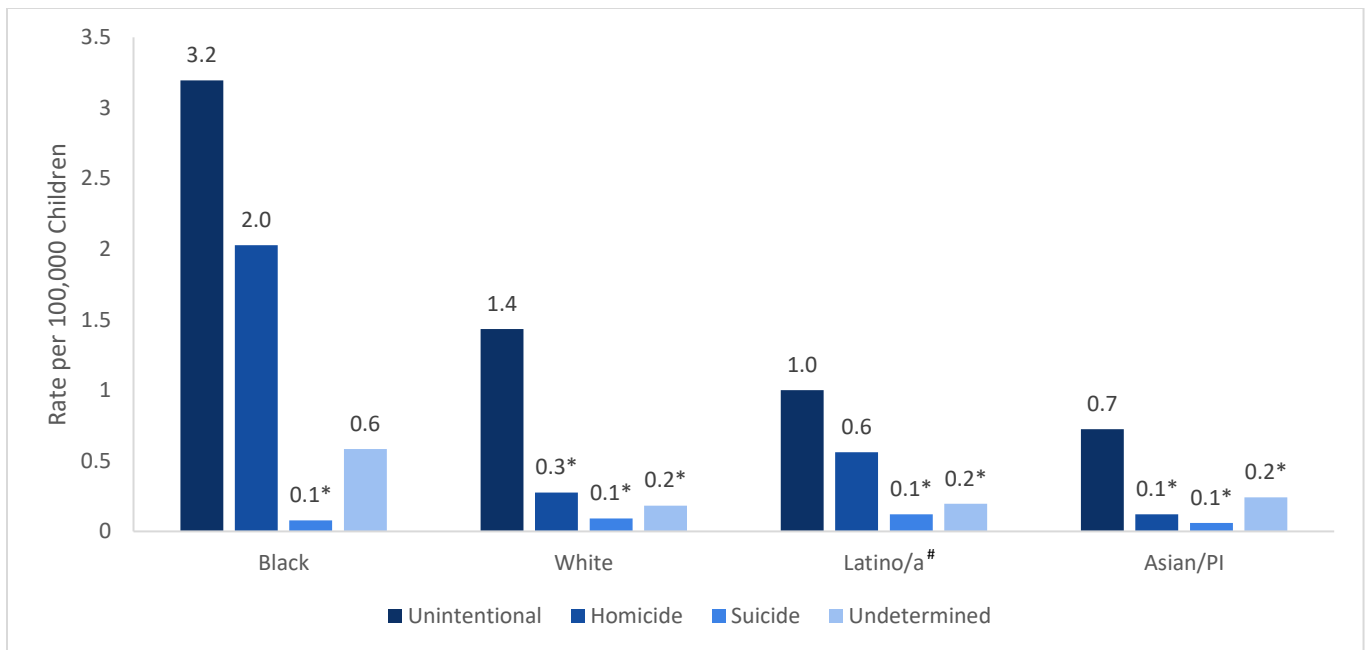


Figure 5. From 2014 to 2023, injury death rates among children ages 1 to 12 years were higher among Black children and lower among Asian/Pacific Islander (PI) children⁴



⁴Source: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics and NYC Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2023. Updated September 2024.

*The estimate should be interpreted with caution. The estimate's relative standard error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

[#]Latino/a includes Hispanic or Latino/a people of any race. White, Black, and Asian race categories exclude Latino/a ethnicity.

Figure 6. From 2014 to 2023, unintentional injury death rates and homicide death rates were higher among children living in the Bronx⁵

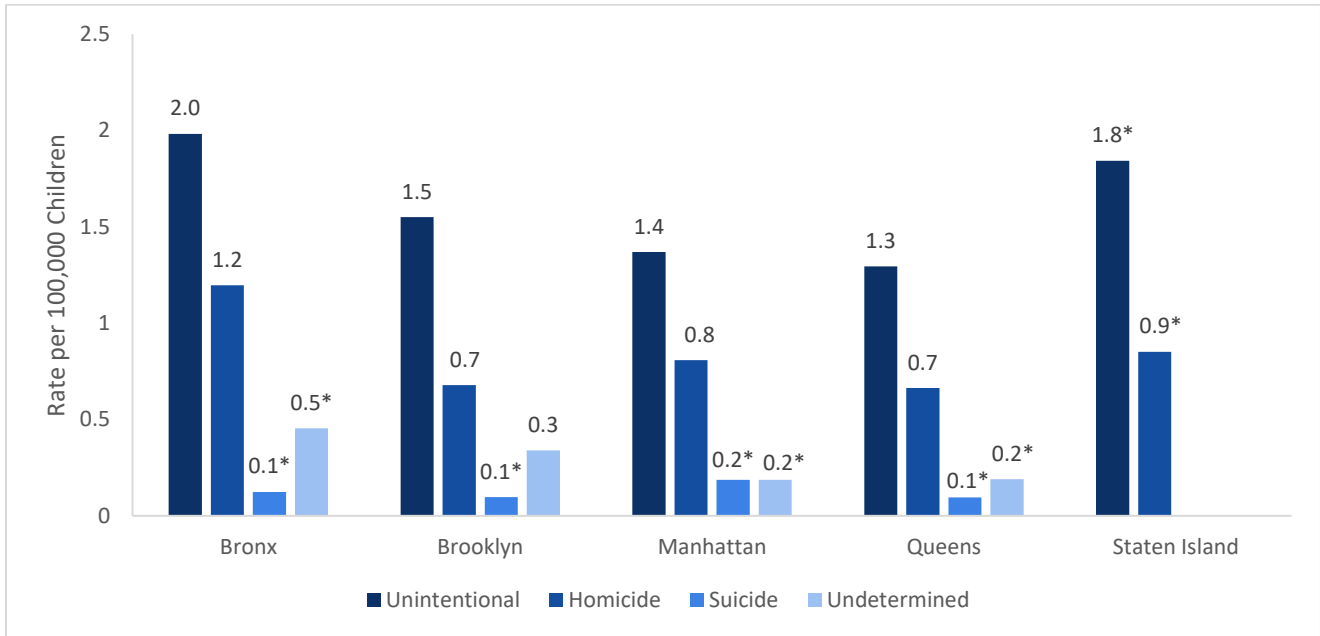
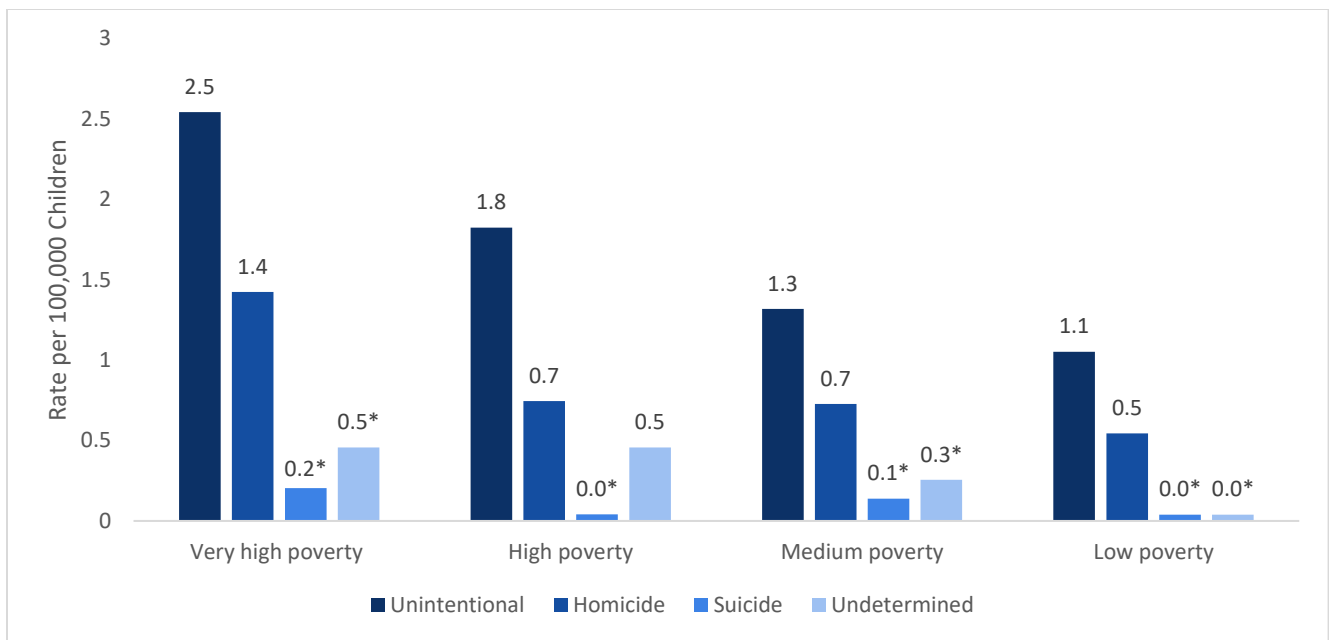


Figure 7. From 2014 to 2023, injury death rates were higher among children ages 1 to 12 living in high-poverty and very-high-poverty# neighborhoods⁵



⁵Source: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics and NYC Health Department population estimates, modified from U.S. Census Bureau interpolated intercensal population estimates, 2000-2023. Updated September 2024.

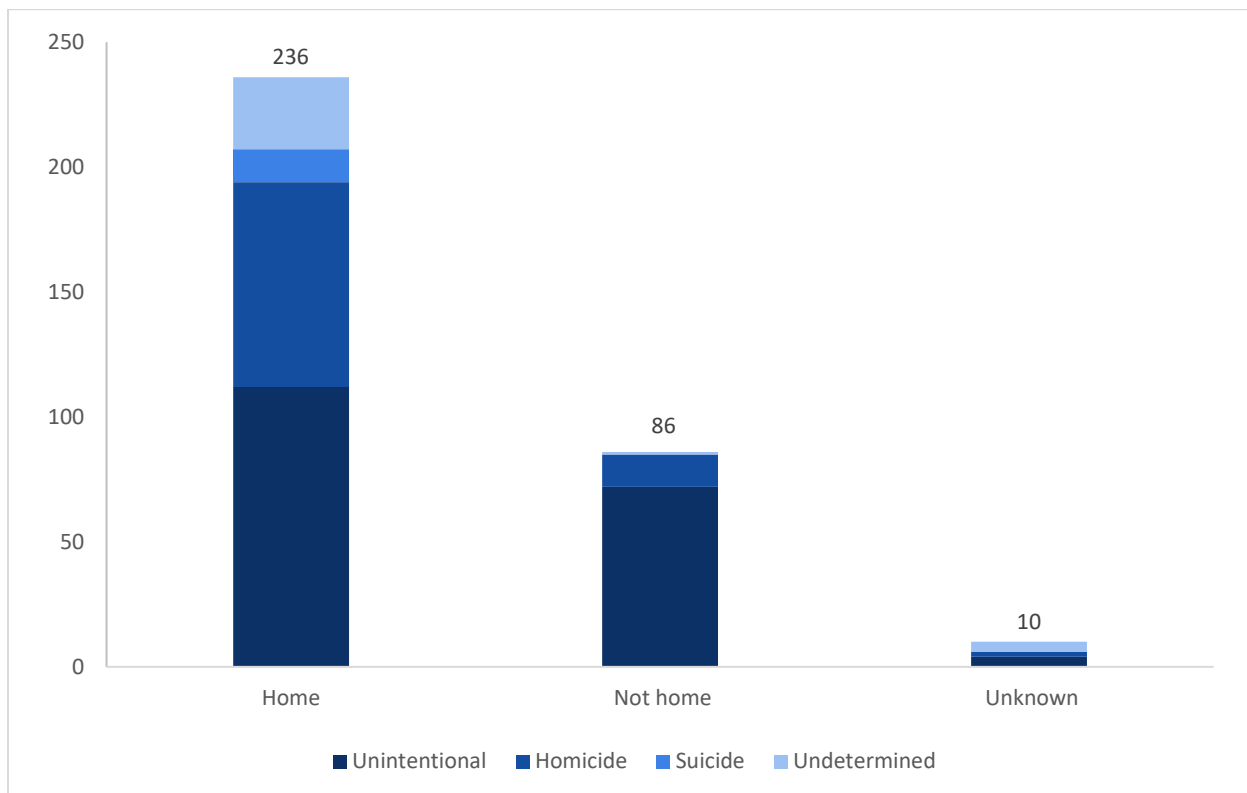
*The estimate should be interpreted with caution. The estimate’s relative standard error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30%, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

#Area-based poverty is defined as the proportion of residents in a ZIP code with incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) per the American Community Survey (2017-2021) in four categories: Low (< 10% FPL), Medium (10% to < 20% FPL), High (20% to < 30% FPL), and Very High (≥ 30% FPL).

Section 3: Place of Occurrence of Fatal Injuries

- Between 2014 and 2023, nearly three-quarters (71%, N = 236) of all child injury deaths resulted from injuries that occurred at home. 47% (N = 112) of those injuries were unintentional, 35% (N = 82) were homicides, 6% (N = 13) were suicides, and 14% (N = 29) were of undetermined intent.
- Between 2014 and 2023, over one-quarter (26%, N = 86) of all child injury deaths resulted from injuries that did not occur at home. 84% (N = 72) of the not-at-home child injury deaths were unintentional, 15% (N = 13) were homicides, 1% (N = 1) was of undetermined intent, and none were suicides.
- The leading cause of not-at-home child injury deaths was unintentional motor vehicle traffic (N = 51), which accounted for almost two-thirds of the not-at-home child injury deaths. In 80% of the motor vehicle traffic fatalities, the child injured was a pedestrian (N = 41).

Figure 8. From 2014 to 2023, most injury deaths among children ages 1 to 12 years occurred at home⁶



⁶Source: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics; Office of Chief Medical Examiner. “Home” injuries include those that occurred in a residence or apartment building as well as areas such as the elevator, yard, or rooftop of a residence. Residences other than the child’s primary residence and homeless shelters were included as well. All other locations, including public buildings and streets, were included in the “Not home” category.

Table 1. Most injury deaths among children ages 1 to 12 years that happen at home are homicides and most that happen away from home are unintentional motor vehicle traffic crashes⁷

Rank	Home (N)	Not home (N)
1	Homicide (82)	Unintentional Motor Vehicle Traffic (51)
2	Unintentional Fire/Flame (62)	Homicide (13)
3	Unintentional Suffocation [#] (14)	Unintentional Drowning (9)

⁷Sources: NYC Health Department Bureau of Vital Statistics; Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

[#]Suffocation includes deaths resulting from injuries due to inhalation, aspiration, or ingestion of food or other object (for example, choking) and to mechanical suffocation (for example, hanging or strangulation).

Section 4: Recommendations

Parents, caregivers, neighbors, educators, health care providers, community- and faith-based leaders, and policymakers can know about, act on, and use the following information and resources.

Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Promote Family Well-Being

- Comprehensive [resources for child welfare, safety, and well-being](#) are available for all New Yorkers. Families that need support can reach out by calling the NYC Children’s family support line at 212-676-7667, emailing connect@acs.nyc.gov, or visiting their [website](#) for more information.
- Visit [NYC MyCity](#), which links eligible New Yorkers to City programs and benefits, including child care, family services, food assistance, and more.
- NYC has services available for any child, **regardless of immigration status**. Learn more about [programs and eligibility](#) as well as broader [resources for immigrant New Yorkers](#).
- All NYC children who are not learning, playing, growing, talking, or walking like other children of the same age are eligible for the [Early Intervention Program](#).
 - [Growing Up NYC](#) and [Early Childhood Health and Development](#) also offer tips for all stages of child development.
- The [New Family Home Visits Initiative](#) helps eligible new and expectant parents build safe, nurturing foundations for their children’s development via in-person or virtual home visits.
 - The [NYC Health Department](#) and the [Postpartum Resource Center of New York](#) offer Information and resources on postpartum depression.

Create a Safer Home

- Use safe sleep practices with infants. Many sleep-related infant injury deaths are preventable — see NYC Children’s [safe sleep resources](#) to learn more.
- [Keep your home safe from fires](#).
 - Install and maintain working [smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors](#). The FDNY offers [free smoke alarms](#) on request.
 - Create an [evacuation plan](#) for your home.
 - If someone in your household has an e-bike or e-scooter, [learn about fire and explosion risks](#) and how to stay safe. Charge devices and their batteries outside if possible, and charge and store devices and their batteries away from apartment exits and anything flammable.
- Keep your home environment safe. Learn more through the [Home Safe Home](#) activity book for children.
 - Window guards are [required in many buildings](#).
 - Use safe storage practices to prevent injuries from [firearms](#) and [poisons](#).

Be Safe on the Road

- If you drive a car, ride a bike, or use an e-bike or e-scooter, be a role model for children and others. Learn about [bike safety tips and free bike helmets](#), [child safety in and around cars](#), and [seatbelt safety](#).
 - When driving, slow down, pause, and wait before you turn, and keep your eyes on the road.
 - As a pedestrian, be vigilant and model [safe defensive walking](#).

Prevent Drowning

- The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation offers [Learn to Swim](#) classes.
- Water safety tips from the NYC Health Department can be found [here](#).

Reduce the Risk of Suicide

- [NYC 988](#) offers free, confidential mental health support, including information for building resilience in children to reduce suicide risk.
- The [Caring Transitions Program](#) serves children ages 5 to 17 in the Bronx and Queens who are seen in a hospital after a suicide attempt or suicidal behavior.
- The NYC Health Department offers [suicide prevention resources](#).

Actions for All

- Visit and share [NYC MyCity](#), an online portal linking eligible New Yorkers to City programs and benefits such as child care, family services, food assistance, and more.
- Advance health equity by supporting racial justice initiatives and providing access to economic resources in neighborhoods left disinvested due to a history of structural racism and residential segregation. The City’s Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) identified 33 neighborhoods of focus and designed programs and services based on the needs of these communities. Learn more and access resources [here](#).
- All children deserve to live without the fear of abuse and neglect. If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, call 800-342-3720 or 311. Some professionals, such as physicians and teachers, are legally required to do so. Learn how to make a report [here](#).
- Learn more about building healthy family relationships and seek out [domestic violence services](#) if relationships may be unhealthy.
- Foster anti-bullying through a school-based curriculum, such as NYC Public Schools’ [Respect for All](#).
- Be an advocate for NYC children and families. Promote safe streets initiatives that pursue [Vision Zero](#) goals; support fire and home safety initiatives; share safe sleep and suicide prevention resources; and promote enrollment in benefits for those who are eligible. Together, we can prevent child injuries and deaths in NYC.