

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 1

SPA 1: Antelope Valley

1998 Population: 306,688
1998 % of LA County Total: 3.3%

2007 Population: 358,324
2007 % of LA County Total: 3.5%

Leading Causes of Injury Death and Age Adjusted Mortality Rates¹ per 100,000, SPA 1, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Number	Rate
1. Motor Vehicle Traffic	632	20.3
2. Firearms	377	12.4
3. Poisoning	309	9.6
4. Suffocation ²	102	3.3
5. Falls	84	3.6

Overview

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 1,762 injury deaths among SPA 1 residents. These deaths accounted for 4.4% of all injury deaths countywide. 85% of the deaths were attributed to one of the five leading causes of injury death. Motor vehicle traffic (MVT) collisions were a particularly serious problem in Antelope Valley; the SPA 1 death rate due to MVT (20.3 per 100,000) was more than twice that of LA County overall (8.9 per 100,000). For more comparisons between SPA 1 and LA County, see the SPA Comparison Table.

SPA 1 Injury Mortality Facts in Brief

- SPA 1's population has increased faster than the population of the entire county.
- SPA 1 has consistently had the highest MVT mortality rates of any SPA.
- 2007 is the first year in which MVT accounted for less than 30% of injury deaths.
- Over half of suicides and two thirds of homicides were caused by firearms.
- MVT is the leading cause of injury death for most age groups: 5-44, 55+ year olds.

Figure 1. Trends

- Between 1998 and 2007, the Antelope Valley SPA population increased by 16.8%, while the population of LA County overall increased by just 10.1%.
- Although the mortality rates for 1998 and 2007 are similar, the increase in population means there were more deaths in 2007 (N=182) than in 1998 (N=153).
- Poisoning mortality generally increased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (11.3 per 100,000) was 2.8 times higher than the 1998 rate (4.0 per 100,000).

¹ Age adjusted mortality rates are shown to facilitate comparisons between SPAs, which may have populations with different age distributions. The age adjusted mortality rates due to falls is higher than that of suffocation even though there were more suffocation deaths, because age adjusting accounts for the age of decedents, and the average age of people who die from falls (66.5 yrs) is much greater than the average age of people who die from suffocation (37.7 yrs).

² The suffocation category also includes hanging and strangulation deaths and deaths from the inhalation of food or other objects that block breathing.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 1

- MVT mortality rates decreased 36% between 1998 and 2000, and then increased 78% between 2000 and 2004, before decreasing 41% between 2004 and 2007. The 2007 mortality rate of 15.3 per 100,000 was the second lowest reported during the ten-year period. Despite these fluctuations, Antelope Valley had the highest MVT mortality rate of any SPA during each year of the report period.

Table 1. Intent

- Between 1998 and 2007, 64% of injury deaths were unintentional, 18% were suicides, and 16% were homicides.
- Nearly all fall and MVT traffic deaths and three quarters of poisoning deaths were unintentional.
- Firearms were the leading cause of intentional injury mortality, accounting for 53% of suicides and 68% of homicides.
- Unintentional injury rates over time mirror the pattern of MVT mortality described above, with decreasing rates from 1998 through 2000, increases from 2000 through 2004 and decreasing rates again from 2004 through 2007.
- Homicide rates increased each year from 1999 through 2006 before dropping by 26% in 2007.
- Suicide mortality rates were greater than 10 per 100,000 each year through 2006; in 2007 the rate was 8.6 per 100,000.

Table 2. Gender

- Males accounted for 71% of injury deaths in SPA 1, but only 50% of Antelope Valley's population.
- MVT (N=449) was the leading cause of injury death among males, followed by firearms (N=329).
- MVT (N=183) was the leading cause of injury death among females, followed by poisoning (N=140).
- Males accounted for about four-fifths of suicides and homicides, but just two-thirds of unintentional injury deaths.
- Male mortality rates were over twice as high as female mortality during each year, and during 2001 and 2006, male mortality was over three times higher than female mortality rates.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 1

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity

- Between 1998 and 2007, the population of Antelope Valley SPA was 51% White, 31% Latino, 13% Black, and 4% Asian/Other.
- During the same period, Antelope Valley residents who died from injuries were 54% White, 25% Latino, 17% Black, and 3% Asian/Other.
- There was variation in the racial/ethnic distribution by intent.
 - Unintentional: 57% White, 25% Latino, 14% Black, 3% Asian/Other
 - Suicide: 71% White, 17% Latino, 8% Black, 4% Asian/Other
 - Homicide: 24% White, 36% Latino, 38% Black, 1% Asian/Other
- Racial/ethnic distribution also varied for different types of injuries.
 - Whites accounted for 67% of falls and poisonings, but just 46% of firearm deaths.
 - Blacks accounted for 23% of firearm deaths, but just 8% of falls.
 - Latinos accounted for 29% of firearm and MVT deaths, but just 14% of falls.
 - Asians/Others accounted for 8% of falls, but less than 2% of poisonings and firearm deaths.
- Males accounted for 67% of deaths among Whites, 74% among Blacks, 75% among Asian/Others, and 80% among Latinos.
- Mortality rates were highest among Whites during 1998, 1999, and 2002; in all other years Blacks had the highest mortality rates.

Figure 3. Age

- During the ten-year period, the number of injury deaths in SPA 1 peaked among 18 and 41 year olds.
- MVT was the leading cause of injury death for almost all age groups (5+ year olds).
 - Among infants (<1 year) and 1-4 year olds other (non-leading) causes of injury was the most common cause of injury death.
 - Among 45-54 year olds poisoning tied with MVT as 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 (57.9 per 100,000) and suicides (24.3 per 100,000) peaked among 65+ year olds. Mortality rates from homicide peaked among 20-24 year olds (20.8 per 100,000).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 1

- Among 20-24 and 30-34 year olds, male mortality rates were four times greater than female mortality rates. Among 25-29 year olds, male mortality was three times that of females.
- Among Whites and Asian/Others mortality peaked among 65+ year olds, among Blacks rates peaked among 25-29 year olds, and among Latinos rates peaked among 20-24 year olds.
- The average age of victims of injury deaths was 40.2 years.
 - Victims of falls had the oldest average age at death (68.0 years).
 - Homicide victims (30.6 years) had the youngest average age at death.



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

Leading Cause	Intent								Total
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Other		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Falls	81	96%	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	84
Firearms	6	2%	171	45%	196	52%	4	1%	377
MVT	630	100%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	632
Poisoning	237	77%	60	19%	0	0%	12	4%	309
Suffocation	20	20%	71	70%	10	10%	1	1%	102
Other Causes	147	57%	19	7%	82	32%	10	4%	258
All Injury Deaths	1121	64%	325	18%	289	16%	27	2%	1762

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 1

Table 2: Number of Deaths and Age Adjusted Mortality Rate by Gender and Leading Cause, and Gender Distribution for Each Cause, SPA 1 Residents, 1998-2007

Mechanism	Males			Females		
	Num	Rate	%	Num	Rate	%
Falls	50	4.5	59.5%	34	2.7	40.5%
Firearms	329	22.2	87.3%	48	3.1	12.7%
MVT	449	29.1	71.0%	183	11.7	29.0%
Poisoning	169	10.5	54.7%	140	8.8	45.3%
Suffocation	73	4.9	71.6%	29	1.7	28.4%
Other Causes	188	12.3	72.9%	70	4.6	27.1%
All Injury Deaths	1258	83.5	71.4%	504	32.6	28.6%

Figure 2: Racial/Ethnic Distribution of SPA 1 Population and Leading Causes of Injury Death, SPA 1 Residents, 1998-2007

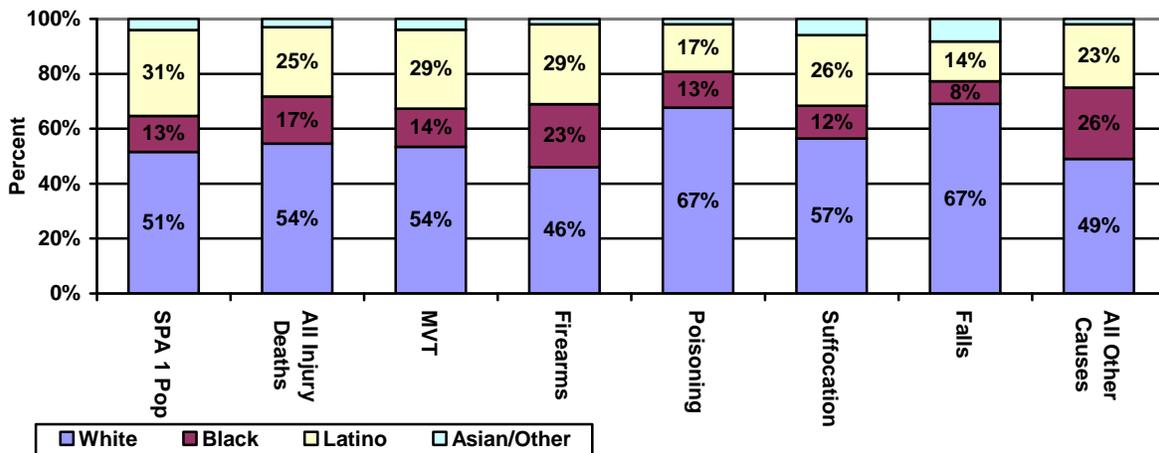
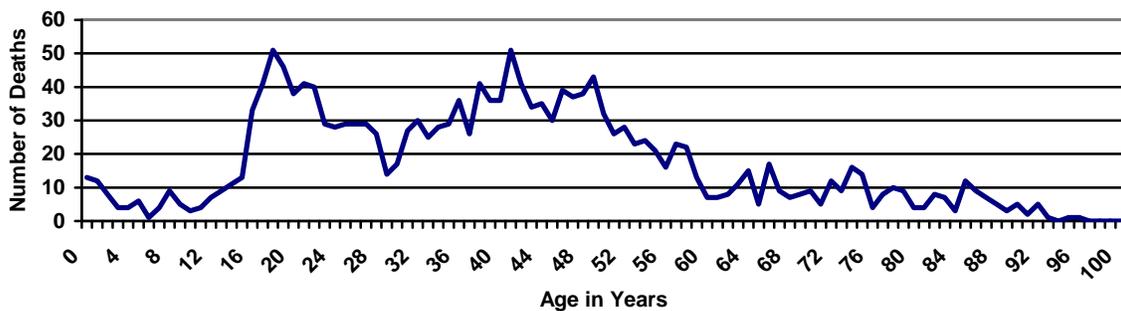


Figure 3: Age Distribution of Injury Deaths Among SPA 1 Residents, 1998-2007



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

Suggested Citation: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Injury & Violence Prevention Program. *Los Angeles County Injury Mortality Report 2010*. August 2010.