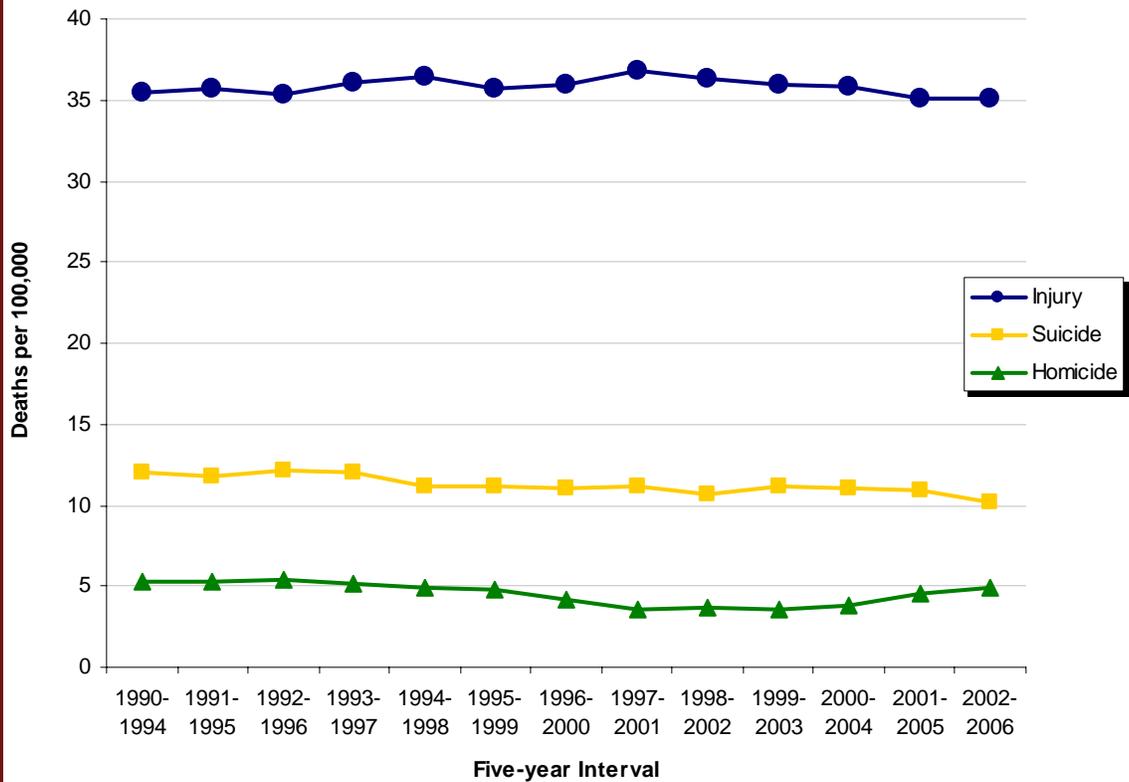


Unintentional Injury, Suicide, and Homicide Mortality in Delaware

From 1990-1994 to 2002-2006, mortality rates for suicide and homicide declined by 14.5 and 5 percent respectively. Mortality rates for unintentional injury remained stable. Recent trends for suicide and unintentional injury showed generally stable rates, while homicide rates rose 35 percent.

In 2002-2006, the mortality rate for unintentional injuries was three times that of suicide, and seven times that of homicide.

Figure 1. Five-year Age-Adjusted Unintentional Injury, Suicide, and Homicide Mortality Rates Delaware, 1986-2006

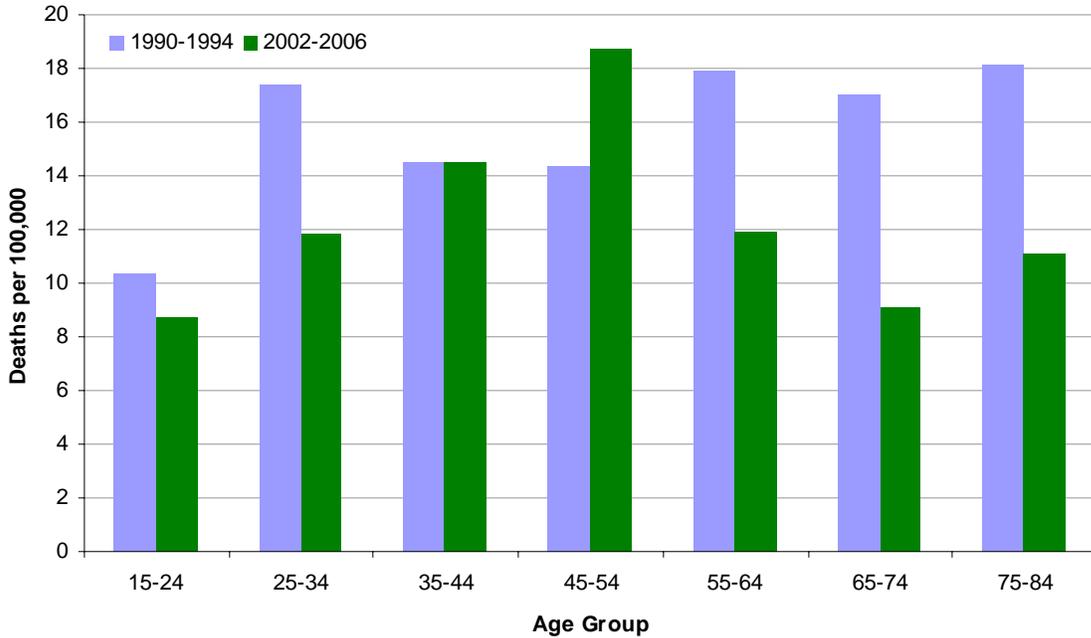


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

In 2002-2006 deaths due to unintentional injury, suicide, and homicide accounted for 6 percent of all deaths in Delaware (2,111 out of 35,617). Unintentional injuries accounted for the vast majority of these deaths.

From 1990-1994 to 2002-2006, suicide mortality rates decreased or remained stable for every age group except the 45-54 age group, whose rate increase was driven by an increase in the number of suicides by white males.

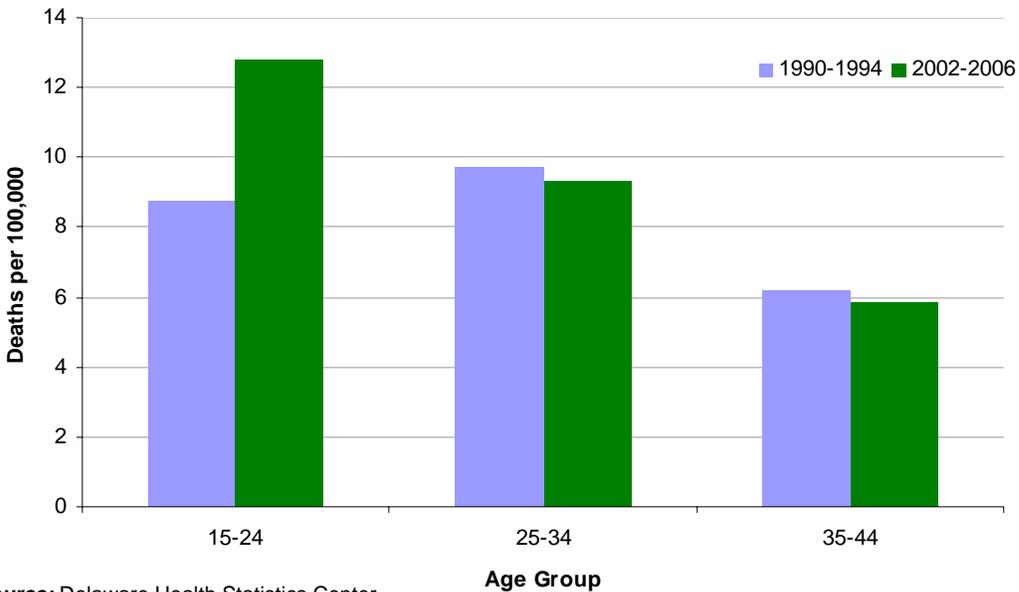
Figure 2. Five-year Suicide Mortality Rates by Age Group — Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

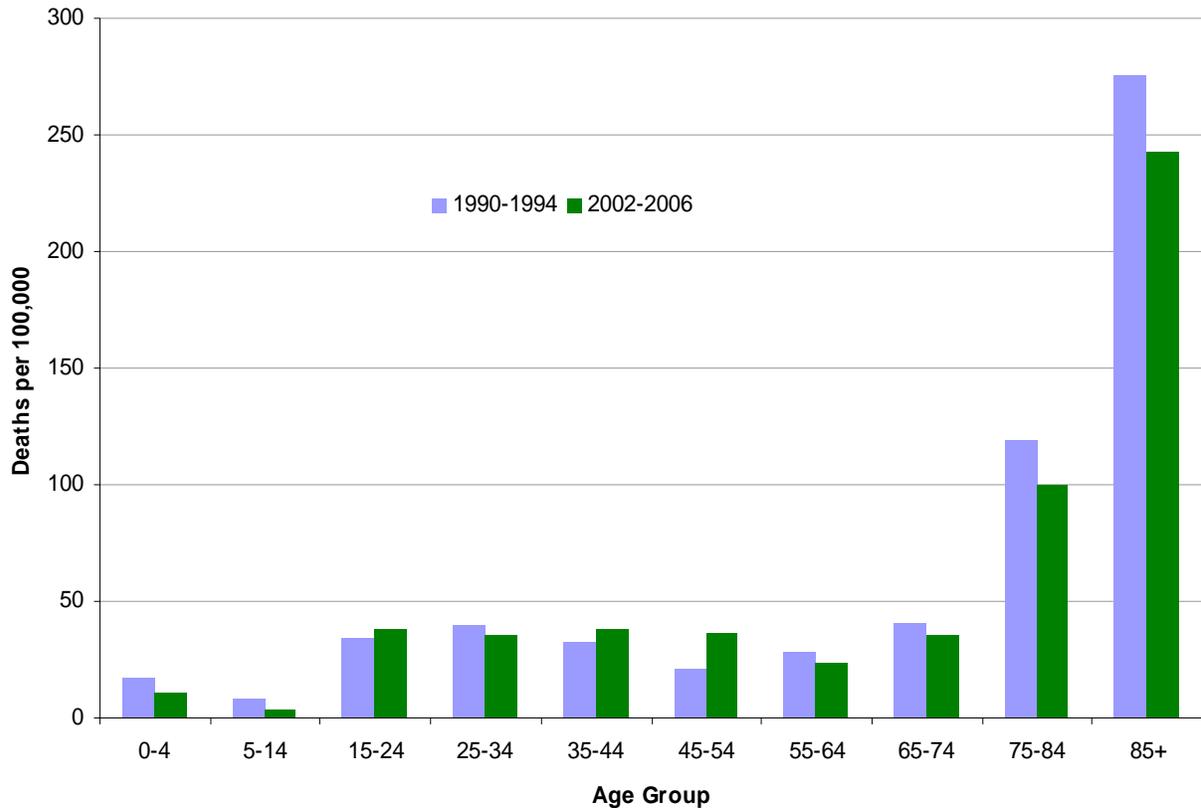
Though homicide mortality rates decreased slightly for both the 25-34 and the 35-44 age groups, homicide rates for those 15-24 increased by 46 percent due to an increase in the number of black male homicide deaths.

Figure 3. Five-year Homicide Mortality Rates by Age Group — Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

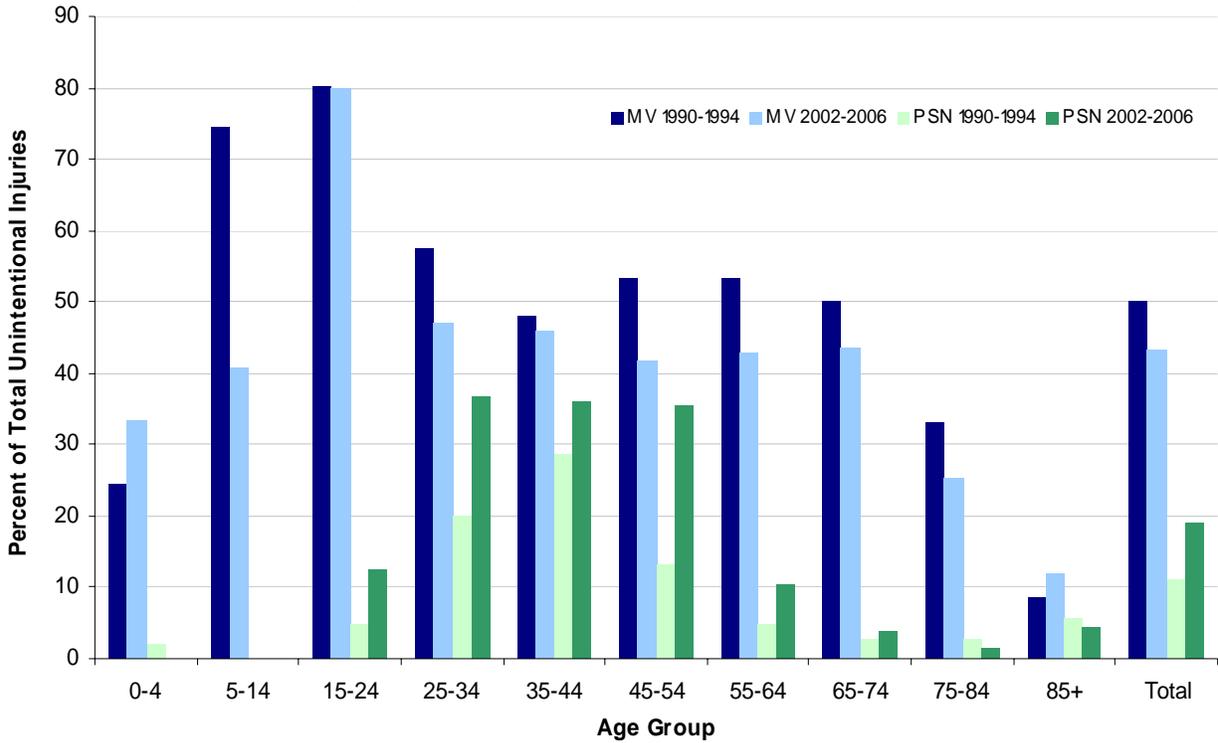
Figure 4. Five-year Unintentional Injury Mortality Rates by Age Group — Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Between 1990-1994 and 2002-2006, unintentional injury mortality rates declined for all age groups except those ages 15-24, 35-44 and 45-54. Increases in unintentional injury rates for those three age groups were driven in large part by higher poisoning mortality rates (rates increased from 44 to 384 percent for the three age groups) and motor vehicle accident mortality rates (rates increased from 10 to 40 percent for the three age groups).

Figure 5. Proportion of Unintentional Injury Deaths Represented by Unintentional Poisonings and Motor Vehicle Accidents, by Age Group — Delaware, 1990-1994 and 2002-2006



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

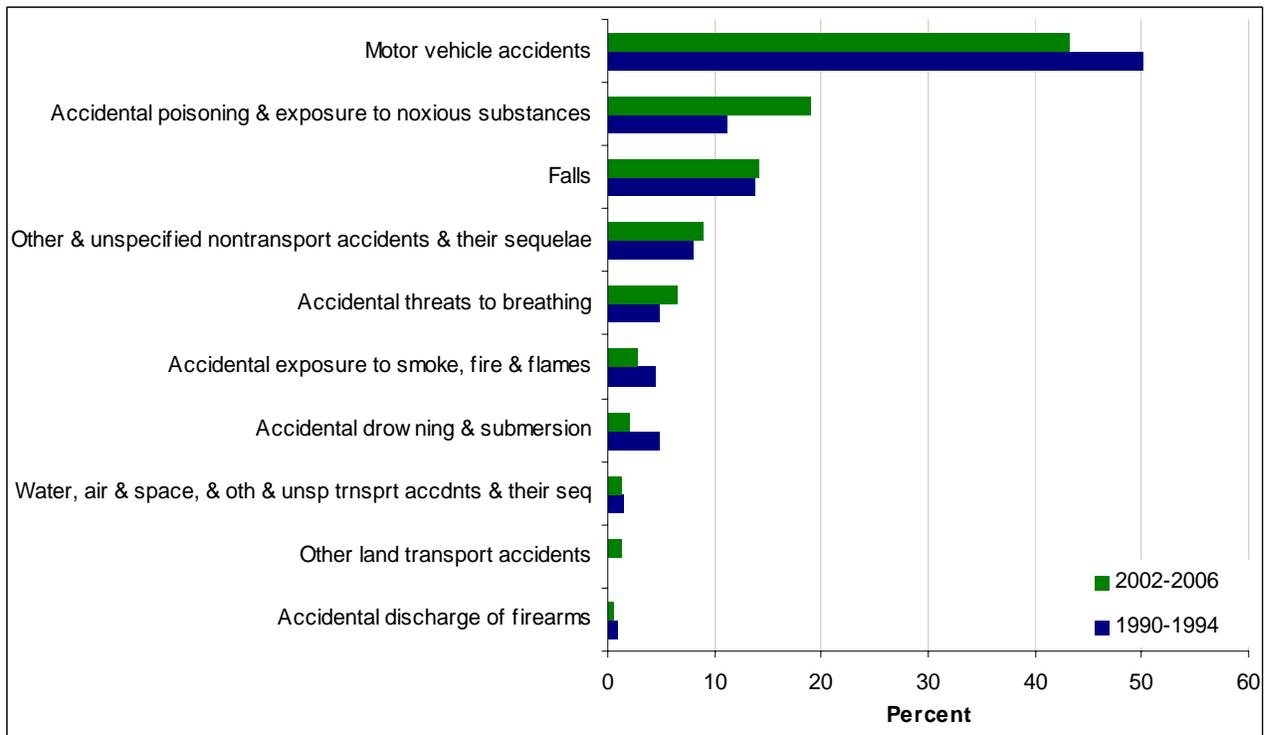
Though poisonings were not a significant contributor to unintentional injury deaths of those under 15, for nearly all other age groups the proportion of unintentional injury deaths due to poisonings increased between 1990-1994 and 2002-2006. The largest increases occurred in those ages 15-24, 45-54, and 55-64, where the proportions more than doubled.

Despite the increase in the number of poisoning deaths in the 15-24 age group, in 2002-2006 motor vehicle accidents continued to account for 80 percent of all unintentional injury deaths.

Motor vehicle accidents, poisonings, and falls are the three leading causes of unintentional injury deaths. Together, these three causes accounted for over three-fourths of all unintentional injuries in 2002-2006.

From 1990-1994 to 2002-2006, unintentional injury mortality due to motor vehicle accidents, fire and smoke inhalation, drowning, and firearms decreased, while that due to poisonings, falls, threats to breathing, and other land transport accidents increased. Accidental poisonings increased the most, moving from the third to second most common cause of death due to unintentional injury.

Figure 6. Distribution of Unintentional Injuries by Detailed Type of Injury



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please contact the Delaware Health Statistics Center at (302) 744-4541.

Reported by Barbara Gladders