

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 5

SPA 5: West

1998 Population: 608,361
1998 % of LA County Total: 6.5%

2007 Population: 640,698
2007 % of LA County Total: 6.2%

Leading Causes of Injury Death and Age Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, SPA 5, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Number	Rate
1. Poisoning	534	7.7
2. Firearms	454	6.9
3. Motor Vehicle Traffic	381	5.8
4. Falls	310	4.7
5. Suffocation ¹	198	3.0

Overview

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 2,200 injury deaths among SPA 5 residents. These deaths accounted for 5.5% of all injury deaths countywide. 85.3% of the deaths were attributed to one of the five leading causes of injury death. Poisoning was a particularly serious problem in the West part of LA County, accounting for 24.3% of all injury deaths in SPA 5, compared to 18.1% countywide. For more comparisons between SPA 5 and LA County, see the SPA Comparison Table.

SPA 5 Injury Mortality Facts in Brief

- Fall mortality increased by more than 50% during the report period.
- Most motor vehicle traffic, poisoning, and fall deaths were unintentional.
- Male mortality rates were at least twice as high as female rates during each year.
- Whites were overrepresented among injury deaths (71% deaths, 65% population).
- Poisoning was the leading cause of injury death for 30-54 year olds.

Figure 1. Trends

- Between 1998 and 2007, the South SPA population increased by 5.3%, while the overall population of LA County increased by 10.1%.
- Injury mortality rates in SPA 5 ranged from about 31 to 37 per 100,000; since the peak in 2003 (36.9 per 100,000), rates have decreased each year.
- Fall-related mortality increased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (5.6 per 100,000) was an increase of 53% over the 1998 rate (3.6 per 100,000).
- Firearm mortality rates decreased by 46% from 8.1 to 4.4 deaths per 100,000 from 1998-2007.
- Poisoning was the leading cause of injury death during every year except for 2000-2001, when firearms were the leading cause of injury death.

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, 58% of injury deaths in SPA 5 were unintentional, 28% were suicides, and 12% were homicides.
- Nearly all motor vehicle traffic (MVT) deaths, and over three quarters of fall and poisoning deaths were unintentional.
- Over half (57%) of firearm and nearly three quarters (74%) of suffocation deaths were suicides, while an additional 41% of firearm deaths were homicides.
- Mortality rates due to unintentional injuries ranged from 16 to 23 deaths per 100,000, peaking in 2003.
- Homicide rates were greater than 5 per 100,000 only during 2001-2002; during all other years homicide rates ranged from 2.1 to 4.6 per 100,000.
- Suicide rates remained relatively stable during the report period, ranging from about 7 to 10 deaths per 100,000.

Table 2. Gender

- Males accounted for 69% of injury deaths in SPA 5, but for only 48% of West SPA's population.
- Firearms (N=388) were the leading cause of injury death among males, followed by poisoning (N=330).
- Poisoning (N=204) was the leading cause of injury death among females, followed by MVT (N=140).
- Males accounted for 79% of homicides, 71% of suicides, and 66% of unintentional injury deaths.
- Male mortality rates were at least two times as high as female mortality during each year, and in 1999 and 2005 when male mortality was over three times higher than female mortality rates.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity

- Between 1998 and 2007, the population of West SPA was 65% White, 17% Latino, 7% Black and 12% Asian/Other.
- During the same period, SPA 5 residents who died from injuries were 71% White, 14% Latino, 9% Black and 6% Asian/Other.

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- There was variation in the racial/ethnic distribution by intent.
 - Unintentional: 75% White, 12% Latino, 7% Black, 6% Asian/Other
 - Suicide: 82% White, 9% Latino, 4% Black, 5% Asian/Other
 - Homicide: 31% White, 35% Latino, 27% Black, 6% Asian/Other
- Racial/ethnic distribution also varied for different types of injuries.
 - Whites accounted for over 80% of falls and poisonings, but just 58% of firearm deaths.
 - Latinos accounted for 23% of firearm deaths, but only 6% of falls.
 - Blacks accounted for 15% of firearm deaths, but just 4% of falls.
 - Asian/Others accounted for 12% of MVT deaths, but just 1% of poisonings.
- Males accounted for 66% of deaths among Whites, 81% among Latinos, 78% among Blacks, and 63% among Asian/Others.
- Blacks had the highest mortality rate during each year of the report period; during 2000 and 2002-2007, Whites had the second highest mortality rate. In the remaining years; Latinos had the second highest rate.

Figure 3. Age

- During the ten-year period, the number of injury deaths in SPA 5 peaked among 44 year olds.
- The leading cause of injury death varied by age group.
 - Among infants (<1 year) and 5-9 year olds, MVT was the most common cause of injury death.
 - Among 1-4 and 10-14 year olds other (non-leading) causes were the leading cause of injury death
 - Among 15-29 and 55-64 year olds, firearm injuries were the leading cause of injury death.
 - Among 30-54 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 15-19 year olds; among all other age groups, unintentional injuries were the most common.
- Mortality rates from unintentional injuries (50 per 100,000) and suicides (20 per 100,000) peaked among 65+ year olds. Mortality rates from homicide peaked among 20-24 year olds (15 per 100,000).
- Mortality rates were lowest for 5-9 year olds (3 per 100,000) and highest for 65+ year olds (73 per 100,000).

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- The average age of victims of injury deaths was 50.1 years.
 - Victims of falls had the oldest average age at death (71.7 years).
 - Homicide victims (34.0 years) had the youngest average age at death.
 - Males (48.1 years) were on average younger than females (54.4 years) at death.



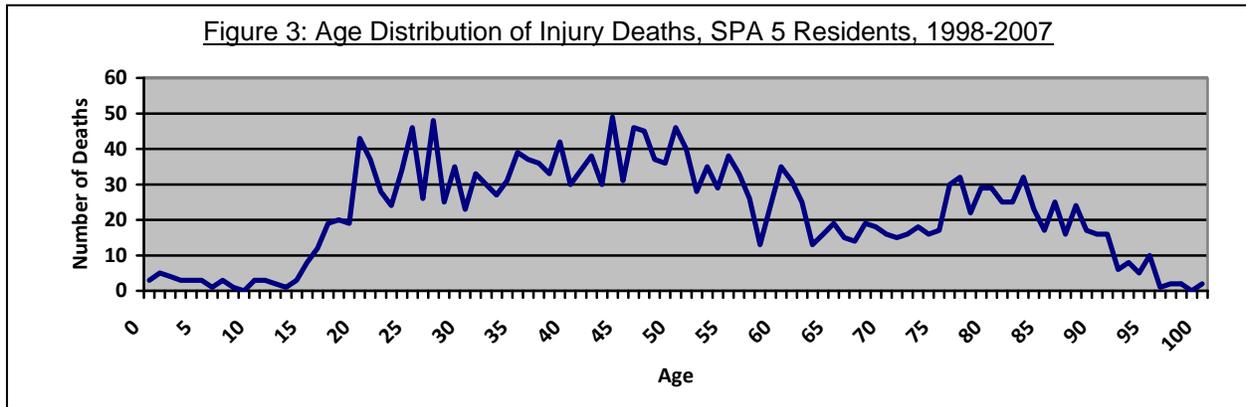
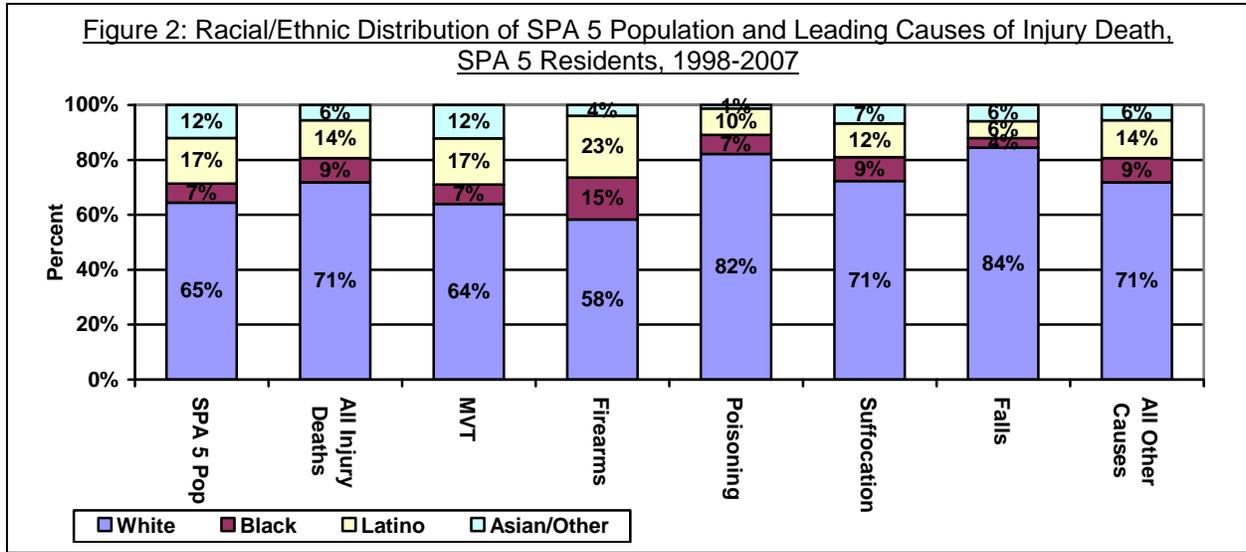
Table 1: Number and Percent of Injury Deaths Attributed to Each Intent, by Leading Cause, SPA 5 Residents, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Intent								Total
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Other		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Falls	263	85%	45	15%	0	0%	2	1%	310
Firearms	3	1%	259	57%	187	41%	5	1%	454
MVT	379	99%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	381
Poisoning	409	77%	115	22%	1	0%	9	2%	534
Suffocation	36	18%	144	73%	16	8%	2	1%	198
Other Causes	190	59%	49	15%	70	22%	14	4%	323
All Injury Deaths	1280	58%	614	28%	274	12%	32	1%	2200

Table 2: Number of Deaths and Age Adjusted Mortality Rate by Gender and Leading Cause, and Gender Distribution for Each Cause, SPA 5 Residents, 1998-2007

Mechanism	Males			Females		
	Num	Rate	%	Num	Rate	%
Falls	195	6.6	62.9%	115	3.1	37.1%
Firearms	388	12.5	85.5%	66	1.8	14.5%
MVT	241	7.8	63.3%	140	4.0	36.7%
Poisoning	330	9.8	61.8%	204	5.7	38.2%
Suffocation	141	4.4	71.2%	57	1.7	28.8%
Other Causes	219	7.1	67.8%	104	3.1	32.2%
All Injury Deaths	1514	48.2	68.8%	686	19.3	31.2%

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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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