

Los Angeles County Injury Hospitalization Fact Sheet 2000-2006



Total Number of Hospitalizations in Los Angeles County

- 468,282 injury-related hospitalizations from 2000-2006.
- An average of 66,897 per year.

Injury Mechanism and Intent

- Over half of all injury-related hospitalizations were from falls (41%) and motor vehicle traffic collisions (12%).
- Unintentional injuries (accidents) accounted for 84% of hospitalizations.
- Nearly three quarters (73.4%) of suicide attempts were caused by poisonings.

Age

- 81 year olds had the highest number of hospitalizations compared to any other age
- Average age of injury-related hospitalization patient was 50.6 years.
- Los Angeles County residents 65 and older have a rate of 2372.2 per 100,000 for unintentional injury-related hospitalizations.
- Unintentional injury-related hospitalizations were three times higher among 65+ residents compared to any other age group.
- Assault and suicide attempt rates were highest among 15-24 year olds.
- Average age of hospitalized assault victim was 31.7 years.
- Average age of hospitalized suicide attempt victim was 35.7 years.
- Average age of hospitalized legal intervention victim was 39.1 years.
- Average age of hospitalized undetermined intent victim was 42.0 years.
- Average age of hospitalized undetermined intent victim was 53.5 years.

Gender

- Males accounted for 53% of all injury-related hospitalizations.
- 86% of assault related injury hospitalizations were among males.
- 59% of suicide hospitalizations were among females.
- 57% of all poisoning hospitalizations were among females.

Race/Ethnicity

- 46% of injury-related hospitalizations were among Whites.
- 34% of injury-related hospitalizations were among Latinos.
- 12% of injury-related hospitalizations were among Blacks.
- 8% of injury-related hospitalizations were among Asians/Others.
- Whites and Blacks were both overrepresented among injury-related hospitalizations compared to the overall county population.
- Among race/ethnicity, Latinos were the youngest with an average hospitalization age of 38.6 years and Whites were the oldest at 60.6 years.

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- Injury hospitalizations for Whites were highest among fall-related injuries.
- Blacks and Latinos were overrepresented among firearm-related hospitalizations.

Service Planning Area (SPA)

- Overall injury hospitalization rates were highest in the South SPA (SPA 6) and lowest in the San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3).
- The San Fernando Valley (SPA 2) had the highest number of overall injury hospitalizations while the Antelope Valley (SPA 1) had the fewest.
- The Antelope Valley (SPA 1) had the highest motor vehicle traffic-related injury hospitalizations.
- The West SPA (SPA 5) accounted for the highest (51%) overall percentage of fall-related hospitalizations in the County.
- The South SPA (SPA 6) accounted for 38% of all firearm hospitalizations.

Medical Charges

- Injury-related hospitalization medical charges have dramatically increased almost doubling from \$25,540 in 2000 to \$47,430 in 2006.
- Suffocation injuries from choking or strangling were the most expensive injuries to treat, averaging more than \$85,000 per hospitalization.
- Fire/burn injuries were the second most costly averaging over \$60,000 per hospitalization.
- Poisoning, environmental causes and overexertion treatment charges averaged the lowest at under \$25,000 per hospitalization.
- Intentional injuries from assaults were higher in medical charges averaging \$47,416 per hospitalization, while suicide attempts averaged the least per visit at roughly \$21,103.

Falls-Related Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 27,000 hospitalizations resulting from falls was reported during each of these years.
- From 2000-2005 there were 75 fall related hospitalizations for every fall related fatality in LAC.
 - In 2006 the average charge of a fall-related hospitalization was \$43,678.

Age

- Average age of person hospitalized for a fall-related injury was 64 years.
- Fall-related hospitalizations peaked among people in their late 70's or early 80's.
- Hospitalizations for falls from bed were highest among 0-5 and 70+ years.
- Among people 35+, falls were the number one cause of injury related hospitalizations.

Gender

- More women were hospitalized for unintentional (59%) falls while men were from undetermined (74%), assault (65%), or intentional (41%) intents.

Race/Ethnicity

- Hospitalizations for fall-related injuries by race/ethnic group were Whites (56%), Latinos (27%), Blacks (8%), and Asian/Other (9%).
- Average age of hospitalized fall victims was 72 years for Whites, 67 years for Asians/Others, 58 years for Blacks and 50 years for Latinos.

Geography

- The lowest fall-related hospitalization rate was found in SPA 3, San Gabriel Valley and SPA 8, South Bay.
- The highest fall-related hospitalization rate was reported in SPA 4, Metro.

Most hospitalizations were the result of unintentional falls due to tripping, stumbling, or other activities causing a loss of balance.

Types of Falls, 2000-2006:

Stairs or Steps:	9,429
Ladder/Scaffolding:	4,718
Building/Structure:	2,630
Hole/Opening:	348
Other/Between Levels:	25,347
Slipping, Tripping, Stumbling:	70,870
Collision, Pushing, Shoving:	1,912
Other/Unspecified:	78,085
Suicide Attempt:	383
Assault:	52
Undetermined:	254

Intentional falls, such as suicide attempts, accounted for less than 0.5% of all fall-related hospitalizations, but nearly 10% of fall-related fatalities.

L I N K S	✓ The Patience Tai Chi Association, Tai Chi Instructors Referral Service 718-332-3477 http://www.patienceaichi.com/public/departement47.cfm
	✓ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Preventing Falls Among Older Adults 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) 888-232-6348 (TTY) http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/preventadultfalls.htm
	✓ The American Geriatrics Society, The AGS Foundation for Health in Aging, Falls Prevention 212-755-6810 http://www.healthinaging.org/public_education/falls_index.php



Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Motor vehicle traffic (MVT) collisions were the 2nd leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 8,300 hospitalizations from MVT collisions were reported from 2000-2006.
- From 2000-2005 there were 9.6 MVT-related injury hospitalizations for every MVT-related fatality in Los Angeles County.
 - In 2006, the average charge of a MVT-related hospitalization was \$67,309.

Age

- MVT-related hospitalizations peaked among 19 year olds and people 80-84 years old.
- Injury hospitalizations for MVT collisions were highest among 18-24 year olds and lowest among the 80+ age group.
- Children 1-14 years old had higher rates of pedestrian injury hospitalizations than any other type of MVT collision.

Gender

- Males accounted for 61% of all MVT-related hospitalizations.
- Occupant injuries were fairly evenly divided between males (53%) and females (47%); nearly all bicyclist (88%) and motorcycle (91%) collisions involved males.

Race/Ethnicity

- Hospitalizations for MVT-related injuries by race/ethnic group were Latinos (43%), Whites (34%), Blacks (13%), and Asian/Other (10%).

Geography

- The highest MVT collision hospitalizations rate was reported in SPA 1, Antelope Valley.
- The lowest MVT collision hospitalization rates were in SPA 3, San Gabriel Valley, and SPA 5, West.

From 2000-2006 most hospitalizations were the result of unintentional MVT collisions. Only 144 (0.2%) were classified as suicide attempts, assaults, or of undetermined intent.

Role of Injured Person MVT Collisions Los Angeles County 2000-2006:

Occupant:	35,402	61%
Pedestrian:	11,262	19%
Bicyclist:	2,494	4%
Motorcyclist:	6,080	10%
Other:	522	1%
Unspecified:	2,602	4%
Total:	58,362	100%*

*Percents do not add to 100% due to rounding. Only unintentional MVT collisions are included.

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S | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety Belt Safe USA http://www.carseat.org/ ✓ California Department of Public Health, EPIC, http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/programs/EPIC/Pages/default.aspx ✓ Guide to Community Preventive Services, Motor Vehicle Occupant Injuries http://www.thecommunityguide.org/mvoi/ ✓ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 888-327-4236 800-424-9153 (TTY) http://www.nhtsa.gov/ |
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Poisoning-Related Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Poisonings were the 3rd leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 6,374 hospitalizations from poisonings were reported from 2000-2006.
- From 2000-2005 there were 9 hospitalizations for every poisoning-related fatality in Los Angeles County.
- In 2006 the average charge of a poisoning injury-related hospitalization was \$26,896.

Age

- Poisoning-related hospitalization rates were lowest among children 14 years and younger.
- The average age of a person hospitalized for poisoning was 41.7 years.
- Adults 85-89 years old had the highest rate of poisoning injury hospitalizations than any other age group.

Gender

- Women accounted for 57% of all poisoning hospitalizations. Most were of unintentional (52%) and intentional (65%), compared to men who were more often of undetermined (54%) intent.

Race/Ethnicity

- Hospitalizations for poisoning-related injuries by race/ethnic group were Whites (48%), Latinos (30%), Blacks (14%), and Asian/Other (8%).
- Average age of hospitalized poisoning victims was, 34.6 years for Latinos, 41.8 years for Asians/Others, 43.0 years for Blacks and 45.8 years for Whites.

Geography

- The highest poisoning-related hospitalizations rate was in SPA 1, Antelope Valley.
- The lowest poisoning hospitalization rates were in SPA 7, East and SPA 3, San Gabriel Valley.

Poisoning-Related Hospitalizations by Substance Category Los Angeles County 2000-2006:

Analgesics:	11,748
Barbiturates:	575
Other Sedatives & Hypnotics:	1,389
Tranquilizers & Other Psychotropic Agents:	12,983
CNS & ANS agents, antibiotics, anti-infectives & other drugs:	14,085
Agricultural chemicals:	235
Corrosives & Caustics:	505
Alcohol, cleaning & petroleum, solvents & poisonous foods/plants, Other/Unspecified:	2,390
Poisonous gas & vapors:	1,022

From 2000-2006 nearly half (48%) of all poisoning hospitalizations were the result of a suicide attempt.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-TALK (8255) – 24 Hour Crisis Hotline
800-799-4TTY (4889) – 24 Hour TTY Crisis Hotline
888-628-9454 – 24 Hour Crisis Hotline in Spanish
<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

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- ✓ California Poison Control System 800-222-1222 – 24 Hour Poisoning Hotline www.calpoison.org
- ✓ Consumer Healthcare Products Association – 202-429-9260 <http://www.chpa-info.org/ChpaPortal>
- ✓ No Drugs Down the Drain 888-CleanLA (253-2652) <http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org/>



Struck By or Against Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Struck injuries were the 5th leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 3,200 hospitalizations from struck injuries was reported during each of these years.
 - There were 187 struck injury hospitalizations for each fatal struck injury from 2000-2005.
- The average charge for a struck hospitalization nearly doubled from 2000 (\$18,336) to 2006 (\$34,402).

Age

- The average age of a person hospitalized with a struck injury was 36.3 years.
- The rate of struck injury hospitalizations was highest among 85+ year olds.
- The rate of unintentional injuries peaked among 65+ year olds, but the rate of assault injuries peaked among 20-24 year olds.
- Those with sports-related injuries averaged 23.9 years old while those with injuries from striking against furniture averaged 53.4 years old.

Gender

- Males accounted for 79% of all struck injury hospitalizations, 89% of sports-related injuries, and 85% of assault injuries.

Race/Ethnicity

- The rate of struck injury hospitalizations among Blacks was more than twice as high as that of any other racial/ethnic group.
- Blacks accounted for 12% of unintentional injuries and 27% of assaults, while Whites accounted for 37% of unintentional injuries and 24% of assaults.

Geography

- The South SPA (SPA 6) had the highest struck injury hospitalization rate.
- The San Gabriel SPA (SPA 3) had the lowest struck injury hospitalization rate.

Struck injury hospitalizations were fairly evenly divided between unintentional injuries (53%) and assaults/legal intervention (47%).

Types of Struck Injuries 2000-2006:

Falling Object:	2,195
Sports:	3,307
Crowd or Collective	
Fear/Panic:	40
Furniture:	616
Other Stationary Objects:	1,083
Other Objects/Persons:	4,665
In Running Water:	22
Assault-Unarmed	
Fight/Brawl:	6,832
Assault-Blunt or	
Thrown Object:	3,355
Legal Intervention:	298

There were no struck injury hospitalizations caused by suicide attempts or of undetermined intent.

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- ✓ American Academy of Pediatrics, Sports Injury Prevention Tips
<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/aprsportsinjurytips.cfm>
- ✓ National Youth Sports Safety Foundation, 617-367-6677
<http://www.nyssf.org/wframeset.html>
- ✓ American College of Sports Medicine, Information for General Public, 317-637-9200
http://www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=General_Public



Cutting and Piercing Injury Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Cut/pierce injuries were the 7th leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 3,068 hospitalizations from struck injuries was reported during each of these years.
 - There were 30 cut/pierce injury hospitalizations for each cut/pierce fatality from 2000-2005.
- The average charge for a cut/pierce hospitalization increased from 2000 (\$18,646) to 2006 (\$30,987).

Age

- The average age of a person hospitalized with a cut/pierce injury was 34.5 years.
- People with unintentional injuries were the oldest (37.6 years) and those with undetermined intent injuries were the youngest (29.9 years)
- The greatest *number* of cut/pierce hospitalizations and the highest hospitalization *rate* were both found among people in their late teens and early twenties.

Gender

- Males accounted for 74% of all cut/pierce hospitalizations, including 90% of assaults, 76% of unintentional, 52% of undetermined intent and just 49% of suicide attempt injuries.

Race/Ethnicity

- The rate of cut/pierce hospitalizations among Asians/Others was less than half that of any other racial/ethnic group.
- Whites accounted for 14% of assaults and 48% of suicide attempts, while Latinos accounted for 34% of suicide attempts and 59% of assaults.

Geography

- The highest cut/pierce hospitalization rate was in SPA 6, the South.
- The lowest hospitalization rate was in SPA 5, the West.

All intentional and 60% of unintentional injuries were caused by other or unspecified objects.

Cut/Pierce Injury Types 2000-2006:

Lawn Mower:	73
Other Power Tools:	1,667
Household Appliance Or Implement:	80
Knives, Swords, Daggers:	830
Other Hand Tools and Implements:	801
Hypodermic Needle:	1,461
Other Objects:	4,653
Unspecified Objects:	445
Suicide Attempt:	4,953
Assault/Legal Inter.	6,389
Undetermined:	122

Almost half (47%) of the injuries were unintentional, while assaults accounted for 30% and suicide attempts for 23%.

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- ✓ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Sharps Injury Prevention Workbook, 800-CDC-INFO, 888-232-6348 (TTY) <http://www.cdc.gov/sharpssafety/>
- ✓ LA County Dept of Public Health, Disease Prevention Demonstration Project, Needle Disposal, 213-240-8036 <http://www.lapublichealth.org/php/DPDP/resources.htm>
- ✓ Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal, 800-643-1643 www.safeneedledisposal.org

Firearm Injury Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Firearm injuries were the 9th leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in Los Angeles County from 2000-2006

- An average of 2,088 hospitalizations from firearm injuries was reported during each of these years.
 - There were 1.8 firearm injury hospitalizations for each fatal firearm injury from 2000-2005
- The average charge for a firearm hospitalization increased from 2000 (\$43,116) to 2006 (\$76,590).

Age

- The average age of a person hospitalized with a firearm injury was 26.0 years.
- People injured in suicide attempts were the oldest (39.8 years) and those with assault injuries were the youngest (25.5 years)
- More than half of all patients hospitalized with a firearm injury were 15-24 years old.
- Hospitalization rates peaked among 18-19 year olds.

Gender

- Males accounted for 92% of all firearm hospitalizations, including 92% of assaults, 91% of undetermined intent, 90% of unintentional & legal intervention, and 83% of suicide attempt injuries.

Race/Ethnicity

- The hospitalization rate for Blacks was 3.7 times the rate for Latinos and more than 10 times the rate for Whites or Asian/Others.

Geography

- The South (SPA 6) had highest firearm injury hospitalization rate.
- The West (SPA 5) had the lowest firearm injury hospitalization rate.
- The South (SPA 6) accounted for 38% of all firearm injury hospitalizations, but only 10% of the county's population.

Injuries from BB guns, air guns, and paintball guns are classified as "other specified injuries" rather than firearm injuries.

Firearm Injury Types 2000-2006:

Handgun:	4,427
Shotgun:	1,101
Rifle:	33
Military Weapon:	29
Other/Unspecified:	9,029

Firearm Injury Intent 2000-2006:

Unintentional:	1,380
Assault:	12,542
Suicide Attempt:	167
Legal Intervention:	156
Undetermined:	374

Among firearm injuries with known weapon type, 79% were caused by handguns and 20% by shotguns.

LINKS

- ✓ Dept of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Firearms – Program Information, 202-648-7090
<http://www.atf.treas.gov/firearms/index.htm>
- ✓ Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, 202-289-7319
www.bradiycampaign.org
- ✓ Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, 202-408-0061
www.csgv.org



Natural and Environmental Hospitalizations Fact Sheet 2008



Natural injuries were the 10th leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in LA County from 2000-2006

- An average of 1,369 hospitalizations from natural injuries was reported during each of these years.
 - There were 93 natural injury hospitalizations for each fatal natural injury from 2000-2005.
- The average charge for a natural hospitalization increased from 2000 (\$15,977) to 2006 (\$28,988).

Age

- The average age of a person hospitalized with a natural injury was 42.7 years.
- Generally, hospitalization rates increased with age, peaking among 90+ year olds.
- Patients hospitalized for excessive heat or cold were, on average, more than 60 years old.
- Other animal injuries accounted for less than half the hospitalizations among 65+ years old, but more than 75% of hospitalizations among 1-9 year olds.

Gender

- Males accounted for 54% of all natural hospitalizations, including 66% for excessive heat, 65% from venomous plants/animals, and 78% of suicide attempt & undetermined intent injuries.

Race/Ethnicity

- Hospitalization rates were highest among Whites and Blacks, lower for Hispanics, and much lower for Asians/Others.

Geography

- The San Fernando (SPA 2) had the highest natural injury hospitalization rate.
- The West (SPA 5) had the lowest hospitalization natural injury rate.

Spiders are responsible for 57% of venomous plant/animal injuries.

Natural Injury Types 2000-2006:

Excessive Heat:	611
Excessive Cold:	74
Air Pressure:	90
Travel/Motion:	11
Hunger/Thirst/Exposure/Neglect:	346
Venomous Animals/Plants:	1,821
Other Animal Injury:	5,898
Lightning/Storms/Floods:	6
Earth Movements:	10
Other/Unspecified:	10
Suicide Attempt & Undetermined Intent:	36

Non venomous arthropod bites (43%) and dog bites (29%) accounted for the majority of the other animal injuries.

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- ✓ Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, 562-728-4882
<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>
- ✓ American Veterinary Medical Association, Dog Bite Prevention
http://www.avma.org/public_health/#dogbite
- ✓ Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Entomology Section, 213-763-3363
<http://www.nhm.org/research/entomology/>