

Unintentional injuries are leading causes of death for children

After the age of 1 year, unintentional injuries, particularly road traffic injuries, drowning and fire-related burns become significant contributors to the leading causes of death among children and teenagers. Road traffic injuries alone are the leading cause of death among 15–19-year olds and the second leading cause among 5–14-year-olds.

Leading causes of death in children, both sexes, World, 2004

Rank	Under 1 year	1–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–19 years	Under 20
1	Perinatal causes	Lower respiratory infections	Lower respiratory infections	Lower respiratory infections	Road traffic injuries	Perinatal causes
2	Diarrhoeal diseases	Diarrhoeal diseases	Road traffic injuries	Road traffic injuries	Self-inflicted injuries	Lower respiratory infections
3	Lower respiratory infections	Measles	Malaria	Drowning	Violence	Diarrhoeal diseases
4	Malaria	Malaria	Diarrhoeal diseases	Malaria	Lower respiratory infections	Malaria
5	Congenital anomalies	HIV/AIDS	Meningitis	Meningitis	Drowning	Measles
6	Pertussis	Congenital anomalies	Drowning	HIV/AIDS	Tuberculosis	Congenital anomalies
7	HIV/AIDS	Protein–energy malnutrition	Protein–energy malnutrition	Tuberculosis	Fire-related burns	HIV/AIDS
8	Tetanus	Drowning	Measles	Diarrhoeal diseases	HIV/AIDS	Road traffic injuries
9	Meningitis	Road traffic injuries	Tuberculosis	Protein–energy malnutrition	Leukaemia	Pertussis
10	Measles	Meningitis	HIV/AIDS	Self-inflicted injuries	Meningitis	Meningitis
11	Protein–energy malnutrition	Fire-related burns	Fire-related burns	Leukaemia	Maternal haemorrhage	Drowning
12	Syphilis	Pertussis	Falls	Fire-related burns	Falls	Protein–energy malnutrition
13	Endocrine disorders	Tuberculosis	Congenital anomalies	War	Poisonings	Tetanus
14	Tuberculosis	Upper respiratory infections	Epilepsy	Violence	Abortion	Tuberculosis
15	Upper respiratory infections	Syphilis	Leukaemia	Trypanosomiasis	Epilepsy	Fire-related burns

Source: WHO (2008), Global Burden of Disease: 2004 update.