

# CHILDHOOD DEATHS



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This chapter provides information on deaths to children from 1 year through 17 years. Deaths for children have been separated into three age groups: 1-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-17 years. For infant deaths (under 1 year) see the section on Infant Deaths in the Fetal and Infant Deaths chapter. Tables 3.1A and 3.1B show deaths by residence (census area or Native regional corporation) and by age group.

**TABLE 3.1A CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY CENSUS AREA OF RESIDENCE, ALASKA, 1998**

CENSUSA AREA OF RESIDENCE	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
ANCHORAGE BOROUGH	7	6	8	21
BETHEL	1		3	4
DILLINGHAM			1	1
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH	1	2	5	8
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH	2	1	3	6
LAKE AND PENINSULA	1			1
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH	2		5	7
NOME		2	1	3
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH			1	1
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH			1	1
SITKA BOROUGH			2	2
VALDEZ-CORDOVA		1	1	2
WADE HAMPTON	1	1	3	5
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG			1	1
YUKON-KOYUKUK			3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>66</b>

TABLE 3.1B CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION OF RESIDENCE, ALASKA, 1998

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION OF RESIDENCE	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
ARCTIC SLOPE			1	1
BERING STRAITS		2	1	3
BRISTOL BAY	1		1	2
CALISTA	2	1	6	9
CHUGACH		1	2	3
COOK INLET	11	7	15	33
DOYON	1	2	8	11
NANA			1	1
SEALASKA			3	3
TOTAL	15	13	38	66

Tables 3.2A, 3.2B, and 3.2C show deaths by census area or Native regional corporation where the injury or death occurred. If the death certificate shows a place of injury, then that is used. If the death certificate does not show a place of injury, the location of death is used. For accidents, suicides or homicides, it is more relevant to know the location of the injury rather than where the decedent died if he or she was transferred to a hospital in another area. Table 3.2C shows the manner of death (natural causes, accidents, suicides, homicides, or unknown).

TABLE 3.2A CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY CENSUS AREA WHERE INJURY OR DEATH OCCURRED, ALASKA, 1998

CENSUS AREA OF OCCURRENCE	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
ANCHORAGE BOROUGH	6	5	6	17
BETHEL	1		3	4
DILLINGHAM	1		1	2
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH	1	2	3	6
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH	2		5	7
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH	2		4	6
NOME		1	1	2
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH			1	1
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH			1	1
SITKA BOROUGH			1	1
VALDEZ-CORDOVA		1	1	2
WADE HAMPTON	1	1	3	5
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG			1	1
YUKON-KOYUKUK			3	3
CENSUS AREA UNKNOWN		1		1
OUTSIDE ALASKA	1	2	4	7
TOTAL	15	13	38	66

TABLE 3.2B CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION WHERE INJURY OR DEATH OCCURRED, ALASKA, 1998

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION OF OCCURRENCE	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
ARCTIC SLOPE			1	1
BERING STRAITS		1	1	2
BRISTOL BAY	1		1	2
CALISTA	2	1	6	9
CHUGACH		1	3	4
COOK INLET	10	5	13	28
DOYON	1	2	6	9
NANA			1	1
SEALASKA			2	2
OUTSIDE ALASKA	1	2	4	7
UNKNOWN		1		1
TOTAL	15	13	38	66

Table 3.2C shows manner of death by census area. Accidents, suicides, homicides and "other" are external causes (sometimes called "violent deaths"). The "other" category includes violent deaths for which the manner is unknown; they could be homicides, suicides, or accidents. Natural causes are internal causes (from within the body), such as cancer, heart disease, etc.

TABLE 3.2C CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY CENSUS AREA WHERE INJURY OR DEATH OCCURRED AND MANNER OF DEATH, ALASKA, 1998

CENSUS AREA OF OCCURRENCE	NATURAL CAUSE	ACCIDENT	SUICIDE	HOMICIDE	OTHER/ UNKNOWN	TOTAL
ANCHORAGE BOROUGH	7	8		1	1	17
BETHEL	2	2				4
DILLINGHAM		1		1		2
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH	3	2	1			6
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH	4	2		1		7
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH	1	5				6
NOME		1	1			2
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH				1		1
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH				1		1
SITKA BOROUGH		1				1
VALDEZ-CORDOVA		2				2
WADE HAMPTON		1	3	1		5
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG		1				1
YUKON-KOYUKUK			1	2		3
CENSUS AREA UNKNOWN			1			1
OUTSIDE ALASKA	3	3		1		7
TOTAL	20	31	9	5	1	66

Table 3.3 shows age of death, and the race and sex of decedent. Deaths to boys outnumbered deaths to girls with the difference being the greatest in the 10-17 age group where deaths to boys outnumbered deaths to girls by more than 2:1. While whites outnumber Natives in the 1-17 year age group by more than three to one, deaths to Natives almost equal deaths to whites in this same age group.

TABLE 3.3 CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX, ALASKA, 1998

AGE	WHITE			NATIVE			OTHER			TOTAL		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1-4	4	3	7	4	2	6		2	2	8	7	15
5-9	5	4	9	2	2	4				7	6	13
10-17	14	4	18	11	6	17	2	1	3	27	11	38
TOTAL	23	11	34	17	10	27	2	3	5	42	24	66

Tables 3.4A shows manner of death by age. For groupings of ICD-9 codes used in Tables 3.4A and 3.4B, please see Table C.2 in Appendix C.

In children from 1-17, accidents account for the largest number of deaths. In fact, in the 5-9 age group half of all deaths were due to accidents. In the 10-17 age group, suicides are the second leading cause of death after accidents.

TABLE 3.4A CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY MANNER OF DEATH AND AGE, ALASKA, 1998

MANNER OF DEATH	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
NATURAL CAUSE	7	5	8	20
ACCIDENT	5	7	19	31
SUICIDE			9	9
HOMICIDE	2	1	2	5
OTHER	1			1
TOTAL	15	13	38	66

Table 3.4B shows cause of death by age group. In this table causes of death combine different manners of death and are grouped by external factors such as drowning, firearms, motor vehicles, etc. Motor vehicles accounted for the largest number of deaths in the 1-4 age group (four deaths); and firearms accounted for the largest number of deaths in the 10-17 age group (eight deaths). There were six deaths in this age group attributable to motor vehicles.

TABLE 3.4B CHILDHOOD DEATHS BY SELECTED CAUSE AND AGE, ALASKA, 1998

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGE			TOTAL
	1-4	5-9	10-17	
CANCER		1	3	4
NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS	3	1	2	6
HEART DISEASE		1	1	2
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	1		1	2
OTHER NATURAL CAUSES	3	2	1	6
MOTOR VEHICLE	4	2	6	12
DROWNING		1	5	6
WATER TRANSPORT		1	1	2
FALLS			1	1
FIRE/BURNS	1	1	3	5
EXPOSURE		1	1	2
SUFFOCATION			1	1
STRANGULATION	1		4	5
FIREARMS		2	8	10
CUTTING/PIERCING	1			1
CHILD BATTERING	1			1
TOTAL	15	13	38	66