

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – LA COUNTY

Los Angeles County

1998 Population: 9,387,262

2007 Population: 10,332,322

Overview

Leading Causes of Injury Death and Age Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, LA County, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Number	Rate
1. Firearms	11,574	11.5
2. Motor Vehicle Traffic	8,589	8.9
3. Poisoning	7,186	7.4
4. Falls	3,616	4.3
5. Suffocation ¹	2,669	2.8

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 39,751 injury deaths among LA County residents. 85% of the deaths were attributed to one of the five leading causes of injury death. Just over half of all injury deaths were caused by the two leading causes: firearms and motor vehicle traffic. For comparisons between LA County and individual SPAs, see the SPA Comparison Table.

LA County Injury Mortality Facts in Brief

- Firearm mortality decreased by 25% during the ten-year period.
- Homicide rates have decreased annually since 2002.
- Males accounted for 75% of injury deaths, but for 90% of firearm deaths.
- Over half of suicides were White and one-third of suicides were Black.
- MVT and firearm mortality rates peaked among 20-24 year olds.

Figure 1. Trends

- Between 1998 and 2007, the LA County population increased by 10.1%.
- There were no consistent trends over time in injury mortality in LA County during the ten-year period. Mortality rates peaked during 2002 and 2003, when mortality rates were over 43 per 100,000.
- Fall-related mortality generally increased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (4.5 per 100,000) was an increase of 21% over the 1998 rate (3.7 per 100,000).
- Firearm mortality rates decreased 25% between 1998 (12.6 per 100,000) and 2007 (9.4 per 100,000). Despite this substantial decrease, firearms were the leading cause of injury death during each year of the report period.

¹ The suffocation category also includes hanging and strangulation deaths and deaths from the inhalation of food or other objects that block breathing.

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Table 1. Intent

- Between 1998 and 2007, 54% of injury deaths in LA County were unintentional, 18% were suicides, and 26% were homicides.
- Nearly all MVT deaths, 9 out of 10 fall deaths, and 8 out of 10 poisoning deaths were unintentional.
- Firearms were the leading cause of intentional injury mortality, accounting for 44% of suicides and 79% of homicides.
- Between 1998 and 2007, unintentional injury rates increased slightly during the report period; prior to 2002, rates were less than 23 per 100,000. Since 2002, mortality rates were over 23 per 100,000 except during 2005.
- Homicide rates peaked in 2002 (11.1 per 100,000) and have decreased each year since then.
- Suicide mortality generally decreased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (6.6 per 100,000) was 27% less than the 1998 rate of (9.0 per 100,000).

Table 2. Gender

- Males accounted for 75% of injury deaths in LA County, but for only 49% of the county's population.
- Firearms (N=10,416) were the leading cause of injury death among males, followed by MVT (N=5,981).
- MVT (N=2,608) was the leading cause of injury death among females, followed by poisoning (N=2,241).
- Males accounted for over four-fifths of homicides (86%), over three-quarters of suicides (78%), and more than two-thirds of unintentional injury deaths (70%).
- Male mortality rates were over three times as high as female mortality during each year.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity

- Between 1998 and 2007, the population of LA County was 46% Latino, 32% White, 13% Asian/Other, and 10% Black.

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- During the same period, LA County residents who died from injuries were 37% Latino, 37% White, 8% Asian/Other, and 17% Black.
- There was variation in the racial/ethnic distribution by intent.
 - Unintentional: 35% Latino, 43% White, 8% Asian/Other, 13% Black
 - Suicide: 23% Latino, 58% White, 11% Asian/Other, 8% Black
 - Homicide: 51% Latino, 11% White, 5% Asian/Other, 33% Black
- Racial/ethnic distribution also varied for different types of injuries.
 - Whites accounted for 55% of falls, but just 23% of firearm deaths.
 - Blacks accounted for 28% of firearm deaths, but just 8% of falls.
 - Latinos accounted for 44% of firearm deaths, but just 25% of falls.
 - Asian/Others accounted for 15% of suffocation deaths, but just 3% of poisonings.
- Males accounted for 69% of deaths among Whites, 78% among Blacks, 68% among Asian/Others, and 82% among Latinos.
- Mortality rates were highest among Blacks during each year of the report period. During each year, Black mortality rates were more than 50% higher than the mortality rates of any other racial/ethnic group.

Figure 3. Age

- During the ten-year period, the number of injury deaths in LA County peaked among 19 and 21 year olds.
- The leading cause of death varied by age group:
 - Among 0-4 year olds, other (non-leading) causes of injury was the most common cause of injury death.
 - Among 5-14 year olds, MVT was the leading cause of injury death.
 - Among 15-34 year olds, firearms were the leading cause of injury death.
 - Among 35-64 year olds, poisoning was the leading cause of injury death.
 - Among 65+ year olds, falls were the leading cause of injury death.
- Homicide was the leading intent of injury death among infants (<1 year old); among all other age groups, unintentional injuries were the most common.
- Mortality rates from unintentional injuries (49.4 per 100,000) and suicides (14.1 per 100,000) peaked among 65+ year olds. Mortality rates from homicide peaked among 20-24 year olds (32.5 per 100,000).
- Among 15-29 year olds, male mortality rates were over five times greater than female mortality rates. Among 20-24 year olds, male mortality was over six times that of females.

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- Among Whites and Asian/Others mortality peaked among 65+ year olds. Among Blacks and Latinos rates peaked among 20-24 year olds.
- The average age of victims of injury deaths was 42.3 years.
 - Victims of falls had the oldest average age at death (67.1 years).
 - Homicide victims (29.5 years) had the youngest average age at death.
 - Males (40.3 years) were on average younger than females (48.4 years) at death.

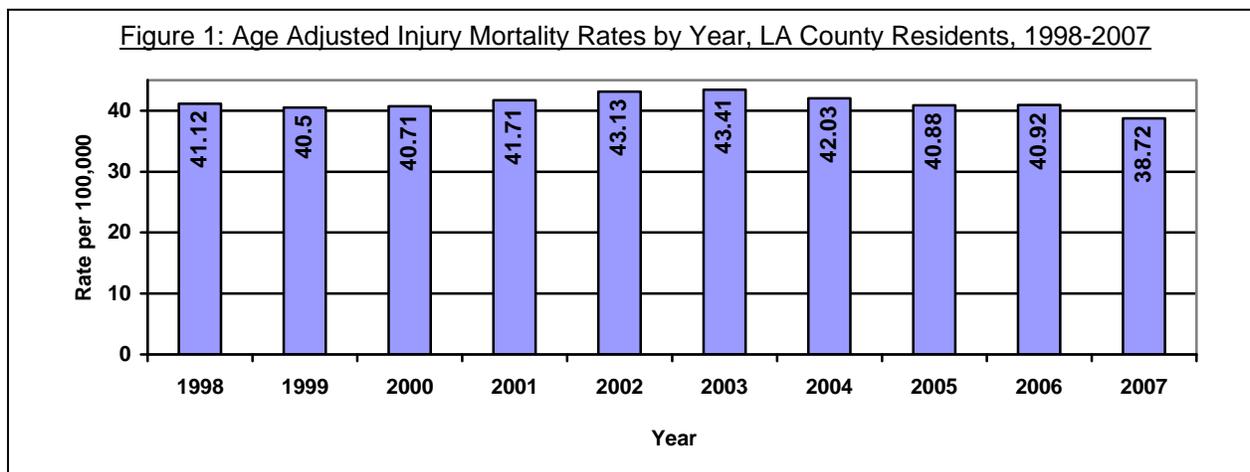


Table 1: Number and Percent of Injury Deaths Attributed to Each Intent, by Leading Cause, Los Angeles County Residents, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Intent								Total
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Other		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Falls	3215	89%	370	10%	7	0%	24	1%	3616
Firearms	141	1%	3135	27%	8105	70%	193	2%	11574
MVT	8531	99%	39	0%	17	0%	2	0%	8589
Poisoning	5757	80%	1183	16%	27	0%	219	3%	7186
Suffocation	469	18%	1922	72%	240	9%	38	1%	2669
Other Causes	3462	57%	525	9%	1839	30%	291	5%	6117
All Injury Deaths	21575	54%	7174	18%	10235	26%	767	2%	39751

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Table 2: Number of Deaths and Age Adjusted Mortality Rate by Gender and Leading Cause, and Gender Distribution for Each Cause, LA County Residents, 1998-2007

Mechanism	Males			Females		
	Num	Rate	%	Num	Rate	%
Falls	2267	5.9	62.7%	1349	2.9	37.3%
Firearms	10416	20.9	90.0%	1158	2.3	10.0%
MVT	5981	12.7	69.6%	2608	5.3	30.4%
Poisoning	4945	10.4	68.8%	2241	4.6	31.2%
Suffocation	1940	4.2	72.7%	729	1.5	27.3%
Other Causes	4436	9.6	72.5%	1681	3.4	27.5%
All Injury Deaths	29985	63.6	75.4%	9766	20.0	24.6%

Figure 2: Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Los Angeles County Population and Leading Causes of Injury Death, Los Angeles County Residents, 1998-2007

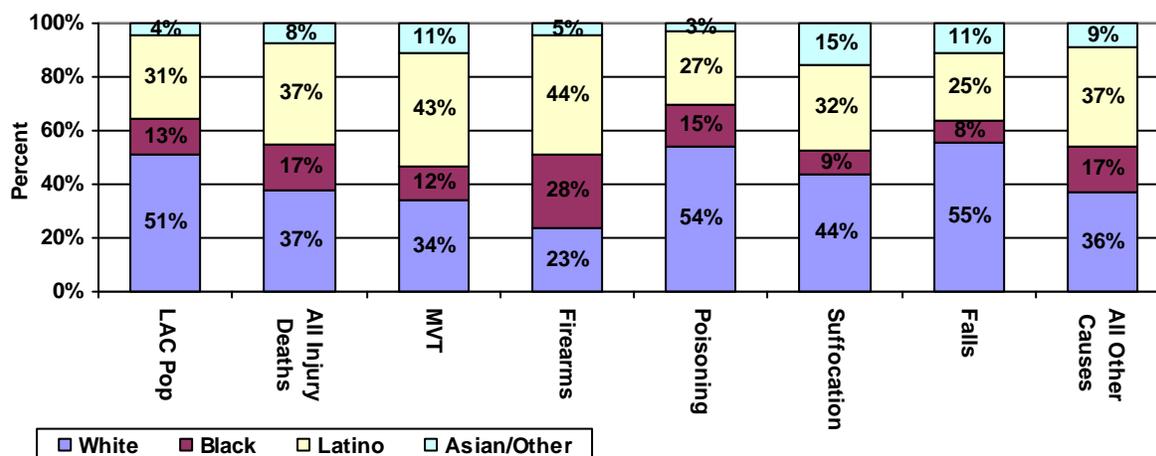
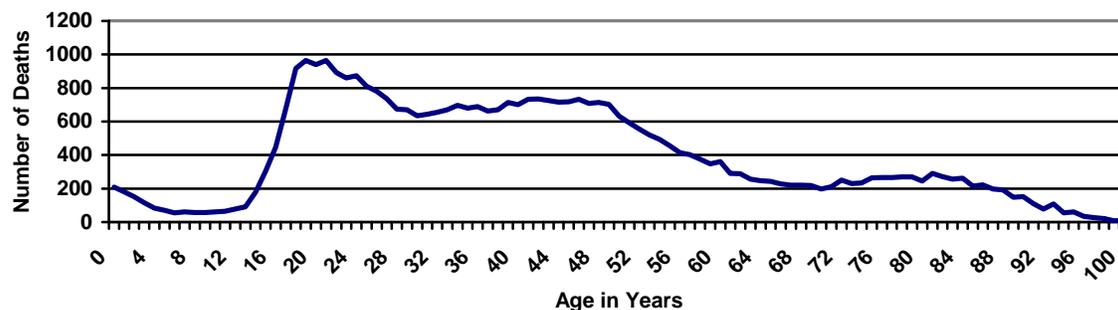


Figure 3: Age Distribution of Injury Deaths Among LA County Residents, 1998-2007



The small number of deaths among 100+ year olds are not shown.

Sources: Death Statistical Master File, California Dept of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics; PEPS population data, Los Angeles County Office of Urban Research

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