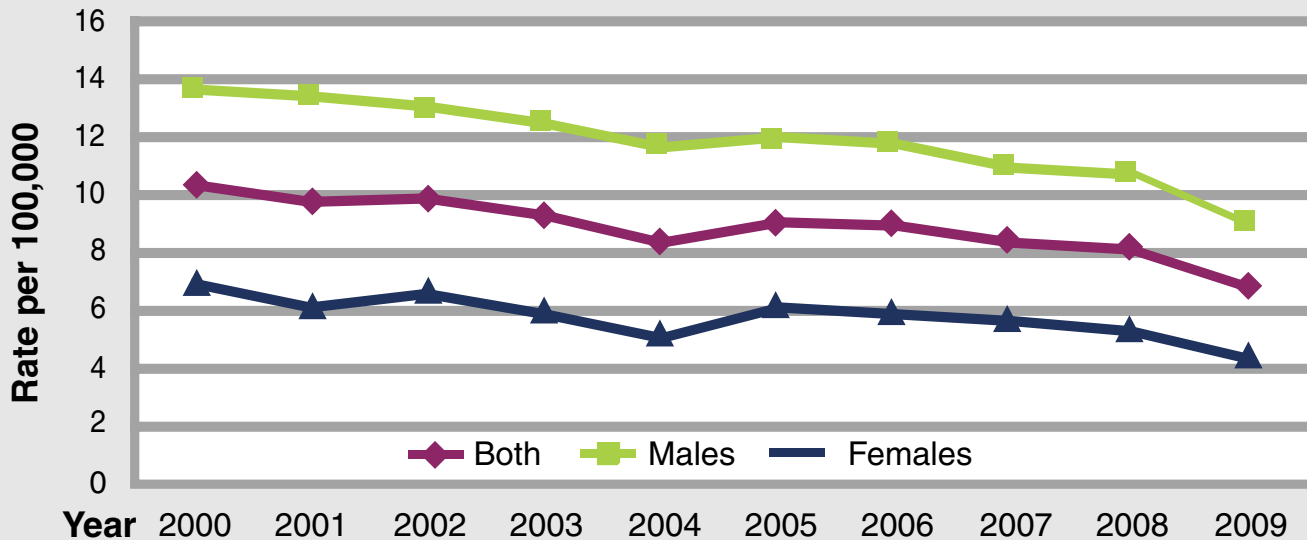




3.3.8 Unintentional Injury

Fig. 3.3.8 Unintentional injury death rates, children 0 to 19 years, by gender, Canada, 2000 to 2009



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Both	10.4	9.8	9.9	9.3	8.4	9.1	9.0	8.4	8.1	6.8
Males	13.7	13.4	13.1	12.5	11.7	12.0	11.8	10.9	10.7	9.0
Females	6.9	6.1	6.6	5.9	5.0	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.3	4.4

Adapted from the Statistics Canada CANSIM database, <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca>, table no. 102-0540. Accessed on July 10, 2012.

Unintentional injury deaths for males and females 0 to 19 years of age declined between 2000 and 2009. For males there was a 34% decline and for females there was 36% decline.

Implications

Unintentional injuries are largely preventable. However, Canada ranks 18th out of 23 OECD countries in terms of injury mortality rates.¹ Common fatal injuries for children and youth include motor vehicle accidents, drowning, suffocation, strangulation, choking, pedestrian injuries, poisoning and falls.

Deaths as a result of unintentional injuries are the tip of the iceberg. Unintentional injuries are a major public health problem, and the burden falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our society. Approximately 500 children and youth 0 to 19 years die as a result of unintentional injuries, and a further 21,000 are hospitalized every year. Many of those who survive are left with disabilities, both physical and emotional. For a child, this can mean a lifetime of living with the consequences of an injury. The stress on the child, their family and the health care system cannot be underestimated.

The economic burden of unintentional injuries to children is substantial, costing Canadians \$4 billion per year.²

¹ Safe Kids Canada (2011). The financial costs and prevention strategies of unintentional injuries. Accessed on May 28, 2012 at <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Professionals/Documents/33201-PublicSectorDigestInjuryPrevention.pdf>.

² Safe Kids Canada. About Injuries. <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Professionals/Safety-Information/About-Injuries/Index.aspx>. Accessed on July 6, 2012.

