

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 4

SPA 4: Metro

1998 Population: 1,138,347
1998 % of LA County Total: 12.1%

2007 Population: 1,262,029
2007 % of LA County Total: 12.2%

Leading Causes of Injury Death and Age Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, SPA 4, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Number	Rate
1. Firearms	1,273	10.4
2. Poisoning	1,013	8.6
3. Motor Vehicle Traffic	836	7.3
4. Falls	531	5.1
5. Suffocation ¹	386	3.3

Overview

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 4,778 injury deaths among SPA 4 residents. These deaths accounted for 12.0% of all injury deaths countywide. 84.5% of the deaths were attributed to one of the five leading causes of injury death. In comparison to other SPAs, SPA 4 had the highest death rate due to falls (5.1 per 100,000). Firearm deaths were the leading cause of death in Metro SPA (10.4 per 100,000). For more comparisons between SPA 4 and LA County, see the SPA Comparison Table.

SPA 4 Injury Mortality Facts in Brief

- SPA 4's population increased faster than the population of the entire county.
- SPA 4 has the highest fall mortality rates of any SPA.
- Firearms caused over three-fourths of homicide deaths and suffocation deaths were the leading cause of suicides.
- Firearms were the leading cause of injury death for 15-34 year olds.

Figure 1. Trends

- Between 1998 and 2007, the Metro SPA population increased by 10.9%, while the overall population of LA County increased by just 10.1%.
- Injury mortality rates decreased from 1998 to 2007 by 17% for both suffocation and motor vehicle traffic (MVT) deaths. The 2007 rates for suffocation deaths and MVT deaths were 2.5 per 100,000 and 6.8 per 100,000, respectively.
- Fall mortality rates remained steady, with a 2007 rate of 5.3 per 100,000. SPA 4 had the highest rate of falls compared to any other SPA.

Table 1. Intent

- Between 1998 and 2007, 53% of injury deaths in SPA 4 were unintentional, 20% were suicides, and 25% were homicides.
- All MVT deaths and 81% of falls and poisonings were unintentional.

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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- Firearms were the leading cause of homicides (72%), and suffocation was the leading cause of suicides (76%).
- Unintentional injury rates remained constant from 1998-2007, peaking in 2003 at 25.4 per 100,000.
- Homicide rates increased each year from 1999 through 2002 and then decreased by 24% through 2007.
- Suicide mortality rates peaked in 1999 at 10.3 per 100,000, but after 1999, the suicide mortality rates were less than 9 per 100,000.

Table 2. Gender

- Males accounted for 76% of injury deaths in SPA 4, but only 51% of Metro SPA's population.
- Firearms (N=1,144) were the leading cause of injury death among males, followed by poisoning (N=755).
- MVT (N=276) was the leading cause of injury death among females, followed by poisoning (N=258).
- Males accounted for about 87% of homicides, four-fifth of suicides, and 70% of unintentional injury deaths.
- Male mortality rates were over three times as high as female mortality during each year, except during 1999, 2005 and 2006 when male mortality was between two and three times higher than female mortality rates.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity

- Between 1998 and 2007, the population of Metro SPA was 22% White, 55% Latino, 6% Black, and 17% Asian/Other.
- During the same period, SPA 4 residents who died from injuries were 32% White, 46% Latino, 10% Black, and 12% Asian/Other.
- There was variation in the racial/ethnic distribution by intent.
 - Unintentional: 35% White, 42% Latino, 10% Black, 13% Asian/Other
 - Suicide: 48% White, 26% Latino, 6% Black, 18% Asian/Other
 - Homicide: 12% White, 68% Latino, 12% Black, 7% Asian/Other
- Racial/ethnic distribution also varied for different types of injuries.
 - Whites accounted for 47% of poisonings, but just 19% of firearm deaths.
 - Latinos accounted for 62% of firearm deaths, but just 29% of suffocation deaths.

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- Blacks accounted for 15% of poisonings, but just 5% of suffocation deaths.
- Asians/Others accounted for 23% of suffocation deaths, but just 4% of poisonings.
- Males accounted for 73% of deaths among Whites, 81% among Latinos, 78% among Blacks, and 64% among Asian/Others.
- Mortality rates were highest among Whites in 2007; in all other years Blacks had the highest mortality rates.

Figure 3. Age

- During the ten-year period, the number of deaths peaked among 26 year olds.
- The leading cause of death varied by age group.s
 - Among infants (<1 year) and 1-4 year olds other (non-leading) causes of injury was the most common cause of injury death.
 - Among 5-9 year olds, MVT was the leading cause of injury death.
 - Among 10-34 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) and for 10-29 year olds; among all other age groups, unintentional injuries were the most common.
- Mortality rates from unintentional injuries (52.3 per 100,000) peaked among 65+ year olds; and suicides (15.3 per 100,000) peaked among 55-64 year olds. Mortality rates from homicide peaked among 20-24 year olds (31.5 per 100,000).
- Among 20-24 year olds, male mortality rates were six times greater than female mortality rates. Among 15-19 year olds, male mortality was five times that of females. Among 25-29 year olds, male mortality was four times that of females.
- 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 43.4 years.
 - Victims of falls had the oldest average age at death (63.0 years).
 - Homicide victims (30.4 years) had the youngest average age at death.
 - Males (41.2 years) were on average younger than females (50.5 years) at death.

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Figure 1: Age Adjusted Injury Mortality Rates by Year, SPA 4 Residents, 1998-2007

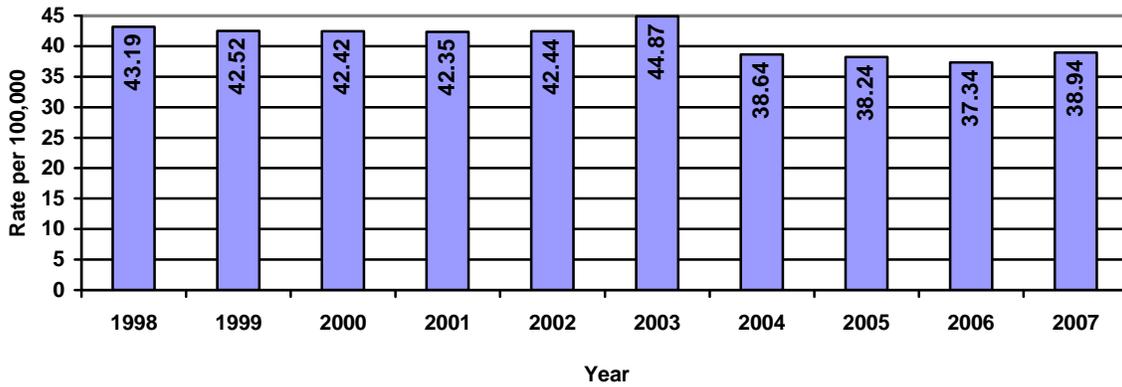


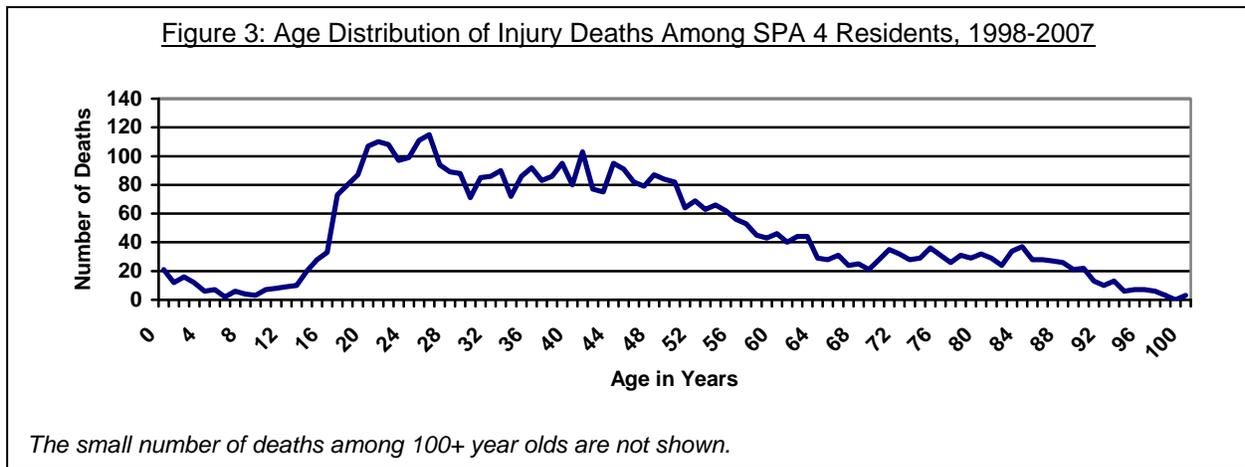
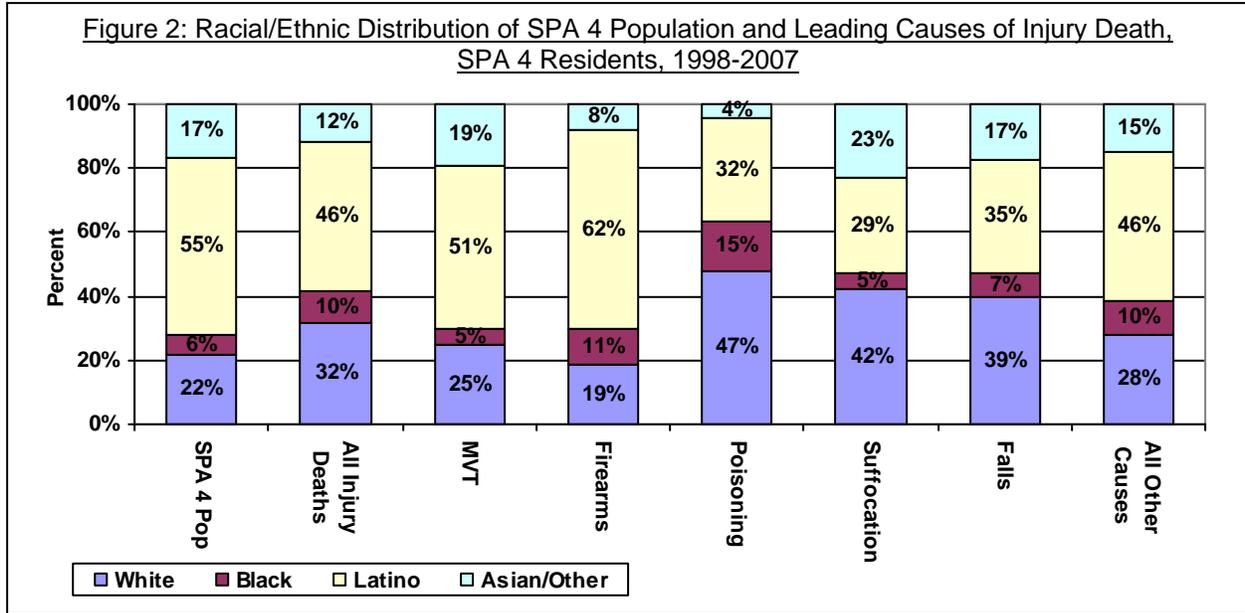
Table 1: Number and Percent of Injury Deaths Attributed to Each Intent, by Leading Cause, SPA 4 Residents, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Intent								Total
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Other		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Falls	432	81%	90	17%	2	0%	7	1%	531
Firearms	21	2%	315	25%	920	72%	17	1%	1273
MVT	833	100%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	836
Poisoning	825	81%	163	16%	3	0%	22	2%	1013
Suffocation	61	16%	293	76%	29	8%	3	1%	386
All Other Causes	361	49%	76	10%	258	35%	44	6%	739
All Injury Deaths	2533	53%	940	20%	1212	25%	93	2%	4778

Table 2: Number of Deaths and Age Adjusted Mortality Rate by Gender and Leading Cause, and Gender Distribution for Each Cause, SPA 4 Residents, 1998-2007

Mechanism	Males			Females		
	Num	Rate	%	Num	Rate	%
Falls	335	6.9	63.1%	196	3.5	36.9%
Firearms	1144	18.1	89.9%	129	2.2	10.1%
MVT	560	9.6	67.0%	276	4.9	33.0%
Poisoning	755	12.4	74.5%	258	4.5	25.5%
Suffocation	293	5.1	75.9%	93	1.6	24.1%
All Other	553	9.6	74.8%	186	3.3	25.2%
Total	3640	61.6	76.2%	1138	20.1	23.8%

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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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