2023 INJURY REPORT: INJURIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

APRIL 2026

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO | HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY | PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES | COMMUNITY HEALTH STATISTICS

2023 Injury Report: Injuries in San Diego County

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Inquiries regarding this document may be directed to:
Community Health Statistics Unit
5530 Overland Ave, Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92123
(619) 692-6667
www.SDHealthStatistics.com
PHS.CHSU.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

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Executive Summary

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that injuries caused more than 300,000 deaths in 2023, as well as 22.4 million treatments and discharges from emergency departments (EDs) and 4.1 million hospitalizations.[1,2] Beyond the human burden of injuries, the economic costs of medical care were estimated by the CDC to be $4.53 billion for deaths, $144.1 billion for ED visits, and $231.4 billion for hospitalizations.[1,2]

Injury Deaths

In 2023, unintentional injuries were ranked the third leading cause of death in San Diego County. Among injury-related causes, poisoning, traumatic brain injury, and falls were the leading causes of deaths in San Diego County in 2023.* Generally, injury-related death rates were highest among males, non-Hispanic (NH) White and Black residents, and individuals aged 80 years and older.

Injury Emergency Department (ED) Discharges

In 2023, falls, motor vehicle injuries, and assault were the leading causes of injury-related emergency department (ED) discharges in San Diego County.* Injury-related ED discharges in San Diego County varied by sex, age group, race/ethnicity, and region:

- Male residents were more likely to be discharged from the ED due to assault, drowning, firearm, heat illness/injury, pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries, pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries, and poisoning compared to female residents.
- Residents aged 20-29 years were more likely to be discharged from the ED due to firearm, motor vehicle injuries, and poisoning compared to other age groups, while older residents ages 80 years and older were more likely to be discharged from the ED due to falls, hip fractures, traumatic injuries, and unintentional injuries compared to other age groups.
- NH Other (includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race) residents were more likely to be discharged from the ED due to falls, motor vehicle injuries, traumatic brain injury, and unintentional injuries compared to other race/ethnicities. Non-Hispanic Black residents were more likely to be discharged from the ED due to assault, disorders of the teeth and jaw, firearm, pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries, and poisoning.
- East Region and Central Region generally had the highest ED discharge rates due to injury-related causes compared to all other Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions in San Diego County.

Injury Hospitalizations

In 2023, falls, hip fractures, and motor vehicle injuries respectively, were the leading causes of injury-related hospitalizations in San Diego County.* In 2023, injury-related hospitalizations in San Diego County varied by sex, age group, race/ethnicity, and region:

- Male residents were more likely to be hospitalized due to assault, drowning, firearm, heat illness/injury, pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries, pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries, poisoning, and traumatic brain injury compared to female residents.
- Residents aged 20-29 years were more likely to be hospitalized due to disorders of the teeth, firearm, and motor vehicle injuries compared to any other age group, while residents aged 80 years and older were more likely to be hospitalized due to falls, hip fractures, traumatic brain injury, and unintentional injuries compared to any other age group.
- NH Other residents had the highest rates of hospitalization due to disorders of the teeth and jaw, falls, motor vehicle injuries, pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries, traumatic brain injury, and unintentional injuries compared to all other race/ethnicities, while NH Black residents had the highest hospitalization rates due to assault, firearm, and poisoning.
- East Region generally had the highest hospitalization rates due to injury-related causes compared to all other Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions in San Diego County.

References

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics-CDC Annual Mortality Data Files. https://wisqars.cdc.gov/about/fatal-injury-data.

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-All Injury Program. https://wisqars.cdc.gov/about/nonfatal-injury-data.

Injury Dashboard

Data from this report can also be accessed and viewed on the 2023 Injury Dashboard. This dashboard is an interactive tool that displays injury indicator annual age-adjusted rates across years, crude rates by demographics (age, sex, and race/ethnicity), and by subregional areas (SRAs) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Regions. To access the 2023 Injury Dashboard, please click here.

Injury Topics

The following is a discussion of specific injury conditions in San Diego County. Each section presents an in-depth analysis and discussion of topic-specific injury-related data. Injury topics are arranged in alphabetical order and do not reflect their importance in terms of impact or severity.

- Assault/homicide
- Disorders of the teeth and jaw
- Drowning
- Fall-related injuries
- Firearm-related injuries
- Heat illness/injury
- Hip fractures
- Motor vehicle (MV) injuries
- Pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle (MV) injuries
- Pedestrian-related motor vehicle (MV) injuries
- Poisoning
- Traumatic brain injury
- Unintentional injuries

Assault/Homicide

Key Findings

- There was a total of 82 deaths, 7,949 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 1,010 hospitalizations due to homicide/assault in San Diego County in 2023.
- The age-adjusted ED discharge rates for assault reached their highest levels in 2022 and 2023, while age-adjusted hospitalization rates remained stable.
- Assault/homicide death, ED discharge, and hospitalization rates were higher among males than females.
- Hispanic residents had the highest homicide rate, while non-Hispanic (NH) Black residents had the highest assault ED discharge and hospitalization rate.
- Assault/homicide death, ED discharge, and hospitalization rates were highest among adults aged 20-39 years.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates due to assault.
- Central San Diego had the highest the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates due to assault among all subregional areas (SRAs).

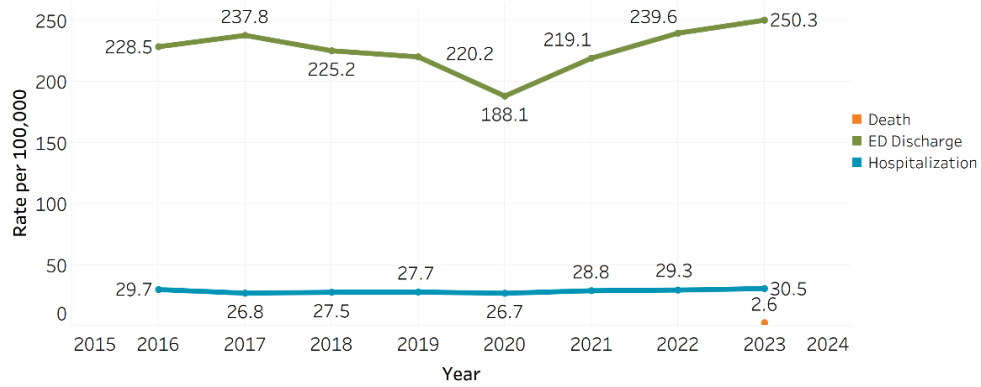
Overview

Assault injuries are non-fatal injuries that are inflicted by another person with an intent of causing harm, injury, or death.[1] Homicides are fatal injuries that are inflicted by another person with the intent to injure or kill.[1]

In 2023, homicide was the third leading cause of death among San Diego County residents aged 20–29 years, the sixth leading cause among those aged 30–39 years, and the eighth leading cause among those aged 40–49 years. By other demographic groups, homicide ranked 15th among males, 13th among Hispanics, and ninth among NH Blacks. Regionally, homicide was the 15th leading cause of death in the Central Region of San Diego.

Trends

Figure 1: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

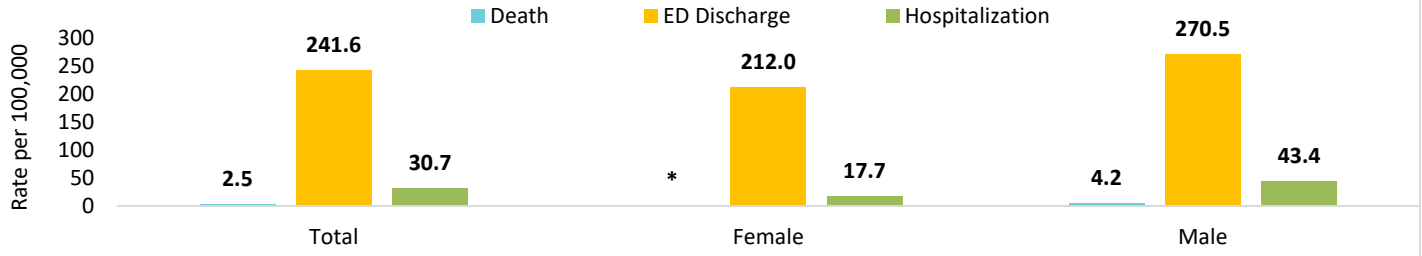


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate for assault in San Diego County declined by 18% between 2016 and 2020, then increased by 33% from 2020 to 2023, reaching its highest levels in 2022 and 2023.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to assault showed a slight increase from 29.7 per 100,000 in 2016 to 30.5 per 100,000 in 2023.

Assault/Homicide by Sex

Figure 2: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



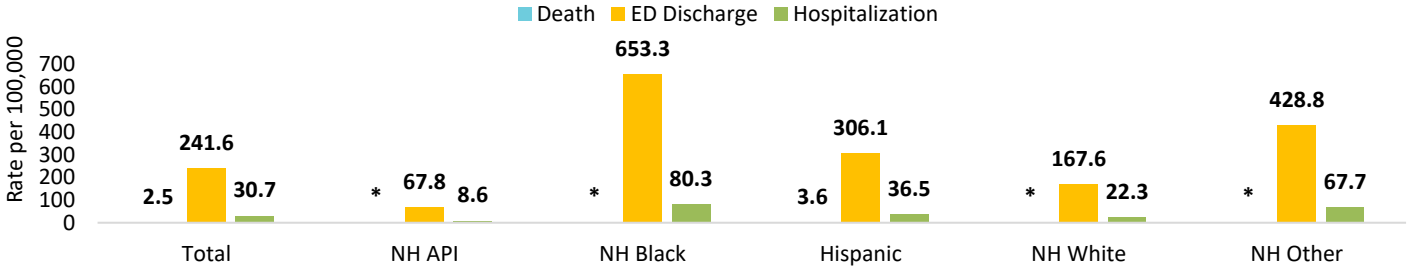
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had a homicide rate of 4.2 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than San Diego County overall (2.5 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to assault among males (270.5 per 100,000) was 1.3 times higher than females (212.0 per 100,000).
- Males experienced an assault hospitalization rate of 43.4 per 100,000, which was 2.5 times higher than females (17.7 per 100,000) and 1.4 times higher than the county overall (30.7 per 100,000).

Assault/Homicide by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 3: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



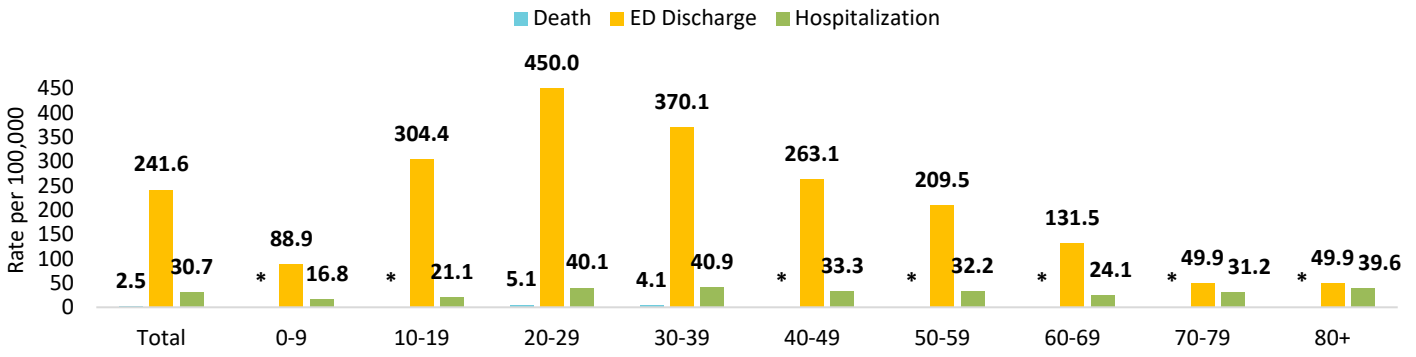
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Hispanic residents experienced the highest homicide rate (3.6 per 100,000) of any race/ethnicity, at a rate 1.4 times higher than the overall county rate.
- NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had ED discharge rates due to assault that were higher than the county overall, with NH Black residents having the highest rate. The ED discharge rate due to assault among NH Black residents (653.3 per 100,000) was 2.7 times higher than the county overall (241.6 per 100,000).
- Among all race/ethnicities, NH Black residents had the highest hospitalization rate due to assault (80.3 per 100,000), which was 2.6 times higher than the county overall.

Assault/Homicide by Age Group

Figure 4: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



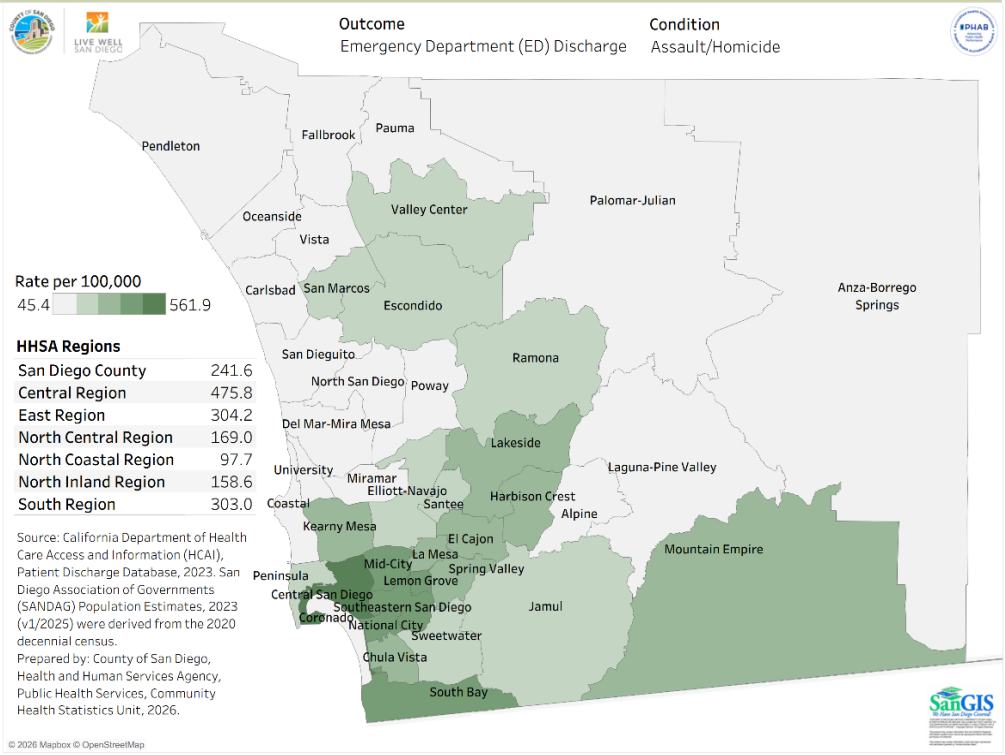
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Residents in the age range 20-39 years had higher homicide rates than the county overall, with those aged 20-29 years having a homicide rate (5.1 per 100,000) that was 2.0 times higher than the county overall (2.5 per 100,000).
- Those between the ages 10-49 years experienced higher assault ED discharge rates than the county overall, with residents aged 20-29 years having the highest rate (450.0 per 100,000). The ED discharge rate due to assault among residents aged 20-29 years was 1.9 times higher than the county overall (241.6 per 100,000).
- Among all age groups, the hospitalization rate due to assault was highest for residents aged 30-39 years (40.9 per 100,000) and 20-29 years (40.1 per 100,000).

Assault/Homicide by Geography

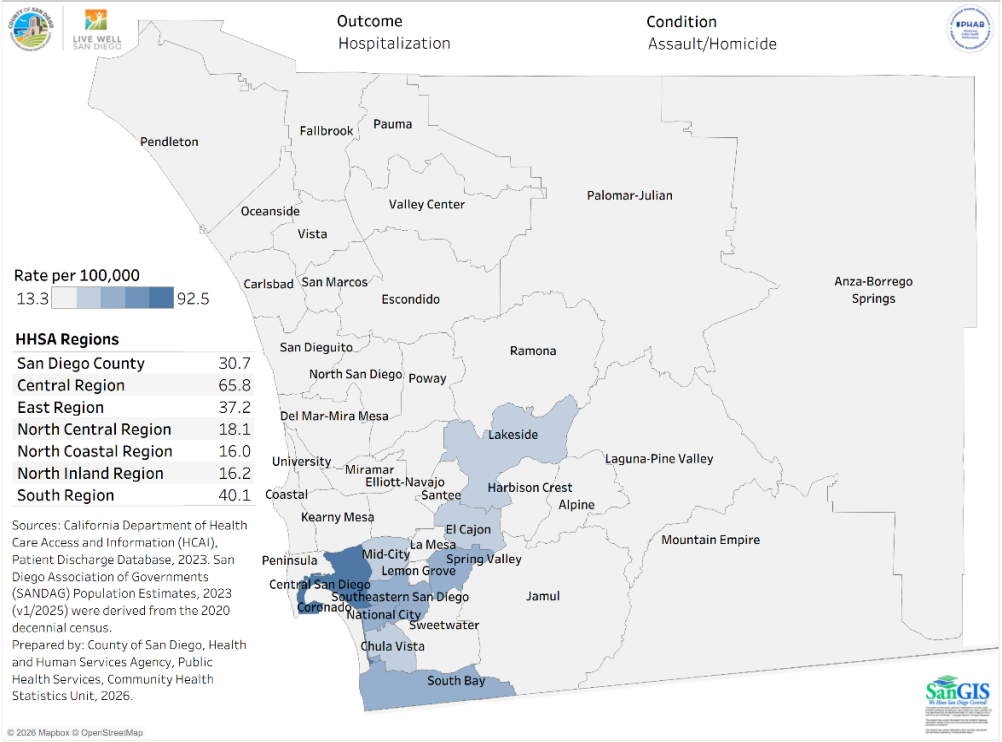
Figure 5: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to assault (475.8 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRAs) in San Diego County, Central San Diego had the highest ED discharge rate due to assault (561.9 per 100,000), followed by Lemon Grove (451.2 per 100,000).

Figure 6: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Assault/Homicide by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to assault (65.8 per 100,000), followed by South Region (40.1 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Central San Diego had the highest hospitalization rate due to assault (92.5 per 100,000), followed by Southeastern San Diego (56.5 per 100,000).

Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw

Key Findings

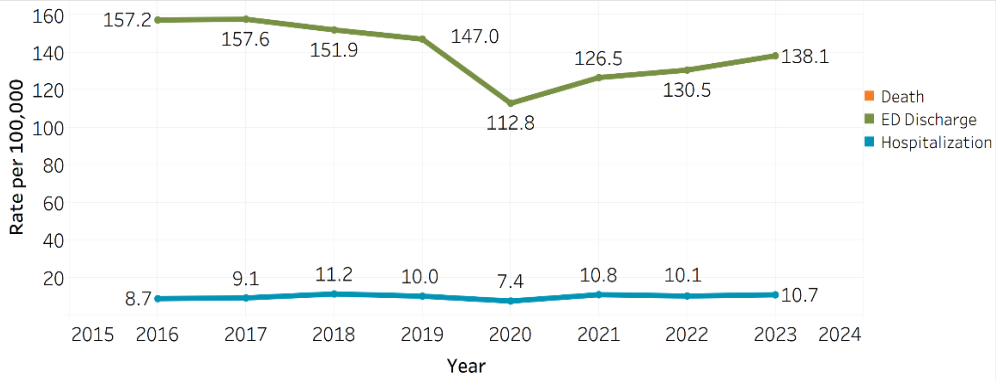
- There were a total of 4,447 emergency department (ED) discharges and 359 hospitalizations due to disorders of the teeth and jaw in San Diego County in 2023.
- From 2016 to 2023, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for disorders of the teeth and jaw declined, while the age-adjusted hospitalization rate increased.
- Both males and females had ED discharge and hospitalization rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw that were similar to the overall county rates.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Black residents experienced the highest ED discharge rate, while NH Other residents had hospitalization rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw.
- Adults aged 30–39 years had the highest ED discharge rate for disorders of the teeth and jaw, while hospitalization rates were highest among those aged 20–29 years.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to disorders of the teeth while East Region had the highest hospitalization rate.

Overview

Disorders of the teeth and jaw encompass a broad spectrum of conditions that impact the development, alignment, structure, and function of the teeth and jaw. Tooth disorders can range from minor developmental issues, such as missing (anodontia) or extra teeth (supernumerary teeth), to severe conditions like advanced periodontal disease or complex pulp and periapical infections. Jaw disorders can vary from mild size discrepancies, such as maxillary or mandibular hyperplasia or hypoplasia, to more complex problems including severe malocclusion and temporomandibular joint dysfunction.

Trends

Figure 7: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

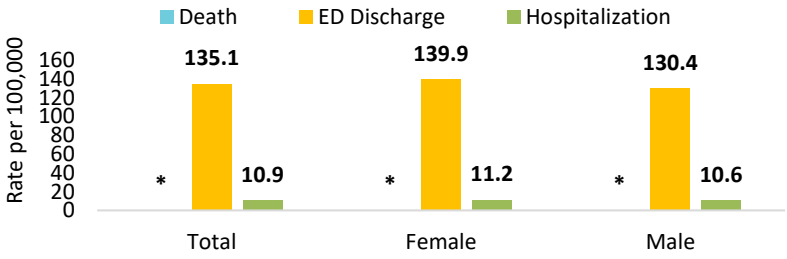


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- In San Diego County, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for disorders of the teeth and jaw declined by 12%, decreasing from 157.2 per 100,000 in 2016 to 138.1 per 100,000 in 2023.
- During the same period, the age-adjusted hospitalization rate for disorders of the teeth and jaw increased by 23%, rising from 8.7 per 100,000 in 2016 to 10.7 per 100,000 in 2023.

Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Sex

Figure 8: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



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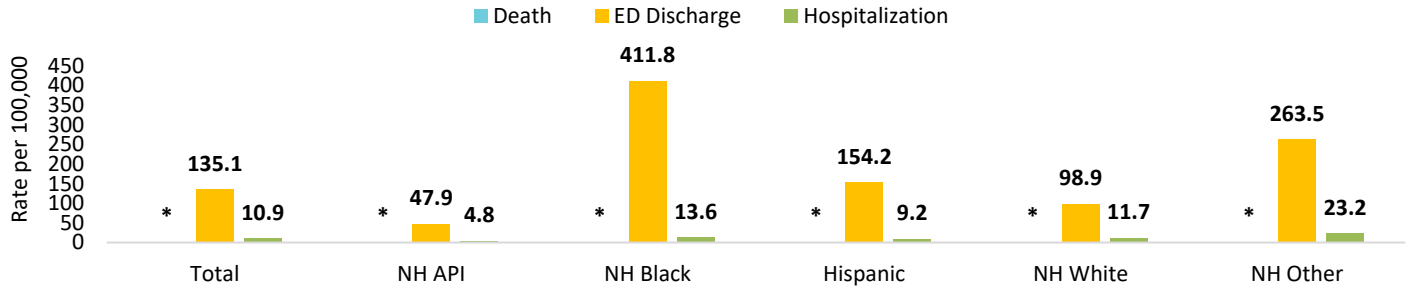
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Females and males in San Diego County had comparable ED discharge rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw (139.9 per 100,000 and (130.4 per 100,000) to the county overall (135.1 per 100,000).
- Hospitalization rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw were similar for both sexes compared to the county overall (10.9 per 100,000), with females slightly higher at 11.2 per 100,000 and males slightly lower at 10.6 per 100,000.

Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 9: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
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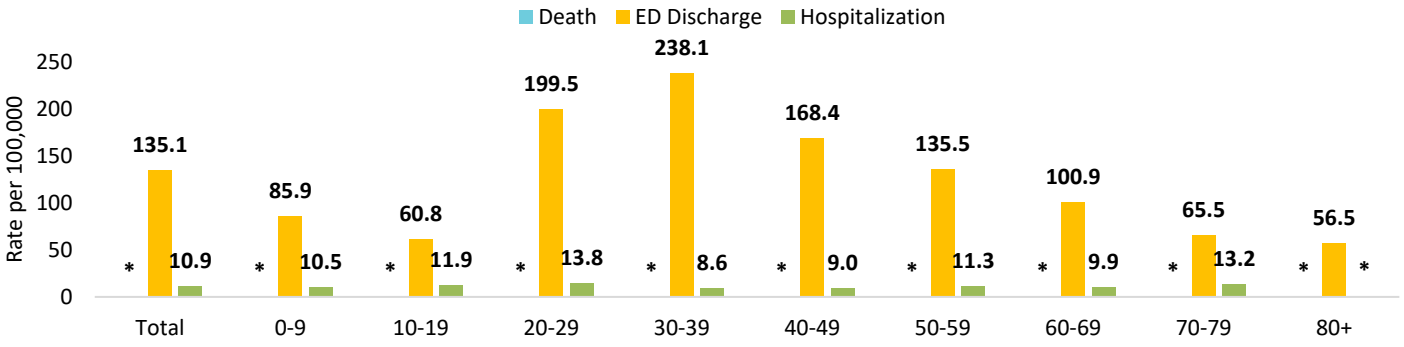
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents in San Diego County had ED discharge rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw that were higher than the county overall, with NH Black residents having the highest rate. The ED discharge rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw among NH Black residents (411.8 per 100,000) was 3.0 times higher than the county overall (135.1 per 100,000).
- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Other residents had the highest hospitalization rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw (23.2 per 100,000), which was 2.1 times higher than the county overall.

Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Age Group

Figure 10: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



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Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

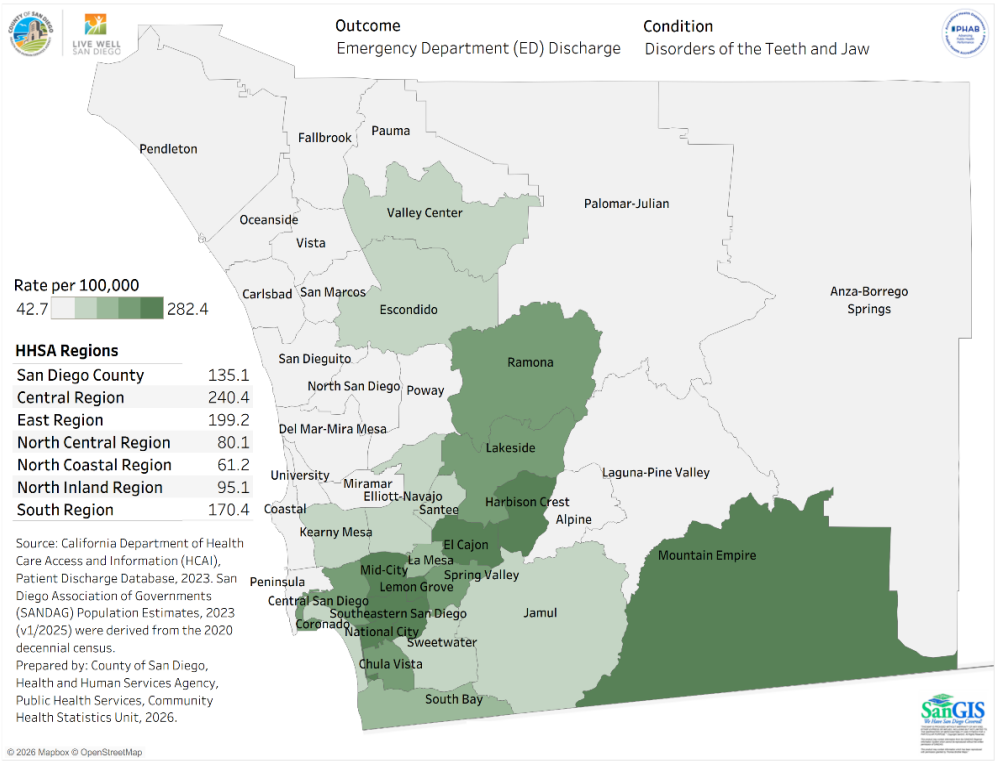
In 2023:

- San Diego County residents aged 20–59 years had higher ED discharge rates for disorders of the teeth and jaw compared to the county overall. Among these residents, individuals aged 30–39 years experienced the highest rate (238.1 per 100,000), which was 1.8 times greater than the county rate of 135.1 per 100,000.

- Among all age groups, the hospitalization rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw was highest for residents aged 20-29 years (13.8 per 100,000) and 70-79 years (13.2 per 100,000).

Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Geography

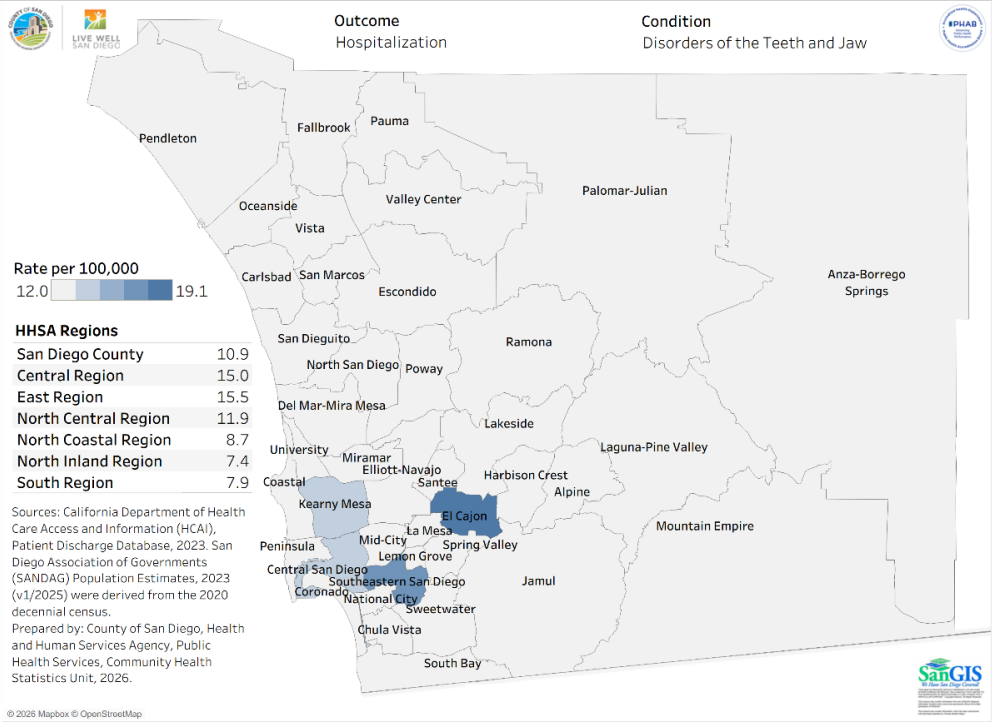
Figure 11: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw (240.4 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRAs) in San Diego County, Mountain Empire had the highest ED discharge rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw (282.4 per 100,000).

Figure 12: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Disorders of the Teeth and Jaw by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw (15.5 per 100,000), followed by Central Region (15.0 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, El Cajon had the highest hospitalization rate due to disorders of the teeth and jaw (19.1 per 100,000), followed by Southeastern San Diego (17.0 per 100,000).

Drowning

Key Findings

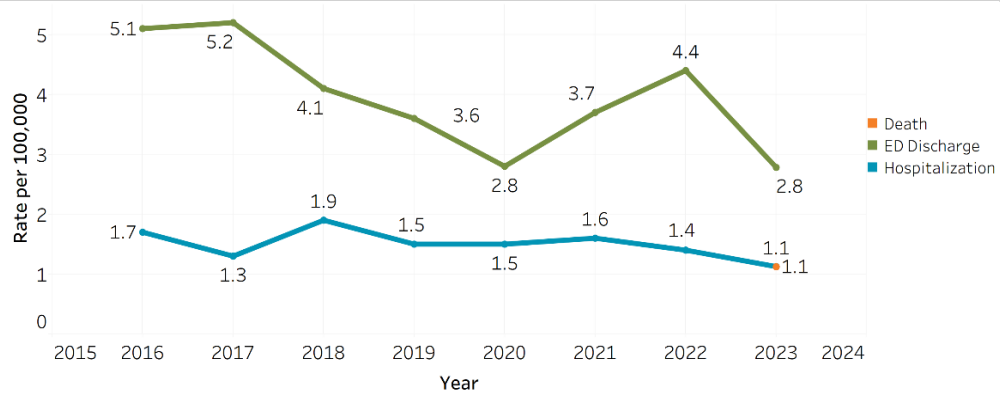
- There were a total of 41 deaths, 83 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 34 hospitalizations due to drowning in San Diego County in 2023.
- From 2016 to 2023, the age-adjusted ED discharge and hospitalization rates for drowning decreased by 45% and 35%, respectively.
- Males had a higher burden of deaths, ED discharges, and hospitalizations for drowning than females and the county overall.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) White residents experienced the highest death and ED discharge rates due to drowning.
- Children aged 0–9 years had the highest ED discharge rate for drowning.

Overview

Drowning occurs when a person experiences breathing difficulties due to being submerged or immersed in liquid. It happens when the nose and mouth are underwater for an extended period, preventing normal respiration. Drowning can be fatal and result in death or nonfatal. Nonfatal drowning can cause no injuries to very serious injuries such as brain damage or permanent disability.[2]

Trends

Figure 13: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Drowning, San Diego County, 2016-2023.



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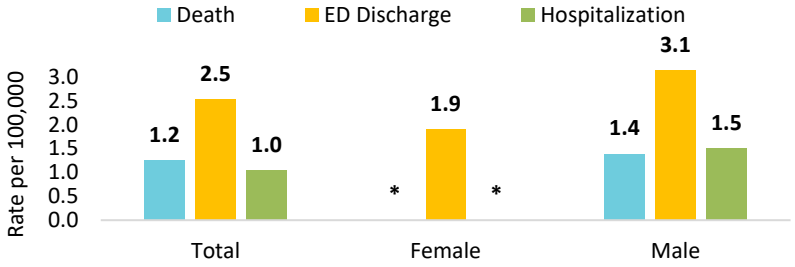
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate for drowning in San Diego County decreased by 45%, falling from 5.1 per 100,000 in 2016 to 2.8 per 100,000 in 2023, reaching its lowest level in 2023.
- The age-adjusted drowning hospitalization rate decreased by 35% between 2016 to 2023.

Drowning by Sex

Figure 14: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Drowning by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



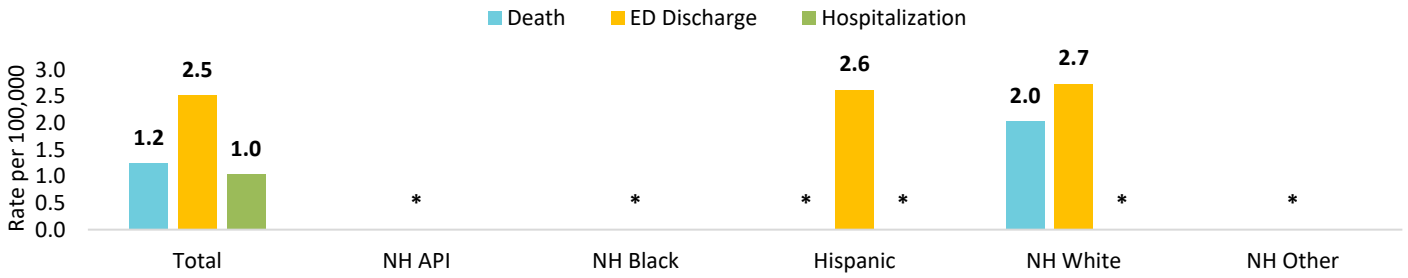
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- In San Diego County, males had a higher ED discharge rate due to drowning (3.1 per 100,000) compared to females (1.9 per 100,000).
- The death and ED discharge rates due to drowning among males were 1.2 times higher than San Diego County overall.
- The hospitalization rate due to drowning among males (1.5 per 100,000) was 1.5 times higher than the county overall (1.0 per 100,000).

Drowning by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 15: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Drowning by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



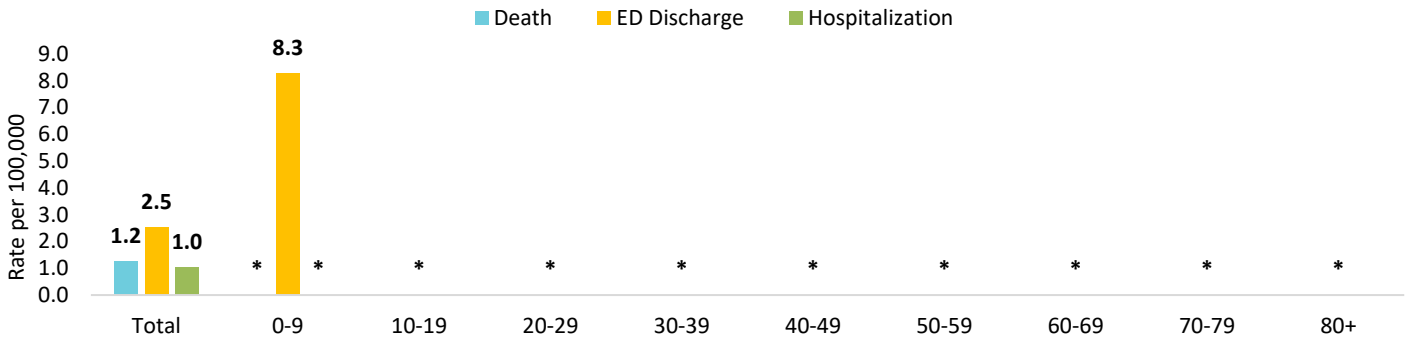
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- NH White residents in San Diego County had a death rate due to drowning of 2.0 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall.
- Additionally, NH White residents had the highest ED discharge rate due to drowning (2.7 per 100,000), followed by Hispanic residents (2.6 per 100,000), compared to other races/ethnicities.

Drowning by Age Group

Figure 16: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Drowning by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- San Diego County residents aged 0-9 years had an ED discharge rate due to drowning of 8.3 per 100,000, which was 3.3 times higher than the county overall.

Drowning by Geography

No HHSA-level and SRA-level rate data available for this section.

Falls

Key Findings

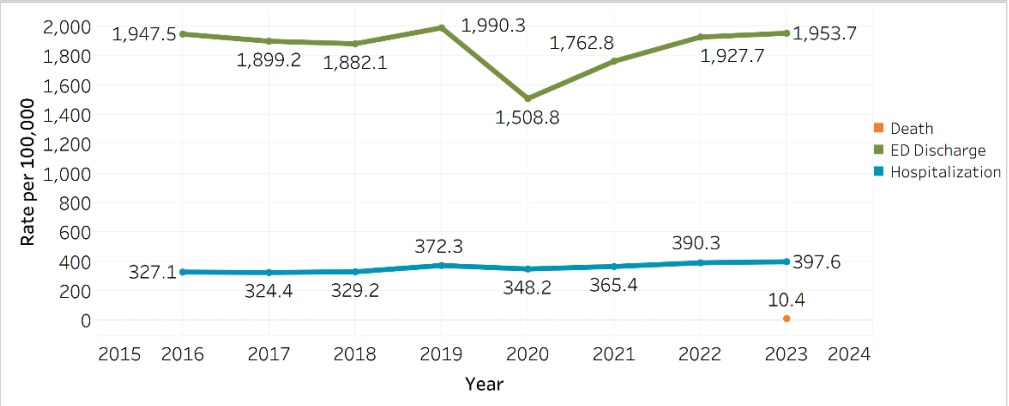
- In 2023, falls in San Diego County resulted in 429 deaths, 69,176 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 15,992 hospitalizations.
- Between 2016 and 2023, the age-adjusted hospitalization rate for falls increased by 22%, while the age-adjusted ED discharge rate decreased by 23% through 2020 before rising with a 29% increase from 2020 to 2023.
- Males were more likely to die from falls, whereas females were more likely to be hospitalized or treated in the emergency department for fall-related injuries.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Whites had the highest fall-related death rates, while NH Other residents experienced the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates.
- Older adults aged 80+ years had the highest rates of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization due to falls.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, North Coastal Region had the highest fall-related death rate, while the East Region had the highest rates of ED discharges and hospitalizations.

Overview

Falls occur when a person descends abruptly due to the force of gravity and hits a surface or object at the same or lower level, resulting in an injury.[3]

Trends

Figure 17: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

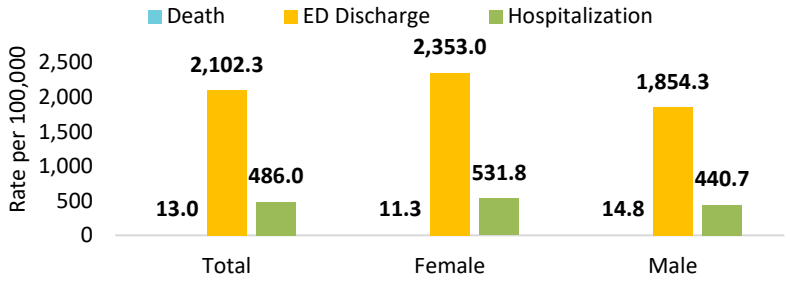


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- In San Diego County, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for falls decreased 23% from 2016 to 2020, reaching its lowest level in 2020, and then increased by 29% from 2020 to 2023.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for falls rose by 22%, increasing from 327.1 per 100,000 in 2016 to 397.6 per 100,000 in 2023.

Falls by Sex

Figure 18: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



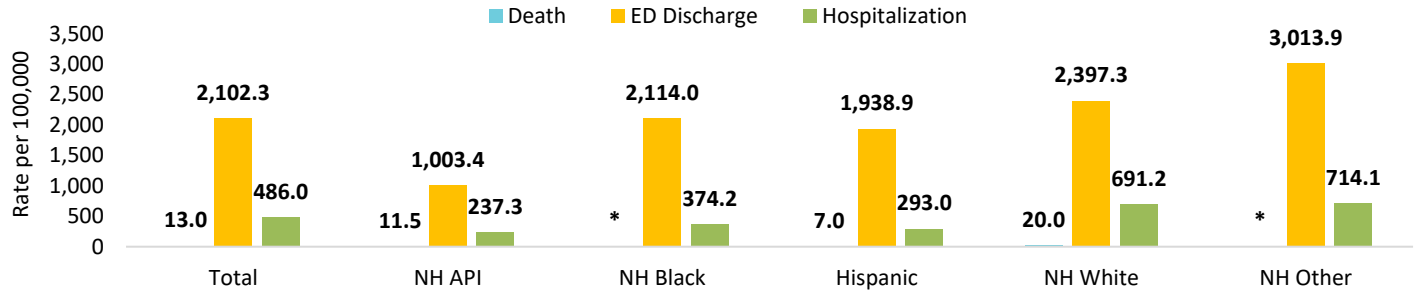
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had a death rate due to falls (14.8 per 100,000) that was 1.3 times higher than females (11.3 per 100,000).
- Females had an ED discharge rate due to falls of 2,353.0 per 100,000, which was 1.3 times higher than males (1,854.3 per 100,000) and 1.1 times higher than the county overall (2,102.3 per 100,000).
- Females also had a higher hospitalization rate for falls (531.8 per 100,000) compared to males (440.7 per 100,000) and the overall county (486.0 per 100,000).

Falls by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 19: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



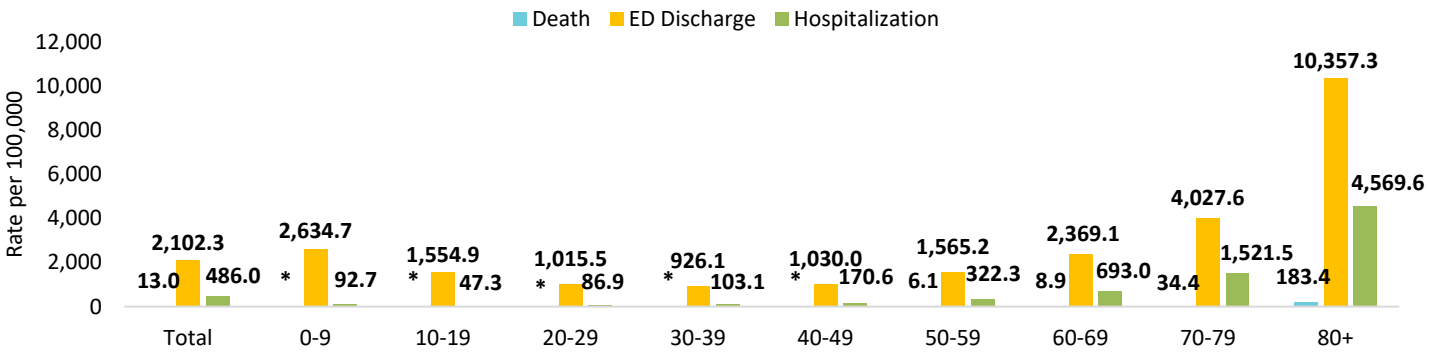
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, NH White residents in San Diego County had the highest death rate due to falls (20.0 per 100,000), followed by NH Asian/Pacific Islander (API) residents (11.5 per 100,000).
- NH Black, NH White, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to falls than the county overall, with NH Other residents having the highest rate (3,013.9 per 100,000). The ED discharge rate due to falls among NH Other residents was 1.4 times higher than the county overall (2,102.3 per 100,000).
- NH Other residents had the highest hospitalization rate due to falls (714.1 per 100,000) among all race/ethnicities, which was 1.5 times higher than the county overall (486.0 per 100,000).

Falls by Age Group

Figure 20: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



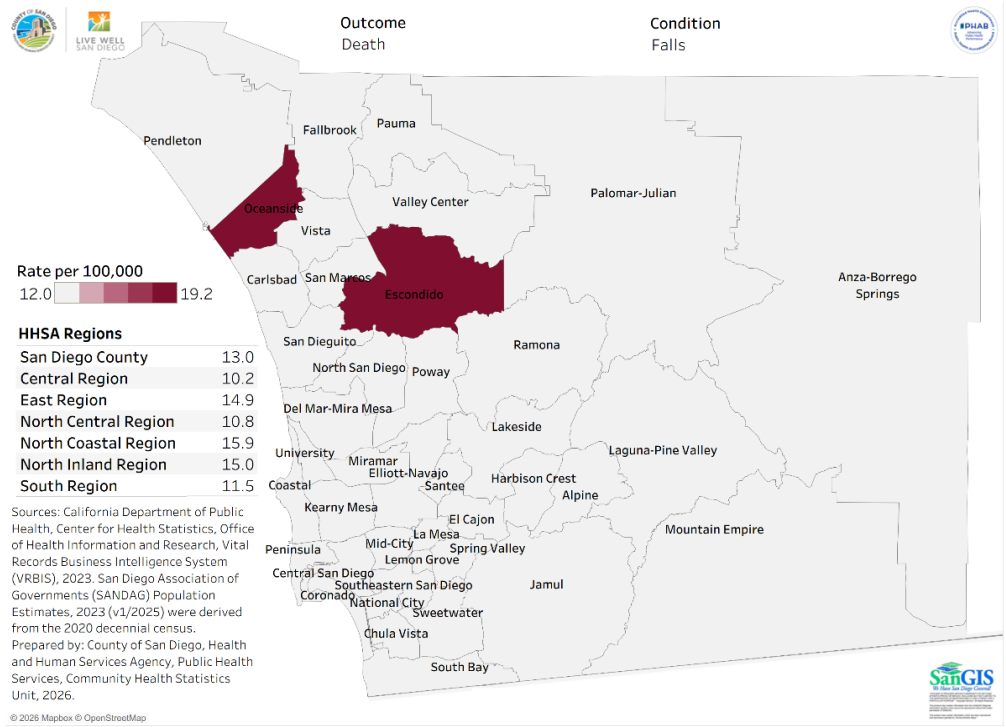
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, San Diego County residents aged 80+ years had the highest rates of death (183.4 per 100,000), ED discharge (10,357.3 per 100,000), and hospitalization (4,569.6) for falls.
- The death, ED discharge, and hospitalization rates due to falls among residents aged 80+ years was 14.1, 5.0, and 9.4 times, respectively, higher than rates of the county overall.

Falls by Geography

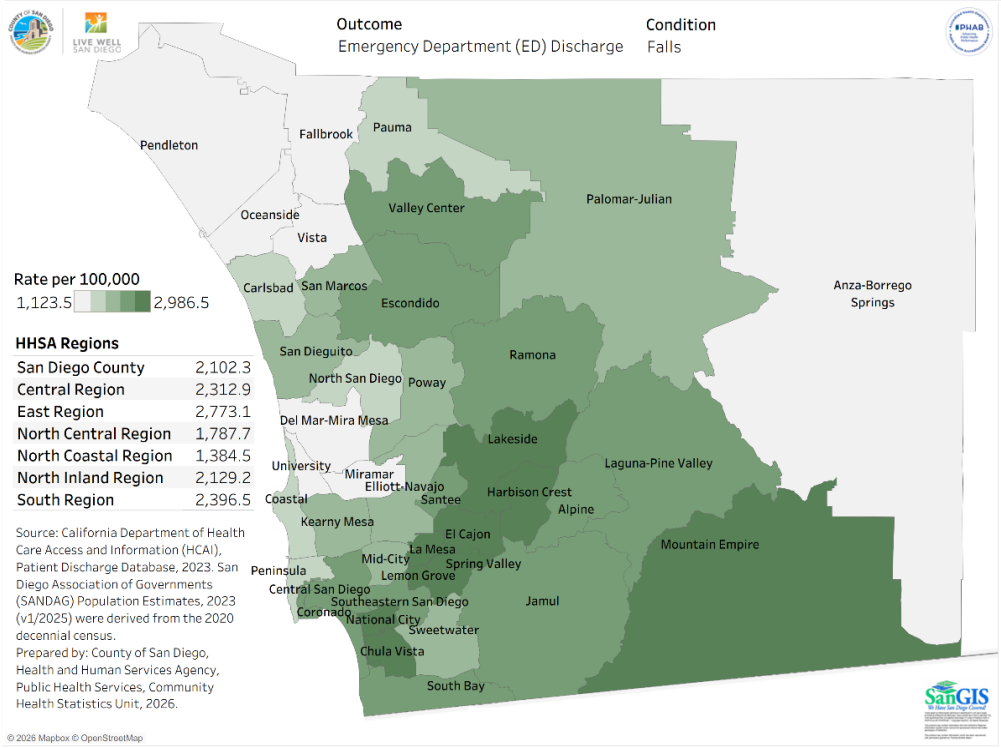
Figure 21: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, North Coastal Region had the highest death rate due to falls (15.9 per 100,000), followed by North Inland Region (15.0 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRAs) in San Diego County, Escondido had the highest death rate due to falls (19.2 per 100,000).

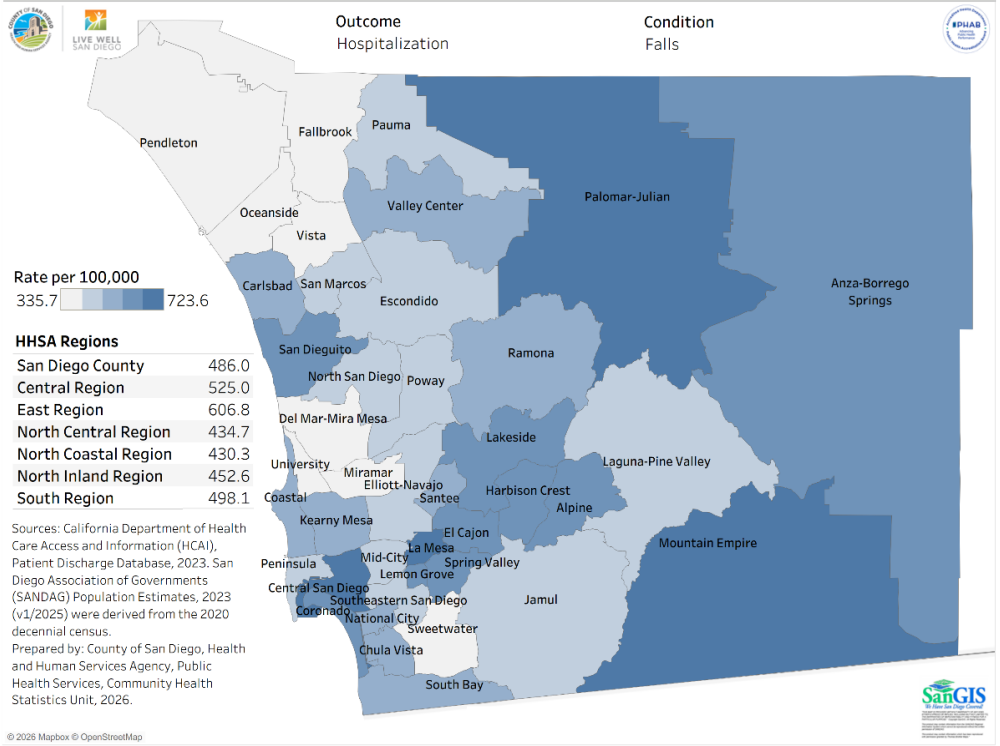
Figure 22: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to falls (2,773.1 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, El Cajon had the highest ED discharge rate due to falls (2,986.5 per 100,000), followed by Mountain Empire (2,882,9 per 100,000).

Figure 23: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Falls by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to falls (606.8 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Mountain Empire had the highest hospitalization rate due to falls (723.6 per 100,000), followed by Palomar-Julian (703.8 per 100,000).

Firearm

Key Findings

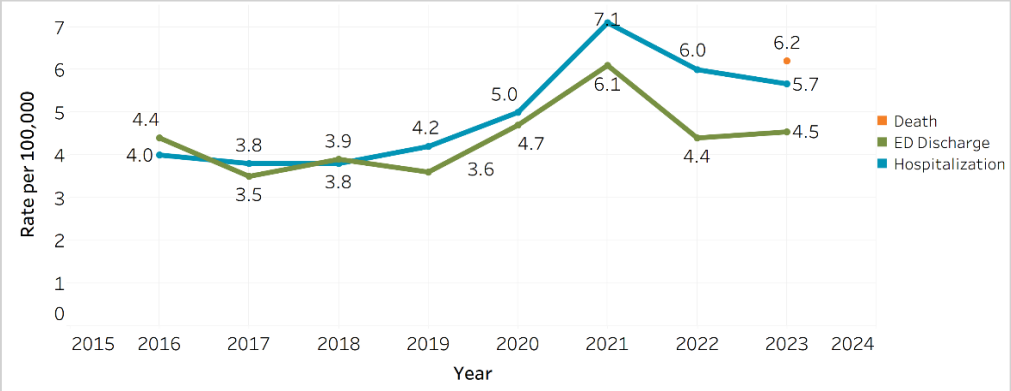
- In 2023, firearm-related injuries accounted for 215 deaths, 145 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 183 hospitalizations in San Diego County.
- From 2016 to 2021, age-adjusted ED discharge and hospitalization rates for firearm injuries rose by 39% and 78%, respectively, before declining by 26% and 20% by 2023.
- Males had higher firearm-related outcomes than females and the county overall, with death, ED discharge, and hospitalization rates up to 7.7 times higher than females and nearly twice the county overall.
- Firearm-related death rates were highest among non-Hispanic (NH) Whites, while NH Blacks had the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates.
- Older adults aged 80+ years were most affected by firearm-related deaths, while young adults aged 20-29 years experienced the greatest burden of nonfatal injuries.
- In San Diego County, firearm-related death rates were highest in East Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, while ED discharge and hospitalization rates were highest in Central Region.

Overview

Firearm-related injuries involve penetrated wounds caused by the firing of a bullet or other projectile shot from a powder-charged gun. Powder-charged guns include handguns, shotguns, rifles, and other firearms. Firearm-related injuries do not include injuries caused by paintball guns, nail guns, or other air powered guns.[3]

Trends

Figure 24: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Firearm, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

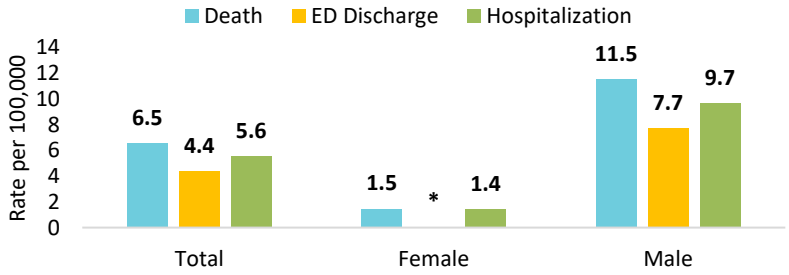


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- In San Diego County, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for firearm injuries increased from 4.4 per 100,000 in 2016 to 6.1 per 100,000 in 2021 (+39%), then decreased to 4.5 per 100,000 in 2023 (-26%), returning near the 2016 level.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to firearm increased by 78% from 4.0 per 100,000 in 2016 to a peak of 7.1 per 100,000 in 2021, then decreased by 20% to 5.7 per 100,000 in 2023.

Firearm by Sex

Figure 25: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



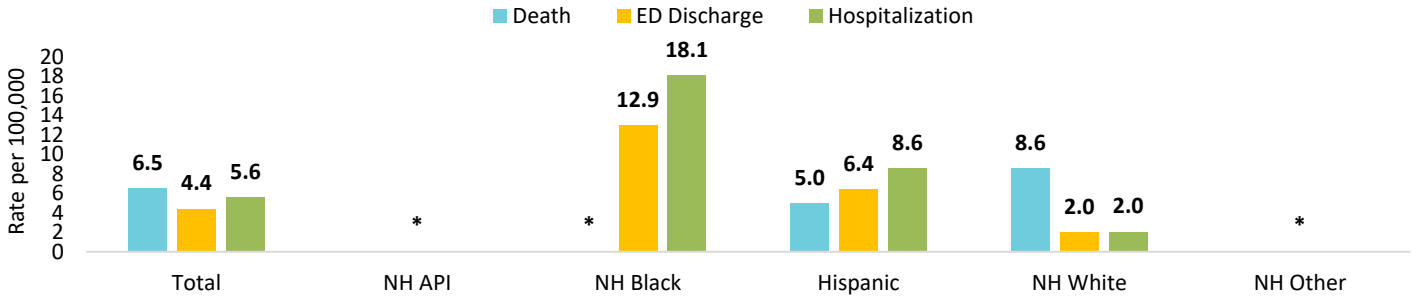
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males (11.5 per 100,000) had a death rate due to firearm that was 7.7 times higher than females (1.5 per 100,000) and 1.8 times higher than the county overall (6.5 per 100,000).
- Male residents in San Diego County had an ED discharge rate due to firearm of 7.7 per 100,000, which was 1.8 times higher than the county overall (4.4 per 100,000).
- The rate of hospitalization due to firearm for males (9.7 per 100,000) was 6.9 times higher than females (1.4 per 100,000) and 1.7 times higher than the county overall (5.6 per 100,000).

Firearm by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 26: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



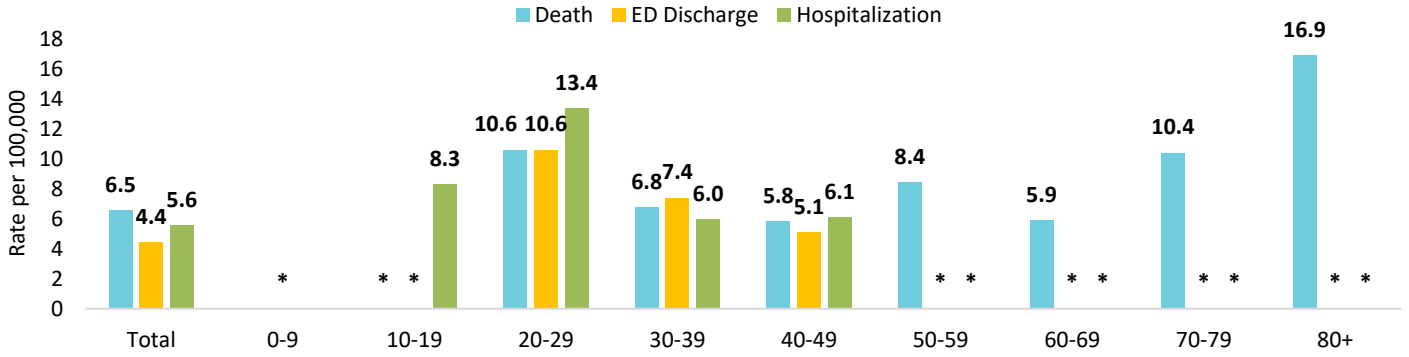
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, firearm-related death rates were highest for NH White residents in San Diego County (8.6 per 100,000), followed by Hispanic residents (5.0 per 100,000).
- NH Black and Hispanic residents experienced higher firearm-related ED discharge rates than the county overall. The ED discharge rate due to firearm among NH Black residents was 12.9 per 100,000, which was 2.9 times higher than the county overall (4.4 per 100,000).
- NH Black and Hispanic residents both had higher hospitalization rates due to firearm than the county overall. The hospitalization rate due to firearm among NH Black residents (18.1 per 100,000) was 3.2 times higher than the county overall (5.6 per 100,000).

Firearm by Age Group

Figure 27: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Residents aged 20-29, 30-39, 50-59, 70-79, and 80+ years had firearm-related death rates higher than the county overall, with those aged 80+ years having the highest rate. The death rate due to firearm among residents 80+ years (16.9 per 100,000) was 2.6 times higher than the overall county (6.5 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 20-29 years had higher firearm-related ED discharge (10.6 per 100,000) and hospitalization (13.4 per 100,000) rates than any other age group and the county overall.
- The rates of ED discharge and hospitalization due to firearms for residents aged 20-29 years were both 2.4 times higher than the county overall (4.4 per 100,000 and 5.6 per 100,000, respectively).

Firearm by Geography

Table 1: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	6.5
Central Region	7.6
East Region	8.6
North Central Region	4.6
North Coastal Region	5.3
North Inland Region	7.4
South Region	5.7

Sources: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023, among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest death rate due to firearm (8.6 per 100,000), which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (6.5 per 100,000).

Table 2: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates* (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	4.4
Central Region	11.3
East Region	5.1
North Central Region	
North Coastal Region	
North Inland Region	
South Region	5.3

*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.

Sources: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

Central Region residents experienced the highest ED discharge rate due to firearm at a rate of 11.3 per 100,000. The ED discharge rate due to firearm in East Region was 2.6 times higher than the county overall (4.4 per 100,000).

Table 3: Hospitalization Rates* (per 100,000) due to Firearm by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	5.6
Central Region	10.5
East Region	7.2
North Central Region	
North Coastal Region	
North Inland Region	3.3
South Region	9.9

*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.

Sources: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

Central Region residents had the highest hospitalization rate due to firearm (10.5 per 100,000). The hospitalization rate due to firearm in Central Region was almost 2.0 times higher than the county overall (5.6 per 100,000).

Heat Illness/Injury

Key Findings

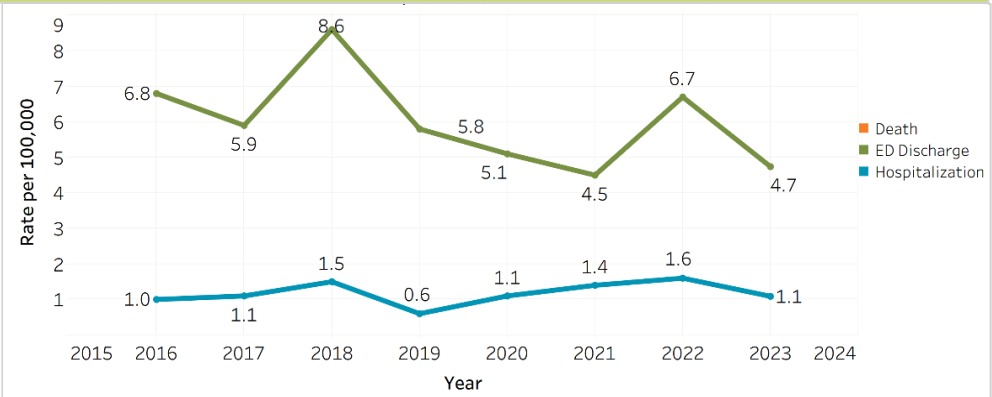
- In 2023, San Diego County had a total of 158 emergency department (ED) discharges and 41 hospitalizations due to heat illness/injury.
- Males had higher heat illness/injury-related morbidity rates than females and the county overall.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Whites had the highest ED discharge rates for heat illness/injury, followed by Hispanics.
- Residents aged 40–49 years experienced the highest ED discharge rates for heat-related illness.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, ED discharge rates due to heat illness/injury were highest in East Region of San Diego County.

Overview

Heat illness/injury ranges from mild to severe and includes heat cramps, heat syncope (fainting), heat exhaustion, and heat stroke and sunstroke.

Trends

Figure 28: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Heat Illness/Injury, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

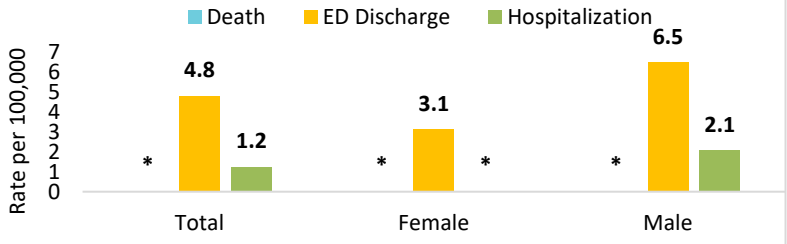


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- In San Diego County, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for heat illness/injury showed a fluctuating pattern between 2016 and 2023, peaking in 2018 (8.6 per 100,000), declining steadily through 2021 (4.5 per 100,000), rising again in 2022 (6.7 per 100,000), and then decreasing in 2023 (4.7 per 100,000).
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for heat illness/injury remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2023, with increases observed in 2018 (1.5 per 100,000) and 2022 (1.6 per 100,000), mirroring the trend seen in age-adjusted ED discharge rates.

Heat Illness/Injury by Sex

Figure 29: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Heat Illness/Injury by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



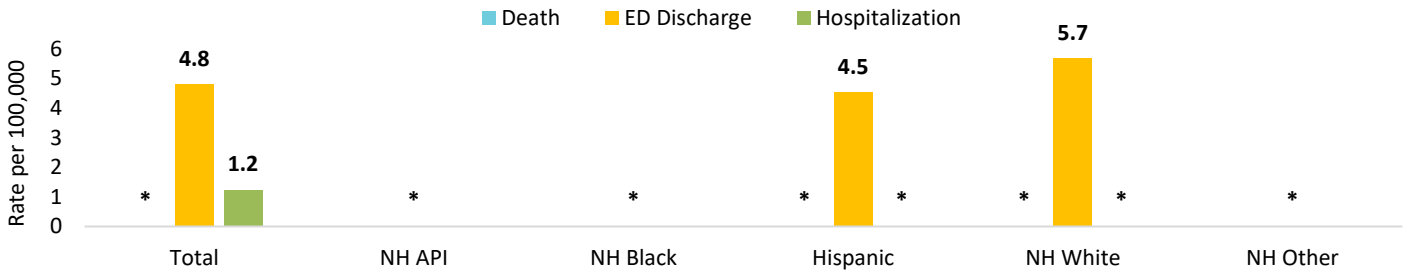
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males (6.5 per 100,000) had an ED discharge rate due to heat illness/injury that was 2.0 times higher than females (3.1 per 100,000) and 1.4 times higher than the county overall (4.8 per 100,000).
- The hospitalization rate due to heat illness/injury for males was 2.1 per 100,000, which was 1.8 times higher than the county overall (1.2 per 100,000).

Heat Illness/Injury by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 30: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Heat Illness/Injury by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



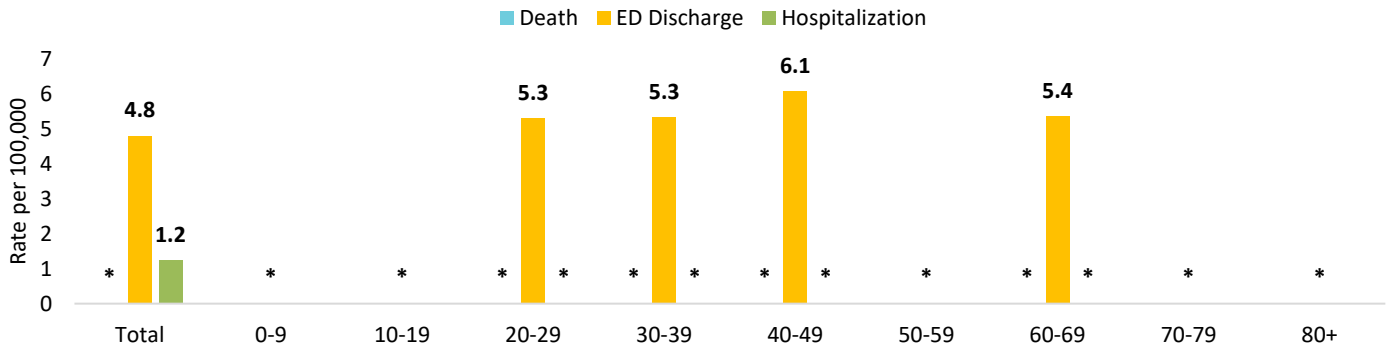
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, NH White residents experienced the highest ED discharge rate due to heat illness (5.7 per 100,000), which was 1.2 times higher than the county overall (4.8 per 100,000).
- Hispanic residents had the second highest ED discharge rate due to heat illness, at a rate of 4.5 per 100,000.

Heat Illness/Injury by Age Group

Figure 31: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Heat Illness/Injury by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, heat illness/injury-related ED discharge rates were highest for residents aged 40-49 years (6.1 per 100,000), which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (4.8 per 100,000).
- Additionally, residents aged 20-29, 30-39, and 60-69 years had ED discharge rates due to heat illness/injury that were higher than the county overall.

Heat Illness/Injury by Geography

Table 4: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates* (per 100,000) due to Heat Illness/Injury by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	4.8
Central Region	
East Region	8.0
North Central Region	
North Coastal Region	
North Inland Region	6.9
South Region	6.1

*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.

Sources: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

The ED discharge rate due to heat illness/injury in East Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region was 8.0 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (4.8 per 100,000).

Hip Fractures

Key Findings

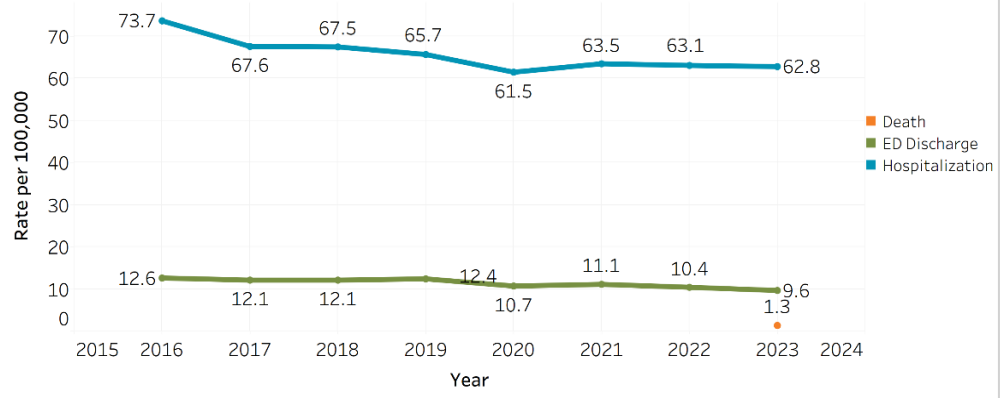
- In 2023, hip fractures accounted for 58 deaths, 404 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 2,651 hospitalizations in San Diego County.
- Age-adjusted ED discharge and hospitalization rates for hip fractures decreased by 24% and 15%, respectively, from 2016 to 2023.
- Females had higher ED discharge and hospitalization rates for hip fractures compared to males and the county overall, while death rates were comparable between sexes.
- The non-Hispanic (NH) White population had the highest burden of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization due to hip fractures.
- The rates of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization due to hip fractures increased with age.
- In San Diego County, among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, hip fractures-related ED discharge rates were highest in North Inland Region, while hospitalization rates were highest in East Region.

Overview

Falls are a leading cause of injury and can result in hip fractures in older adults. Hip fractures are one of the most serious injuries sustained from a fall and can cause permanent disability.[4]

Trends

Figure 32: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

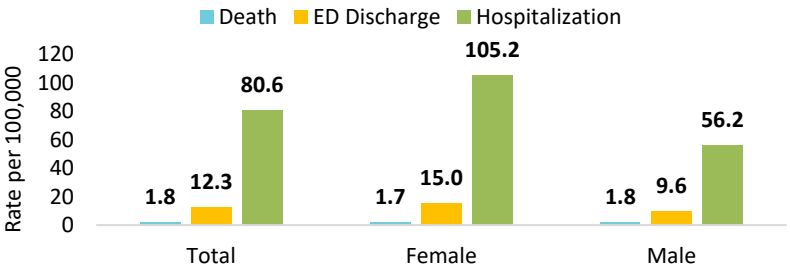


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate due to hip fractures in San Diego County decreased by 24% from 12.6 per 100,000 in 2016 to 9.6 per 100,000 in 2023.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for hip fractures decreased from 73.7 per 100,000 in 2016 to 62.8 per 100,000 in 2023 (-15%).

Hip Fractures by Sex

Figure 33: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



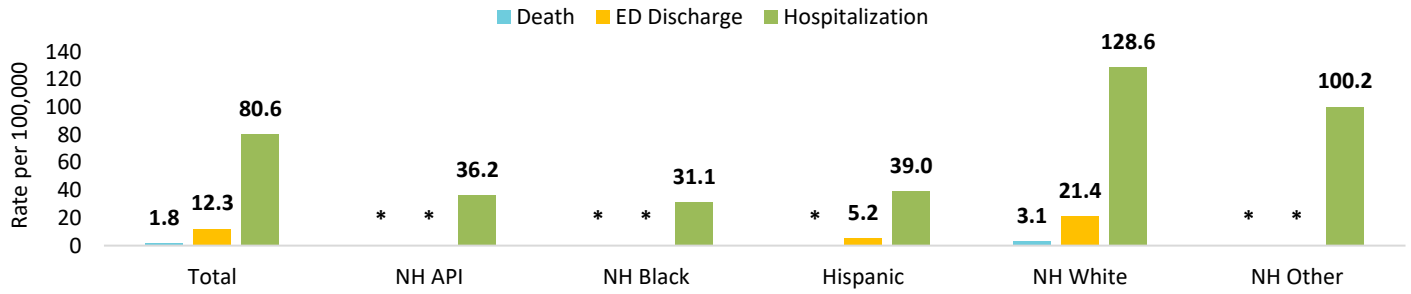
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males and females had comparable death rates due to hip fractures (1.8 per 100,000 and 1.7 per 100,000, respectively) to the county overall (1.8 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to hip fractures for females (15.0 per 100,000) was 1.6 and 1.2 times higher, respectively, than males (9.6 per 100,000) and the county overall (12.3 per 100,000).
- Females had a hospitalization rate for hip fractures that was 1.9 times higher than the hospitalization rate of males.

Hip Fractures by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 34: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



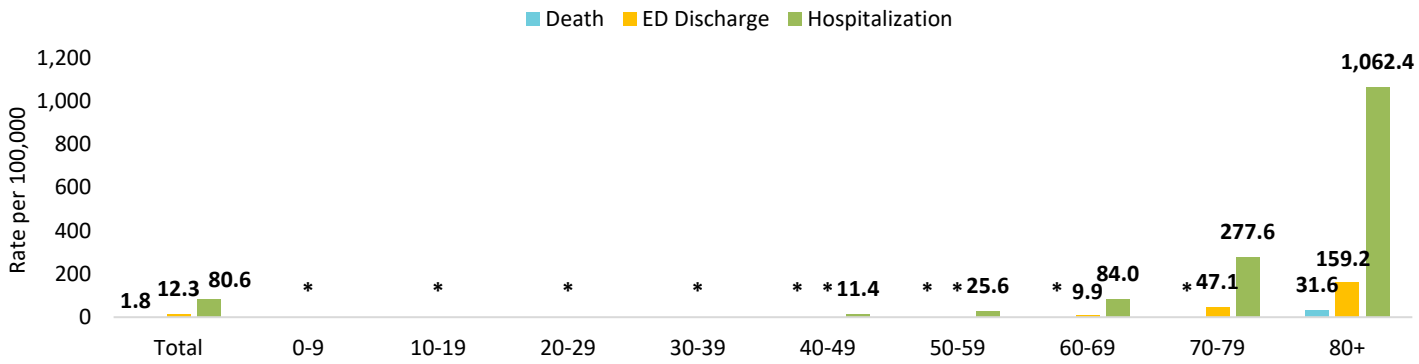
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- The death rate due to hip fractures for NH White residents in San Diego County (3.1 per 100,000) was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (1.8 per 100,000).
- Among all races/ethnicities, NH White residents experienced the highest rate of ED discharge due to hip fractures (21.4 per 100,000), which was 1.7 times greater than the county overall (12.3 per 100,000).
- NH White and NH Other residents had higher hospitalization rates due to hip fractures (128.6 per 100,000 and 100.2 per 100,000, respectively) than the county overall (80.6 per 100,000). The hospitalization rates among NH White and NH Other residents were 1.6 and 1.2 times, respectively, higher than San Diego County overall.

Hip Fractures by Age Group

Figure 35: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



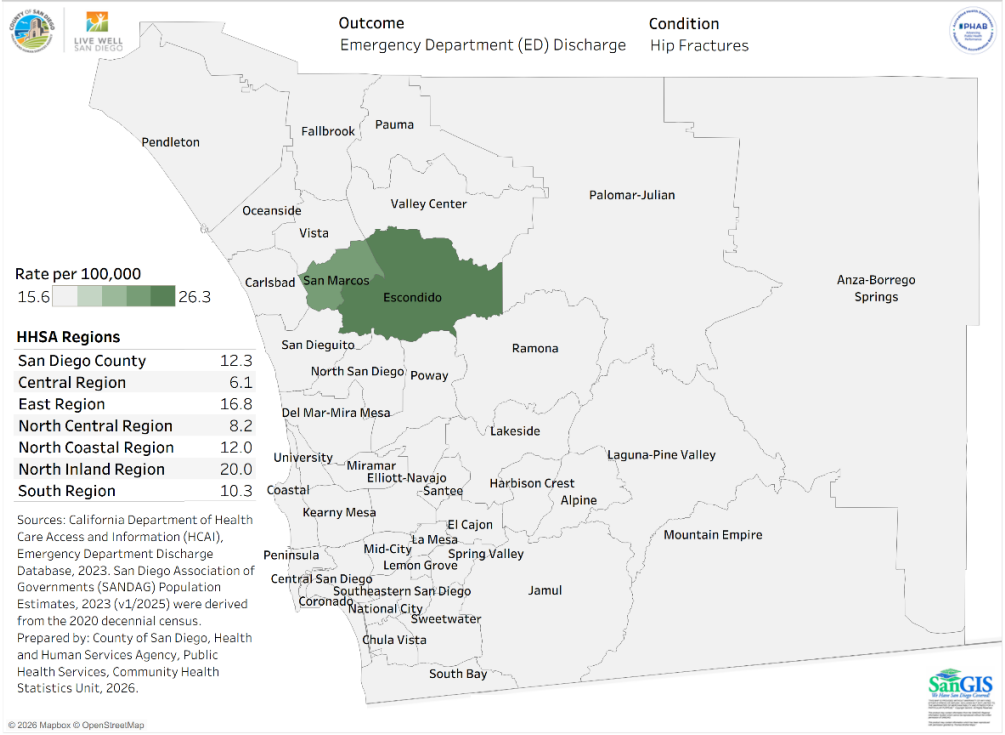
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, the death rate due to hip fractures was highest for older residents aged 80 years and older (31.6 per 100,000), which was 18.0 times higher than the county overall (1.8 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 70-79 and 80+ years had ED discharge rates due to hip fractures that were higher than the county overall. The ED discharge rates due to hip fractures for residents aged 70-79 (47.1 per 100,000) and 80+ years (159.2 per 100,000) were 3.8 and 12.9 times, respectively, higher than the county overall (12.3 per 100,00).
- Residents aged 60+ years had hip fracture hospitalization rates that were higher than the county overall, with residents aged 80+ years having the highest rate. The hospitalization rate due to hip fractures among residents 80+ years was 1,062.4 per 100,000, which was 13.2 times higher than the county overall (80.6 per 100,000).

Hip Fractures by Geography

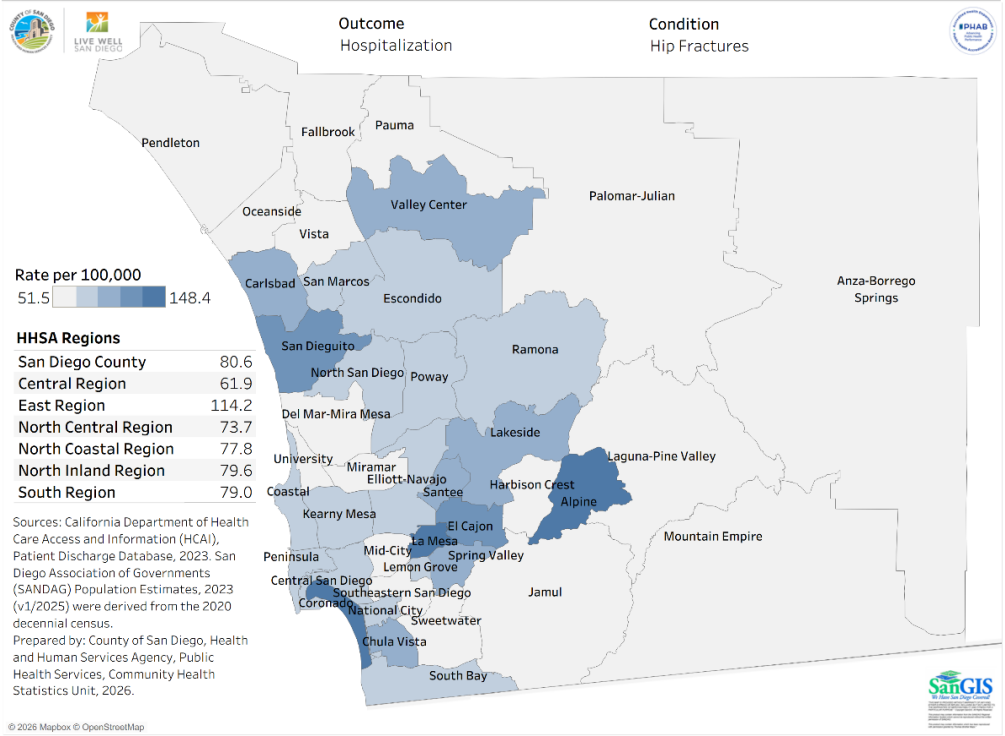
Figure 36: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, North Inland Region residents experienced the highest ED discharge rate due to hip fractures (20.0 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to hip fractures in Escondido subregional area (SRA) was 26.3 per 100,000), which was 2.1 times higher than the county overall (12.3 per 100,000).

Figure 37: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Hip Fractures by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to hip fractures (114.2 per 100,000). The hospitalization rate due to hip fractures in East Region was 1.4 times higher than the county overall.
- Among SRAs, La Mesa had the highest hospitalization rate due to hip fractures (148.4 per 100,000), followed by Alpine (146.4 per 100,000).

Motor Vehicle Injuries

Key Findings

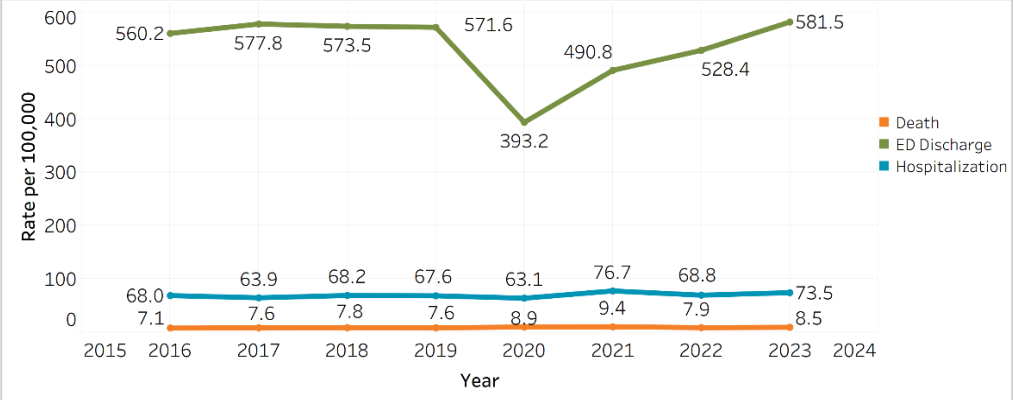
- In 2023, motor vehicle injuries in San Diego County resulted in 291 deaths, 18,918 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 2,512 hospitalizations.
- Age-adjusted rates of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization for motor vehicle injuries generally increased from 2016 to 2023.
- Males had a higher burden of deaths and hospitalizations due to motor vehicle injuries than females and the county overall.
- The non-Hispanic (NH) Black population had the highest motor vehicle injuries death rate, while NH Other residents experienced the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates.
- Adults aged 20-29 years experienced the highest rates of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization from motor vehicle injuries.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, motor vehicle injuries rates were highest in North Inland Region for deaths, East Region for ED discharges, and Central Region for hospitalizations.

Overview

Motor vehicle injuries include injuries sustained by people (i.e. pedestrians, pedal cyclists, motorcycle riders, occupants, etc.) involved in motor vehicle crashes (traffic and non-traffic accidents) on public roads.[3]

Trends

Figure 38: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

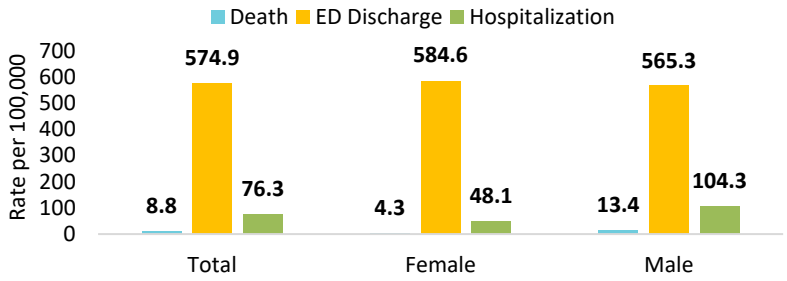


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- The age-adjusted death rate for motor vehicle injuries in San Diego County increased by 20% from 7.1 per 100,000 in 2016 to 8.5 per 100,000 in 2023.
- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate for motor vehicle injuries decreased by 30% from 2016 to 2020, reaching its lowest level in 2020, and increased by 48% from 2020 to 2023.
- There was a 8% increase in the age-adjusted hospitalization rate for motor vehicle injuries from 2016 to 2023.

Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex

Figure 39: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



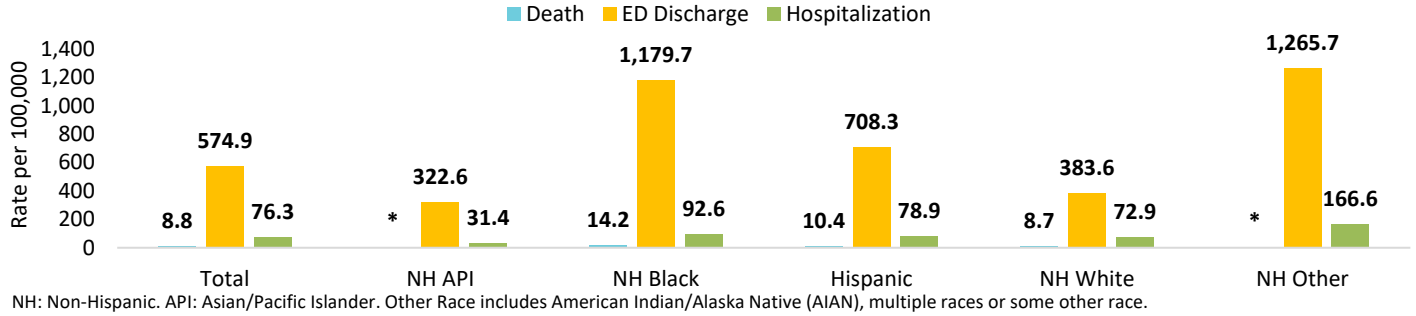
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had a death rate due to motor vehicle injuries (13.4 per 100,000) that was 3.1 times higher than females (4.3 per 100,000) and 1.5 times higher than the county overall (8.8 per 100,000).
- Females and males had comparable motor vehicle injuries ED discharge rates to the county overall (574.9 per 100,000), with females having a slightly higher rate (584.6 per 100,000) and males having a slightly lower rate (565.3 per 100,000).
- The hospitalization rate due to motor vehicle injuries among males was 104.3 per 100,000, which was 2.2 and 1.4 times, respectively, higher than females (48.1 per 100,000) and the county overall (76.3 per 100,000).

Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 40: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



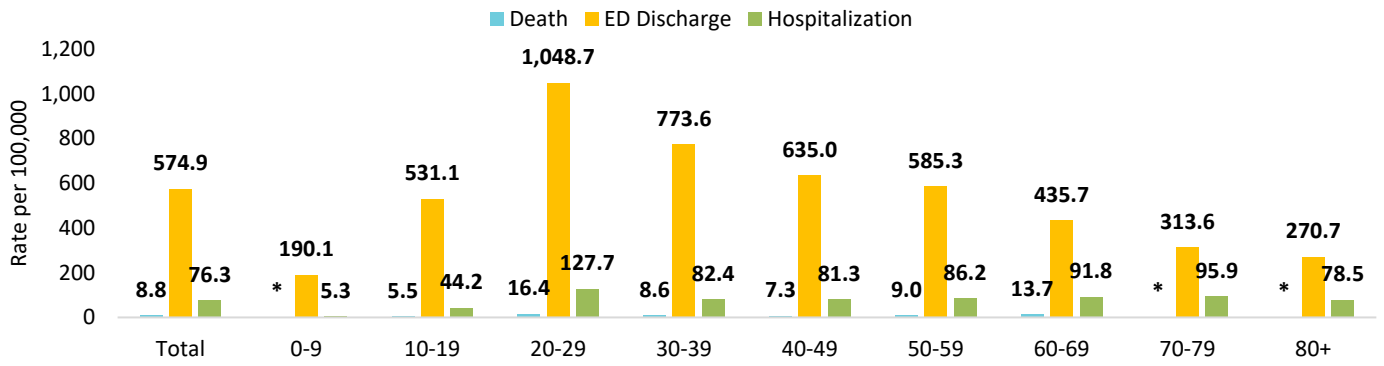
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- The death rate due to motor vehicle injuries for NH Black residents in San Diego County (14.2 per 100,000) was 1.6 times higher than the county overall (8.8 per 100,000).
- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had ED discharge rates due to motor vehicle injuries that were higher than the county overall, with NH Other having the highest rate. NH Other residents had an ED discharge rate (1,265.7 per 100,000) that was 2.2 times higher than the county overall (574.9 per 100,000).
- Additionally, those same racial/ethnic groups experienced higher hospitalization rates due to motor vehicle injuries, with NH Other residents experiencing the highest rate. The hospitalization rate due to motor vehicle injuries among NH Other residents was 166.6 per 100,000, which was 2.2 times higher than the county overall (76.3 per 100,000).

Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group

Figure 41: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, the death rate due to motor vehicle injuries was highest for residents aged 20-29 years (16.4 per 100,000), followed by residents aged 60-69 years (13.7 per 100,000). The death rate due to motor vehicle injuries among residents aged 20-29 years was 1.9 times higher than the county overall (8.8 per 100,000).
- Residents between the age range 20-59 years had higher ED discharge rates due to motor vehicle injuries compared to the county overall, with those aged 20-29 years having the highest rate. Residents aged 20-29 years had an ED discharge rate due to motor vehicle injuries of 1,048.7 per 100,000, which was 1.8 times higher than the county overall (574.9 per 100,000).
- All age groups, except those aged 0-9 and 10-19 years, had higher hospitalization rates due to motor vehicle injuries than the county overall. Residents aged 20-29 years had the highest hospitalization rate due to motor vehicle injuries at 127.7 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (76.3 per 100,000).

Motor Vehicle Injuries by Geography

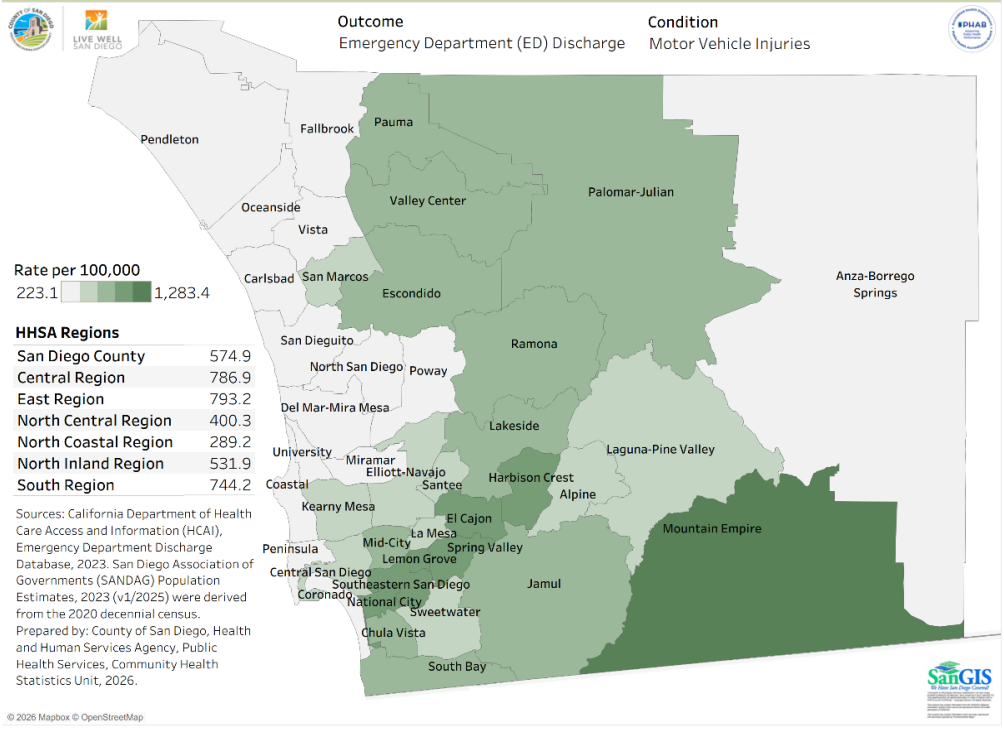
Table 5: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	8.8
Central Region	8.8
East Region	10.2
North Central Region	5.3
North Coastal Region	8.7
North Inland Region	11.7
South Region	7.7

Sources: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

The death rate due to motor vehicle injuries in North Inland Region was 11.7 per 100,000, which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (8.8 per 100,000).

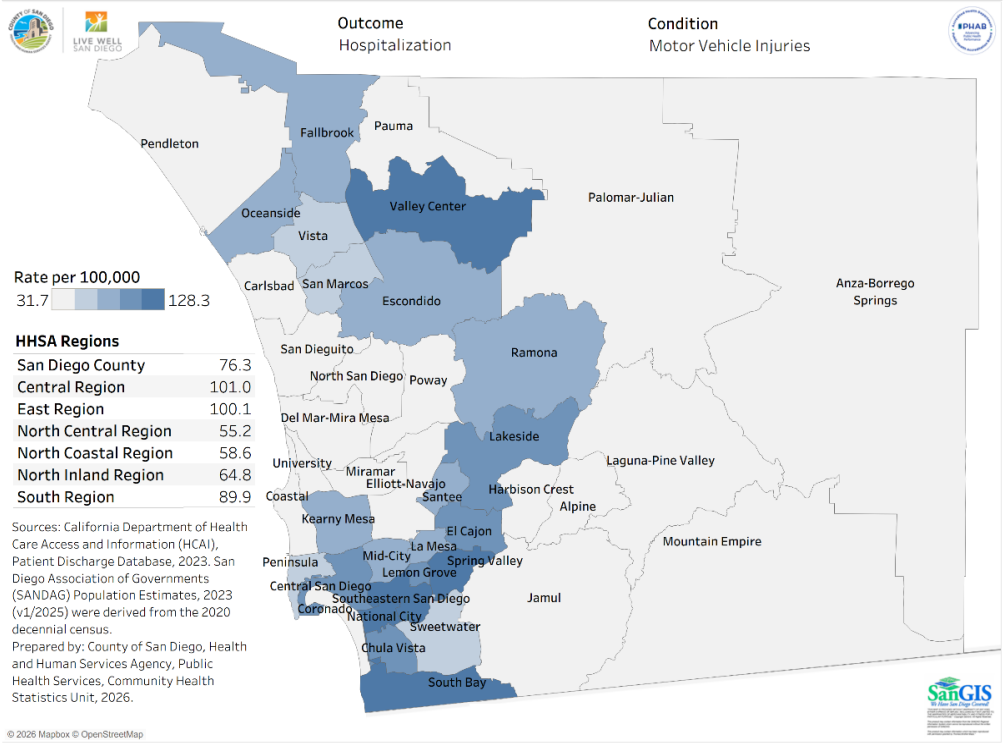
Figure 42: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to motor vehicle injuries (793.2 per 100,000), followed by Central Region (786.9 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to motor vehicle injuries in Mountain Empire subregional area (SRA) was 1,283.4 per 100,000, which was 2.2 times higher than the county overall (574.9 per 100,000).

Figure 43: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Motor Vehicle Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest hospitalization due to motor vehicle injuries (101.0 per 100,000), followed by East Region (100.1 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, National City had the highest hospitalization rate due to motor vehicle injuries (128.3 per 100,000), followed by Southeastern San Diego (111.2 per 100,000).

Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries

Key Findings

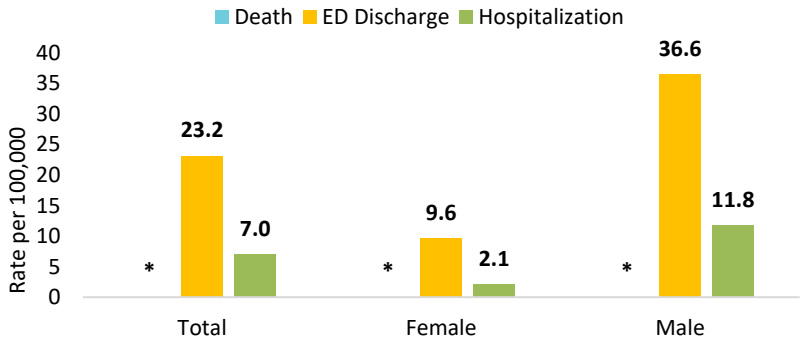
- In 2023, pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries accounted for 762 emergency department (ED) discharges and 231 hospitalizations in San Diego County.
- Males had higher ED discharge and hospitalization rates for pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries compared to females and the county overall.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Other residents experienced the highest rate of ED discharge due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries, while the NH White population had the highest hospitalization rate.
- Those aged 10-19 years had the highest ED discharge rate, whereas adults aged 60-69 years had the highest hospitalization rate for pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries.
- In San Diego County, among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, South Region had the highest ED discharge rate and North Coastal Region had the highest hospitalization rate for pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries.

Overview

Pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries are injuries sustained by a pedal cycle rider due to a collision, loss of control, crash, or an incident involving a moving vehicle.[3]

Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex

Figure 44: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



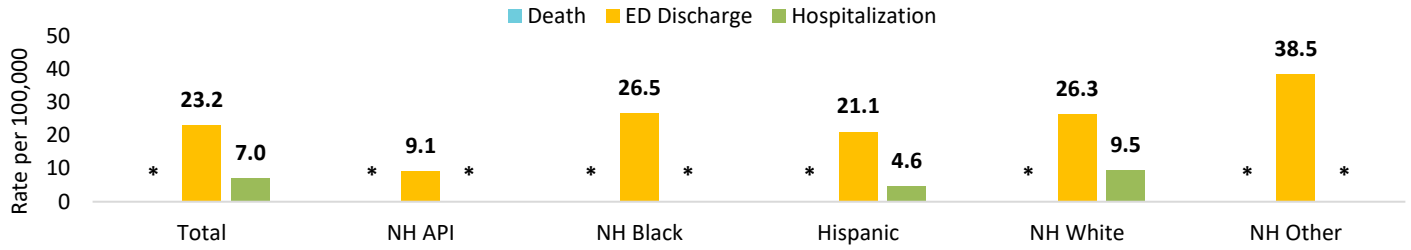
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had higher age-adjusted ED discharge and hospitalization rates due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries than females and the county overall.
- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries among males was 36.6 per 100,000, which was 3.8 times higher than females (9.6 per 100,000) and 1.6 times higher than the county overall (23.2 per 100,000).
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries among males (11.8 per 100,000) was 5.6 times higher than females (2.1 per 100,000) and 1.7 times higher than the county overall (7.0 per 100,000).

Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 45: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



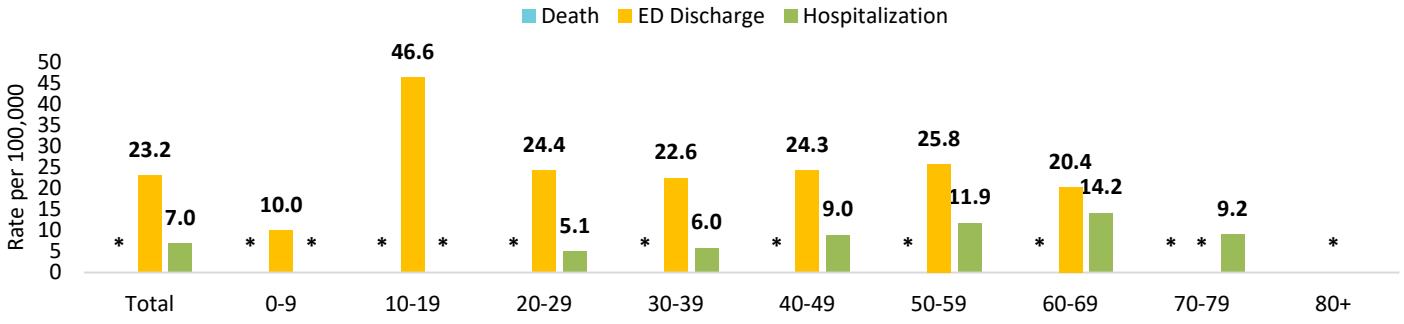
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Black, NH White, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries compared to the county overall. NH Other residents had the highest ED discharge rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries (38.5 per 100,000) that was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (23.2 per 100,000).
- NH White had the highest hospitalization rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries (9.5 per 100,000), which was 1.4 times higher than the county overall (7.0 per 100,000).

Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group

Figure 46: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

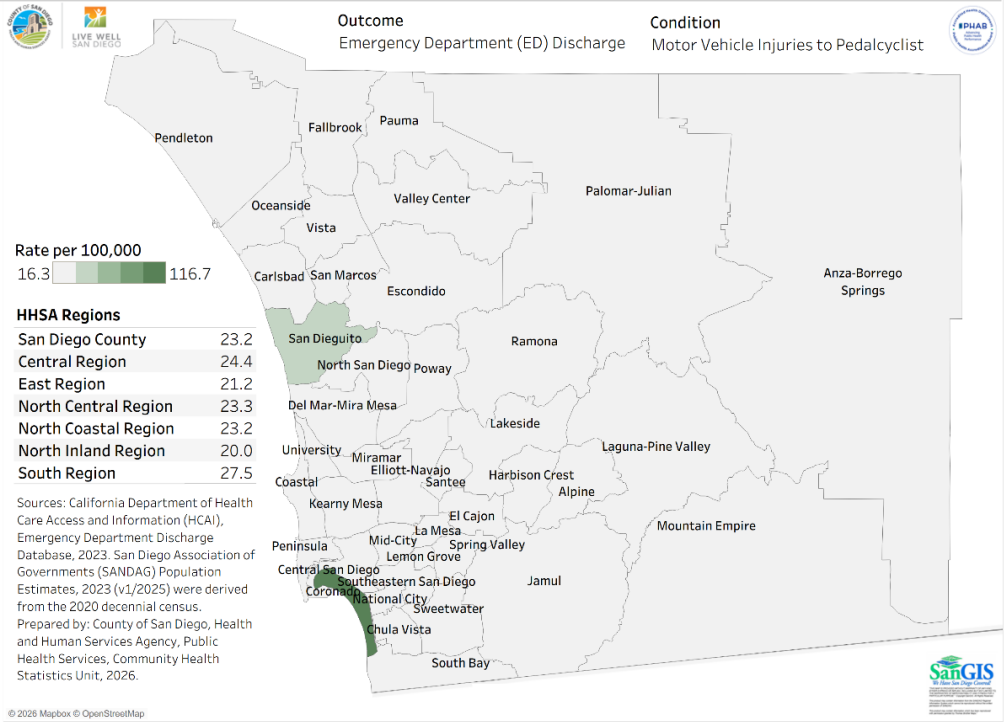
In 2023:

- Among all age groups, the ED discharge rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries was highest for residents aged 10-19 years (46.6 per 100,000), which was 2.0 times higher than the county overall (23.2 per 100,000).
- Residents in the age range of 40-79 years experienced higher hospitalization rates due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries compared to the county overall, with those aged 60-69 years with the highest

rate. The hospitalization rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries among those aged 60-69 years was 14.2 per 100,000, which was 2.0 times higher than the county overall (7.0 per 100,000).

Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Geography

Figure 47: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, residents in South Region experienced the highest ED discharge rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries (27.5 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries in Coronado subregional area (SRA) was 116.7 per 100,000, which was 5.0 times higher than the county overall (23.2 per 100,000).

Table 6: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedalcyclist-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.

San Diego County	7.0
Central Region	7.4
East Region	6.1
North Central Region	7.8
North Coastal Region	8.7
North Inland Region	6.6
South Region	5.3

Sources: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

North Coastal Region residents had the highest hospitalization rate due to pedalcyclist-related motor vehicle injuries (8.7 per 100,000), followed by North Central Region residents (7.8 per 100,000).

Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries

Key Findings

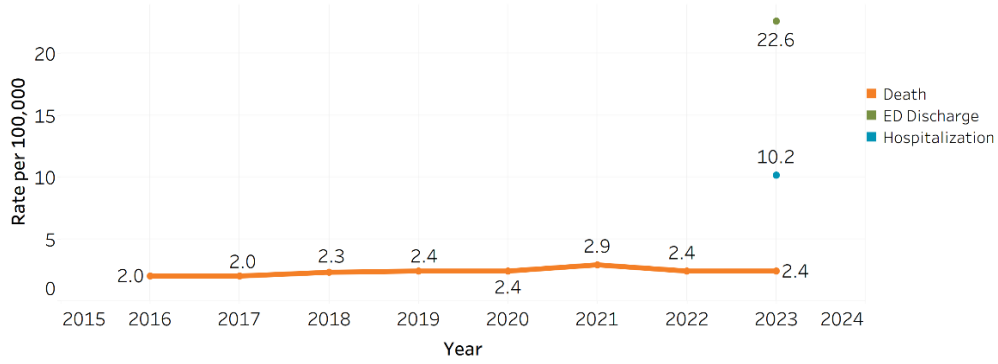
- In 2023, San Diego County had 82 deaths, 744 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 355 hospitalizations resulting from pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries.
- From 2016 to 2023 in San Diego County, the age-adjusted death rate for pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries rose by 20%.
- Males were more likely than females to die, be hospitalized, or receive ED treatment for pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries.
- Pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries rates were highest among Hispanics for deaths, NH Black residents for ED discharges, and NH Other residents for hospitalizations.
- Residents aged 10-19 years had the highest ED discharge rate, while those aged 60-69 years had the highest hospitalization rate for pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries.
- In San Diego County, among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates for pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries.

Overview

Pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries refer to harm sustained by a pedestrian as a result of a collision, crash, loss of vehicle control, or any incident involving a moving motor vehicle. Pedestrians may be on foot or on a rolling-type conveyance (skateboard, electric scooter, roller skates, etc.) at the time of their accident.[3]

Trends

Figure 48: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

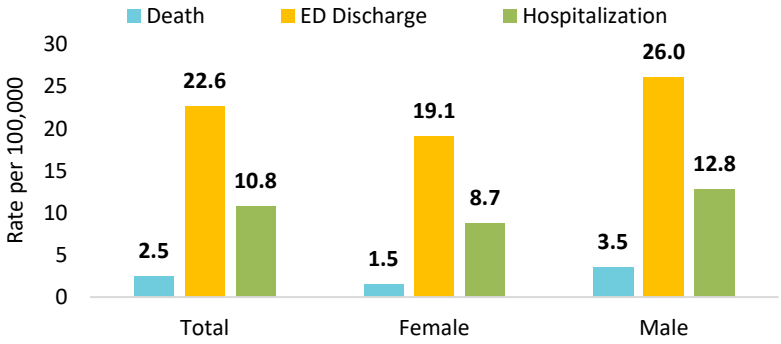


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- The age-adjusted death rate for pedestrian-related motor vehicle injures in San Diego County increased by 20% from 2.0 per 100,000 in 2016 to 2.4 per 100,000 in 2023.

Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex

Figure 49: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



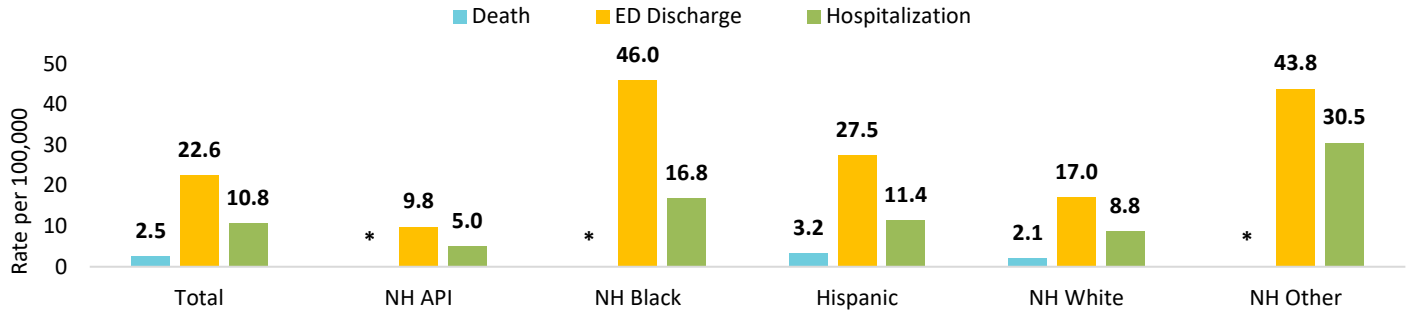
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- The death rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries among male residents was 3.5 per 100,000, which was 2.3 times higher than females (1.5 per 100,000) and 1.4 times higher than the county overall (2.5 per 100,000).
- Males had an ED discharge rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (26.0 per 100,000) that was 1.4 times higher than females (19.1 per 100,000) and 1.2 times higher than the county overall (22.6 per 100,000).
- Additionally, males had a higher hospitalization rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (12.8 per 100,000) than females (8.7 per 100,000) and the county overall (10.8 per 100,000).

Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 50: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.

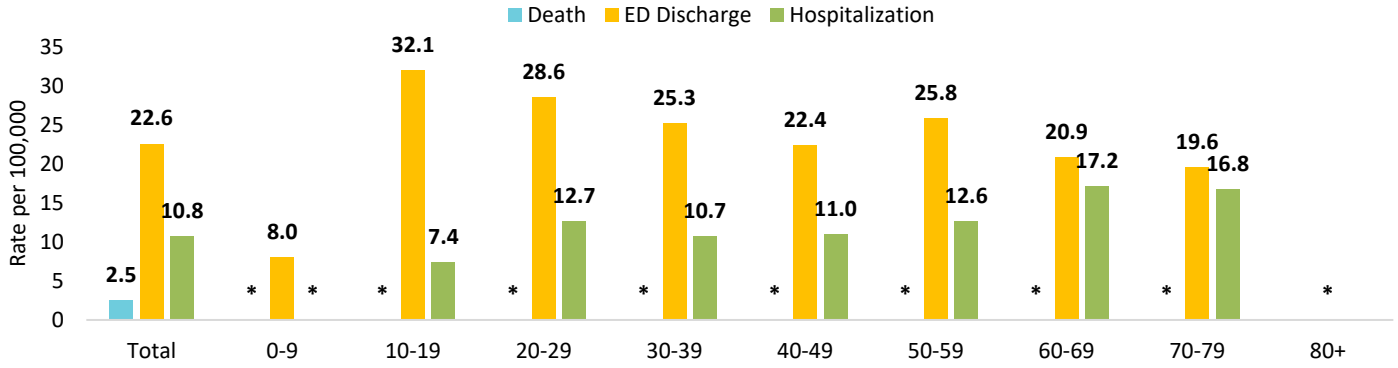
In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, Hispanic residents had the highest death rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (3.2 per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic (NH) White residents (2.1 per 100,000).
- NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries than the county overall, with NH Black having the highest rate at 46.0 per 100,000. The ED discharge rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries among NH Black residents was 2.0 times higher than the county overall (22.6 per 100,000).

- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Other residents experienced the highest hospitalization rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (30.5 per 100,000) and was 2.8 times higher than the county overall (10.8 per 100,000).

Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group

Figure 51: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



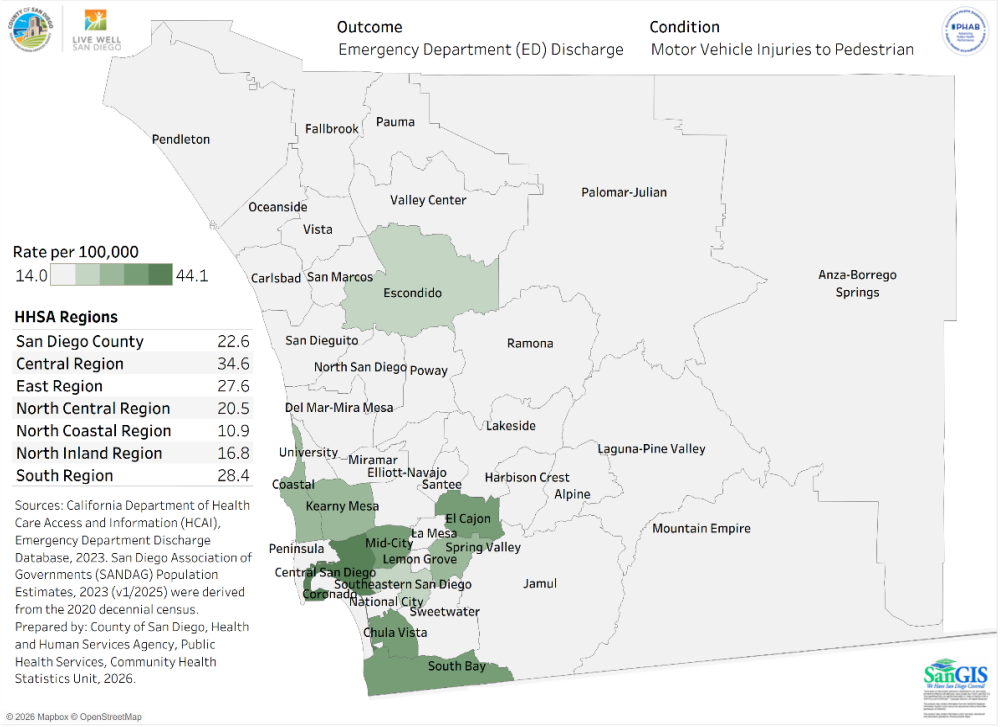
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, the ED discharge rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries was highest for residents aged 10-19 years (32.1 per 100,000), followed by those aged 20-29 years (28.6 per 100,000).
- Residents in the age range of 20-29 and 40-79 years experienced hospitalization rates due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries that were higher than the county overall, with those aged 60-69 years having the highest rate. The hospitalization rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries among those aged 60-69 years was 17.2 per 100,000, which was 1.6 times higher than the county overall (10.8 per 100,000).

Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Geography

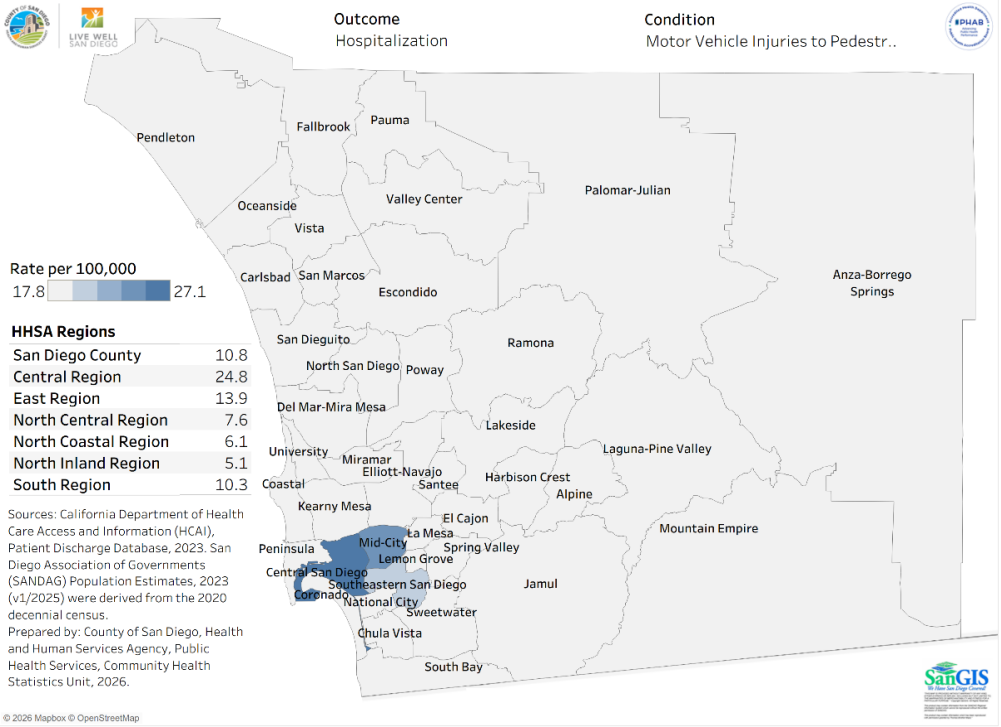
Figure 52: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (34.6 per 100,000).
- The ED discharge rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries in Central San Diego subregional area (SRA) was 44.1 per 100,000, which was 2.0 times higher than the county overall (22.6 per 100,000).

Figure 53: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Pedestrian-related Motor Vehicle Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest hospitalization due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (24.8 per 100,000), followed by East Region (13.9 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Central San Diego had the highest hospitalization rate due to pedestrian-related motor vehicle injuries (27.1 per 100,000), followed by Mid-City (24.5 per 100,000).

Poisoning

Key Findings

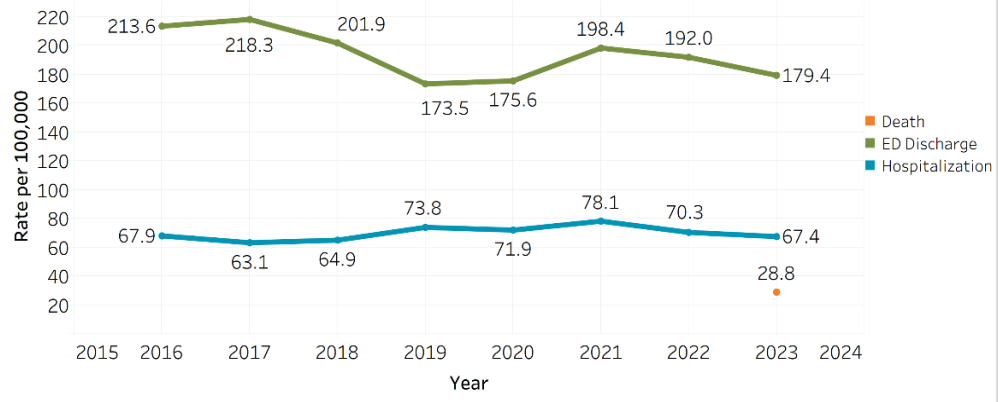
- In 2023, poisoning accounted for 977 deaths, 5,750 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 2,315 hospitalizations in San Diego County.
- Overall, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for poisoning decreased while the age-adjusted hospitalization rate remained stable.
- Males had higher poisoning-related health outcomes than females, with death and hospitalization rates up to three times higher than females.
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Black residents had the highest rates of poisoning deaths, ED discharges, and hospitalizations.
- By age group, the highest poisoning rates were observed among 50-59 years for deaths, 20-29 years for ED discharges, and 60-69 years for hospitalizations.
- Among the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions in San Diego County, poisoning-related death and ED discharge rates were highest in Central Region, while the hospitalization rate was highest in East Region.

Overview

Poisoning injuries are caused by the ingestion, inhalation, absorption through the skin, or injection of an excessive amount of a drug, toxin, substance, or chemical.[3]

Trends

Figure 54: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning, San Diego County, 2016-2023.



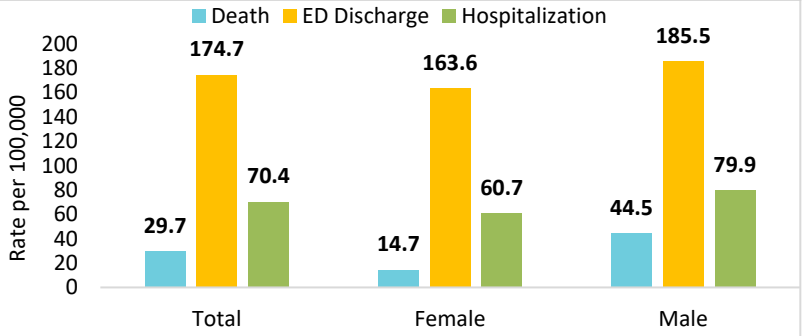
Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- In San Diego County, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate for poisoning fluctuated between 2016 and 2023, declining through 2019 (173.5 per 100,000), rising through 2021 (198.4 per 100,000), and then falling again by 2023 (179.4 per 100,000).
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for poisoning remained relatively stable from 2016 (67.9 per 100,000) to 2023 (67.4 per 100,000), with a slight increase between 2019 to 2021.

Poisoning by Sex

Figure 55: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



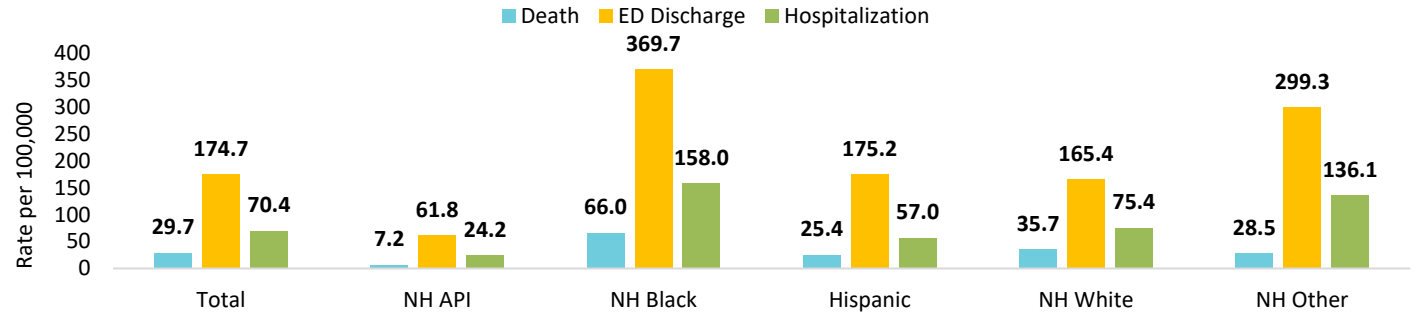
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- The death rate due to poisoning among male residents was 44.5 per 100,000, which was 3.0 times higher than females (14.7 per 100,000) and 1.5 times higher than the county overall (29.7 per 100,000).
- Females and males had comparable poisoning ED discharge rates to the county (174.7 per 100,000), with males having a slightly higher rate (185.5 per 100,000) and females having a slightly lower rate (163.6 per 100,000).
- Males had a hospitalization rate due to poisoning (79.9 per 100,000) that was 1.3 times higher than females (60.7 per 100,000).

Poisoning by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 56: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



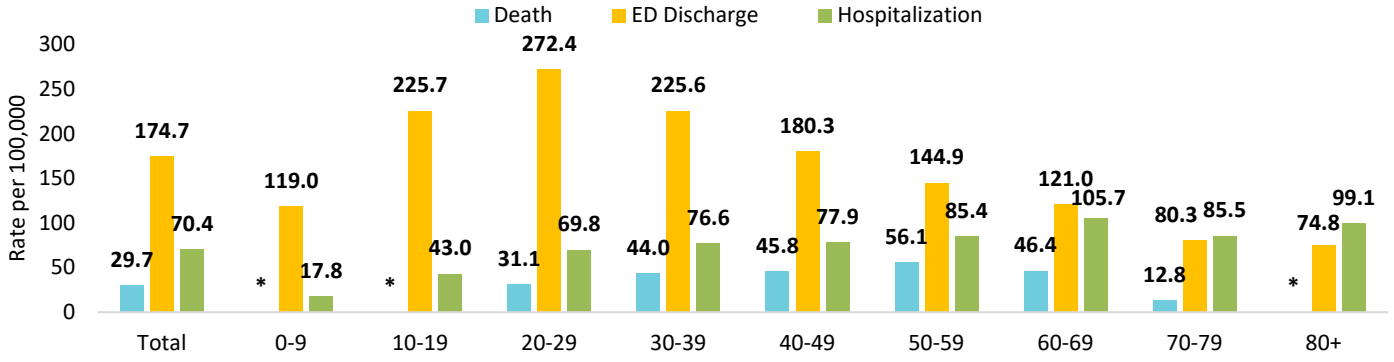
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Black and NH White residents experienced higher death rates due to poisoning than the county overall. The death rate due to poisoning among NH Black residents was 66.0 per 100,000, which was 2.2 times higher than the county overall (29.7 per 100,000).
- NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to poisoning than the county overall, with NH Black having the highest rate at 369.7 per 100,000. The ED discharge rate due to poisoning among NH Black residents was 2.1 times higher than the county overall (174.7 per 100,000).
- Among all races/ethnicities, NH Black residents experienced the highest hospitalization rate due to poisoning (158.0 per 100,000), which was 2.2 times higher than the county overall (70.4 per 100,000).

Poisoning by Age Group

Figure 57: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



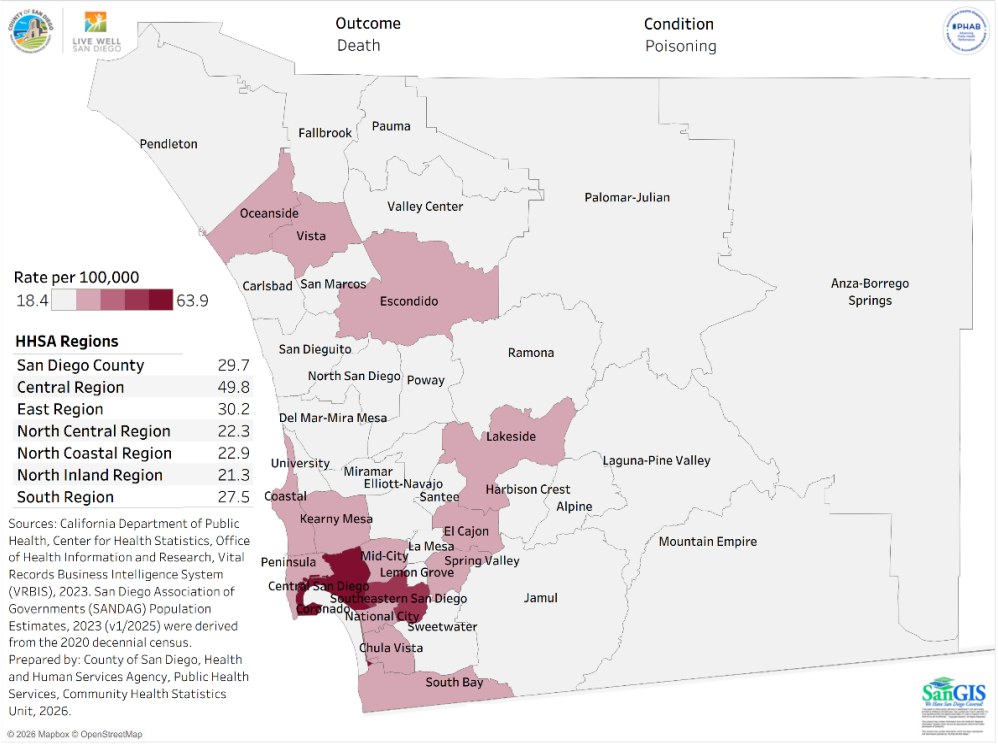
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Residents in the age range of 20-69 years experienced death rates due to poisoning that were higher than the county overall, with those aged 50-59 years having the highest rate. The death rate due to poisoning among those aged 50-59 years was 56.1 per 100,000, which was 1.9 times higher than the county overall (29.7 per 100,000).
- Among all age groups, residents aged 20-29 years had the highest ED discharge rate due to poisoning at 272.4 per 100,000, which was 1.6 times higher than the county overall (174.7 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 30+ years had higher poisoning hospitalization rates than the county overall, with those aged 60-69 years experiencing the highest rate at 105.7 per 100,000.

Poisoning by Geography

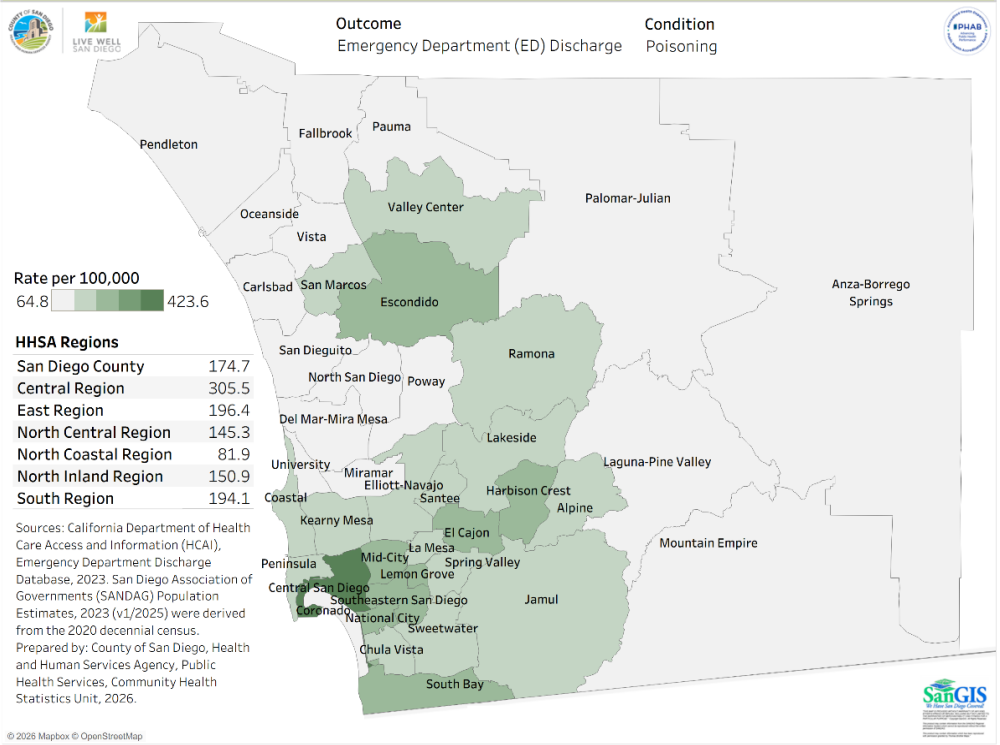
Figure 58: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- The death rate due to poisoning in Central Region was 49.8 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (29.7 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRA), Central San Diego had the highest death rate due to poisoning (63.9 per 100,000), followed by Southeastern San Diego (50.8 per 100,000).

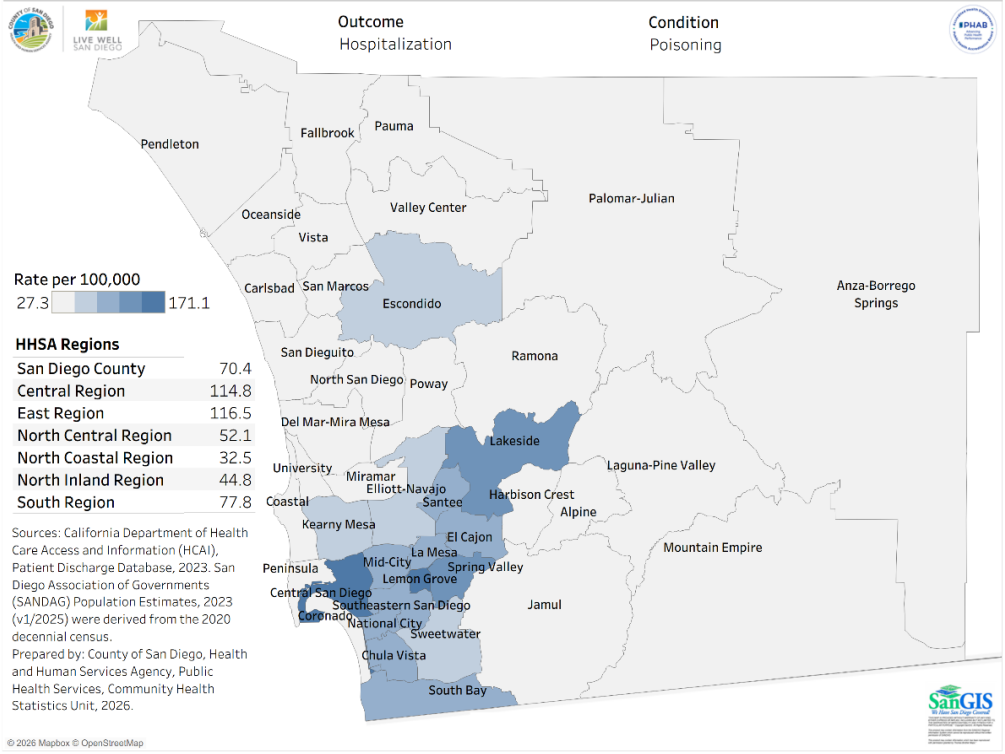
Figure 59: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, Central Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to poisoning (305.5 per 100,000), which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (174.7 per 100,000).
- Central San Diego SRA had the highest ED discharge rate due to poisoning (423.6 per 100,000), followed by South Bay (262.2 per 100,000).

Figure 60: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to poisoning (116.5 per 100,000), which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (70.4 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Lemon Grove had the highest hospitalization rate due to poisoning (171.1 per 100,000), which was 2.4 times higher than the county overall (70.4 per 100,000).

Traumatic Brain Injury

Key Findings

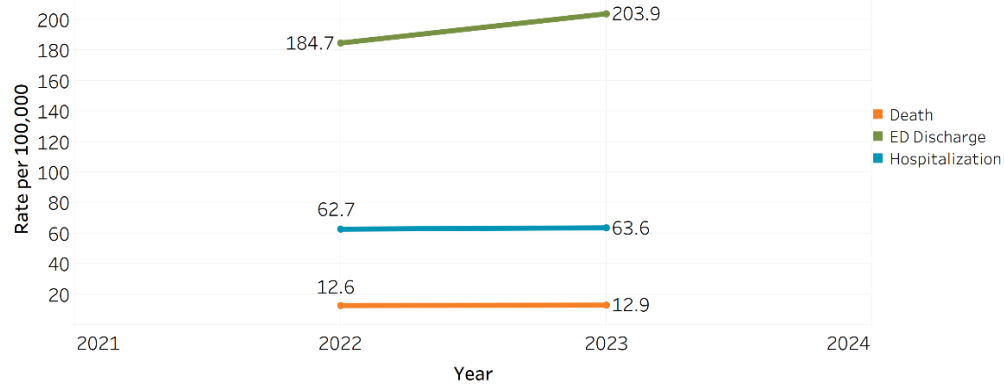
- In 2023, San Diego County had a total of 479 deaths, 6,682 emergency department (ED) discharges, and 2,417 hospitalizations for traumatic brain injury.
- From 2022 to 2023 in San Diego County, the age-adjusted death and hospitalization rates for traumatic brain injury remained stable, while the ED discharge rate increased.
- Males had higher death and hospitalization rates for traumatic brain injury than females and the county overall.
- The non-Hispanic (NH) White population experienced the highest death rate while NH Other residents had the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates for traumatic brain injury.
- Older adults aged 80+ years experienced the greatest burden of death and hospitalization for traumatic brain injury while those aged 10-19 years had the highest rate of ED discharge.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, death rates due to traumatic brain injury were highest in North Inland Region while ED discharge and hospitalization rates were highest in East Region.

OVERVIEW

A traumatic brain injury occurs when normal brain function is disrupted by an external force or impact. Traumatic brain injuries are commonly caused by falls, firearm-related injuries, motor vehicle crashes, or assaults. These injuries range from mild traumatic brain injury/concussion to severe traumatic brain injury.[5]

Trends

Figure 61: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury, San Diego County, 2022-2023.

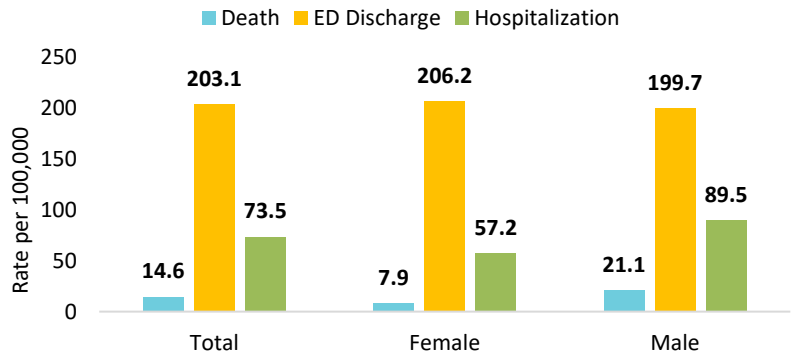


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- From 2022 to 2023, the age-adjusted death rate for traumatic brain injury in San Diego County remained stable at 12.6-12.9 per 100,000.
- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate for traumatic brain injury increased by 10% from 184.7 per 100,000 in 2022 to 203.9 per 100,000 in 2023.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for traumatic brain injury remained stable during the same period.

Traumatic Brain Injury by Sex

Figure 62: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



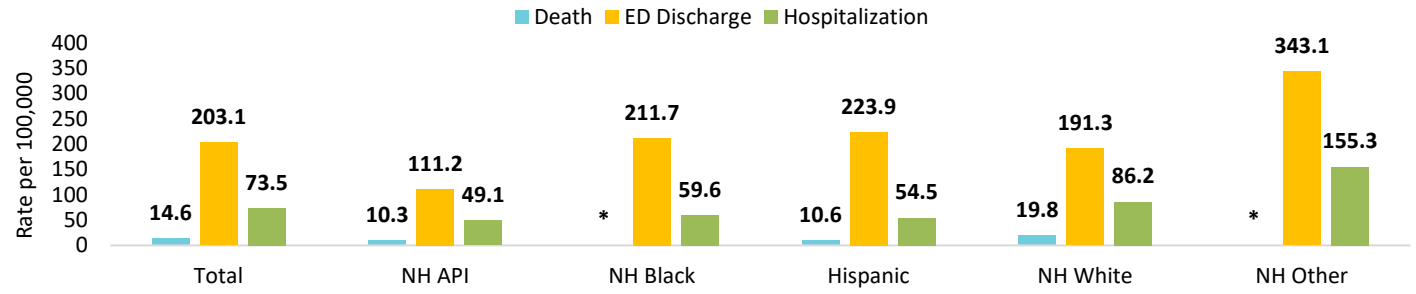
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had a death rate due to traumatic brain injury (21.1 per 100,000) that was 2.7 times higher than females (7.9 per 100,000) and 1.4 times higher than the county overall (14.6 per 100,000).
- Females and males had comparable traumatic brain injury ED discharge rates to the county (203.1 per 100,000), with females having a slightly higher hospitalization rate (206.2 per 100,000) and males having a slightly lower rate (199.7 per 100,000).
- Males had a hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury (89.5 per 100,000) that was 1.6 times higher than females (57.2 per 100,000) and 1.2 times higher than the county overall (73.5 per 100,000).

Traumatic Brain Injury by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 63: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



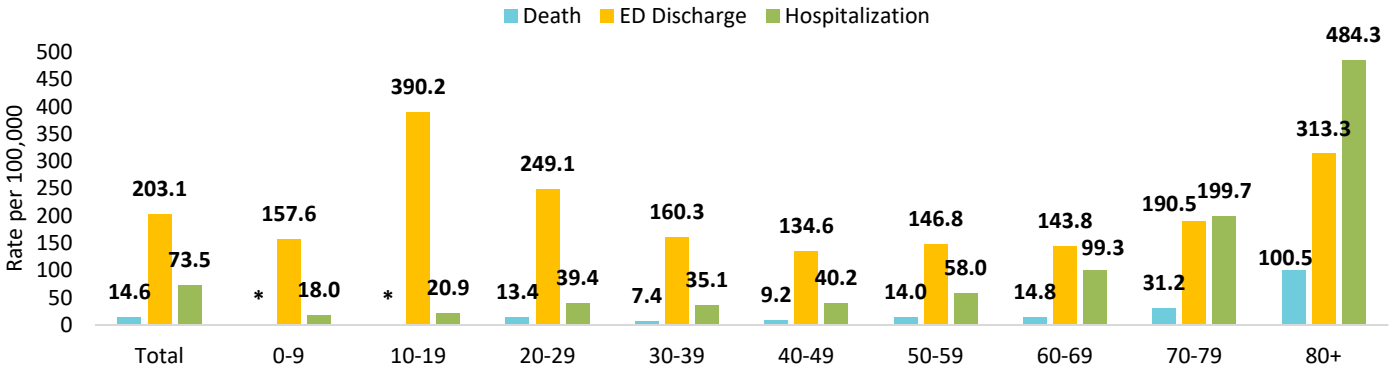
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- NH White residents had a death rate due to traumatic brain injury of 19.8 per 100,000, which was 1.4 times higher than the county overall (14.6 per 100,000).
- Among all race/ethnicities, NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to traumatic brain injury than the county overall, with NH Other having the highest rate at 343.1 per 100,000. The ED discharge rate due to traumatic brain injury among NH Other residents was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (203.1 per 100,000).
- Additionally, NH Other residents also had the highest hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury at 155.3 per 100,000. The hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury among NH Other residents was 2.1 times higher than the county overall (73.5 per 100,000).

Traumatic Brain Injury by Age Group

Figure 64: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



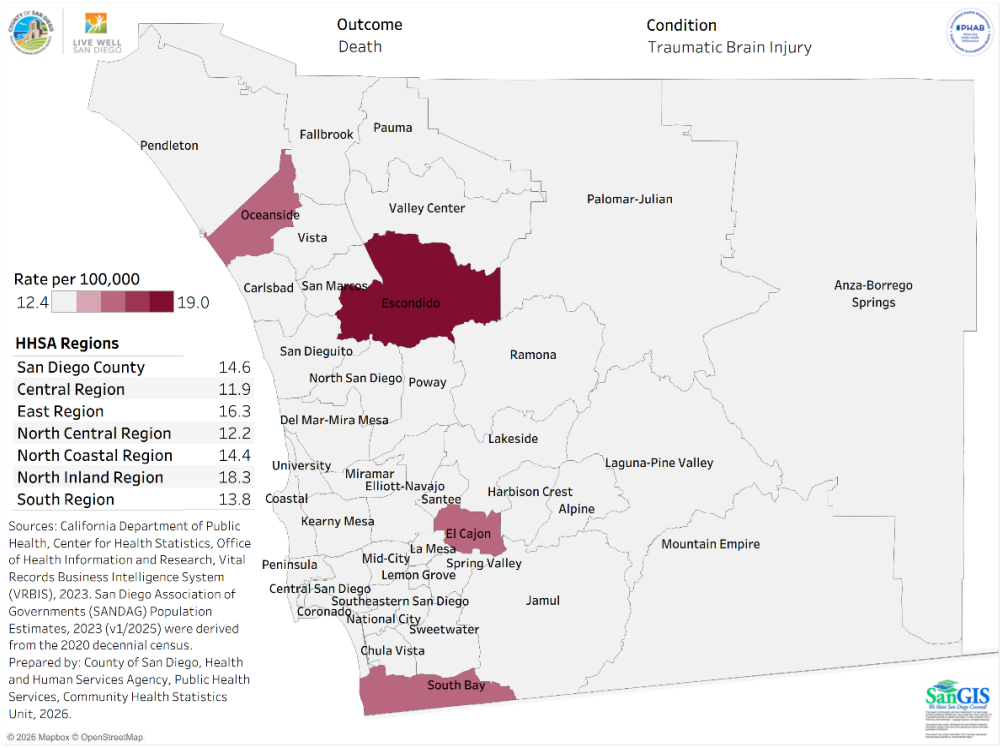
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, residents aged 80+ years had the highest death rate due to traumatic brain injury (100.5 per 100,000), which was 6.9 times higher than the county overall (14.6 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 10-19, 20-29, and 80+ years experienced higher ED discharge rates due to traumatic brain injury than the county overall, with those aged 10-19 years having the highest rate. The ED discharge rate due to traumatic brain injury among those aged 10-19 years was 390.2 per 100,000, which was 1.9 times higher than the county overall (203.1 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 60+ years had higher traumatic brain injury hospitalization rates than the county overall, with those aged 80+ years experiencing the highest rate at 484.3 per 100,000. The hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury among residents 80+ years was 6.6 times higher than the county overall (73.5 per 100,000).

Traumatic Brain Injury by Geography

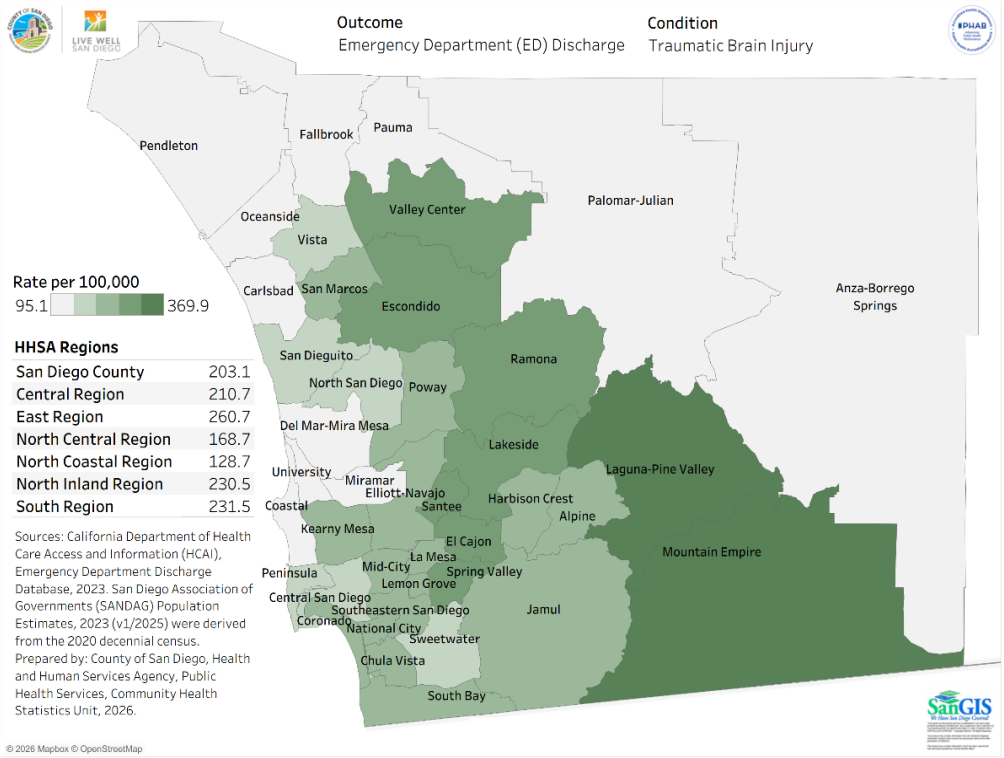
Figure 65: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- The death rate due to traumatic brain injury in North Inland Region was 18.3 per 100,000, which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (14.6 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRA), Escondido had the highest death rate due to traumatic brain injury (19.0 per 100,000), followed by Oceanside (16.2 per 100,000).

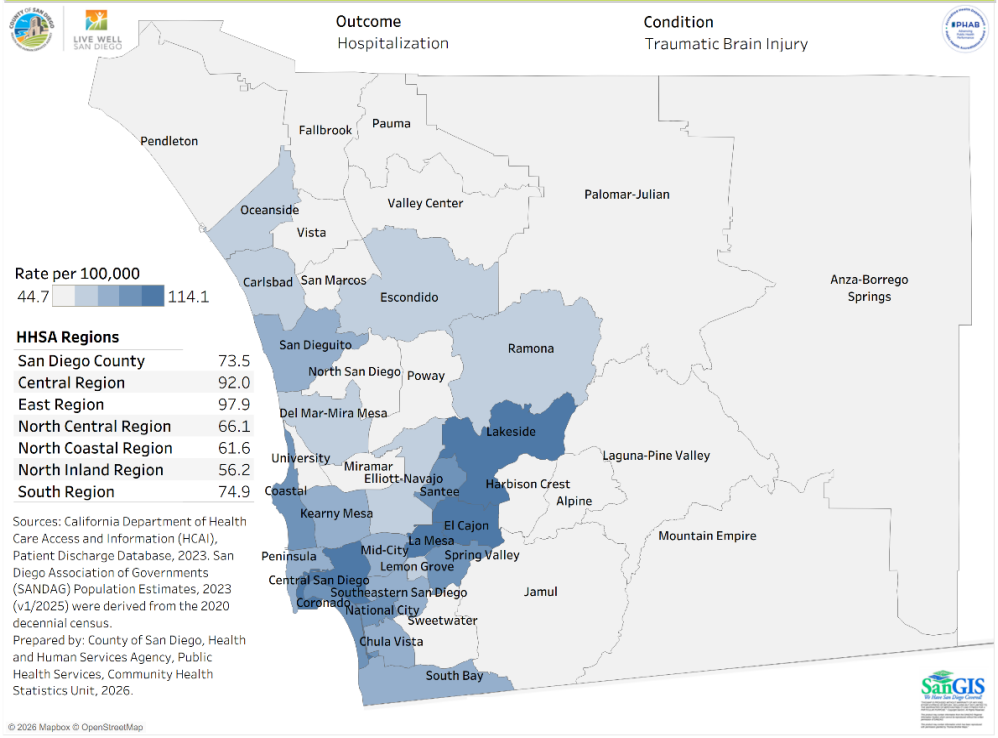
Figure 66: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Poisoning by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among health and human services agency (HHSA) regions, East Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to traumatic brain injury (260.7 per 100,000), followed by South Region (231.5 per 100,000).
- Mountain Empire SRA had the highest ED discharge rate due to traumatic brain injury (369.9 per 100,000), followed by Laguna-Pine Valley (353.8 per 100,000).

Figure 67: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Traumatic Brain Injury by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury (97.9 per 100,000), which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (73.5 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Central San Diego had the highest hospitalization rate due to traumatic brain injury (114.1 per 100,000), which was 1.6 times higher than the county overall (73.5 per 100,000).

Unintentional Injuries

Key Findings

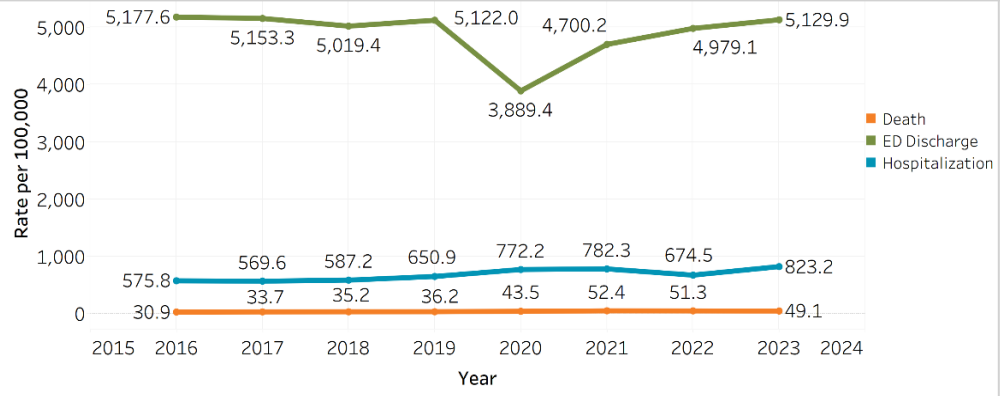
- In 2023, unintentional injuries accounted for 1,756 deaths; 171,793 emergency department (ED) discharges; and 30,905 hospitalizations in San Diego County.
- From 2016 to 2023 in San Diego County, the age-adjusted death rate due to unintentional injuries increased by 59%, the age-adjusted ED discharge rate declined by 25% in 2020 before rising by 32%, and the age-adjusted hospitalization rate increased by 43%.
- Death rates from unintentional injuries were higher among males, whereas ED discharge and hospitalization rates for males and females were similar to those in San Diego County.
- The non-Hispanic (NH) Black population experienced the highest death rate while NH Other residents had the highest ED discharge and hospitalization rates for unintentional injuries.
- Older adults aged 80+ years experienced the greatest burden of death, ED discharge, and hospitalization for unintentional injuries.
- Among Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) regions, death rates due to unintentional injuries were highest in Central Region while ED discharge and hospitalization rates were highest in East Region.

Overview

Unintentional injuries are injuries that are accidental regardless of whether inflicted by oneself or by another person and have no indication of intent to harm.[1]

Trends

Figure 68: Age-Adjusted Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries, San Diego County, 2016-2023.

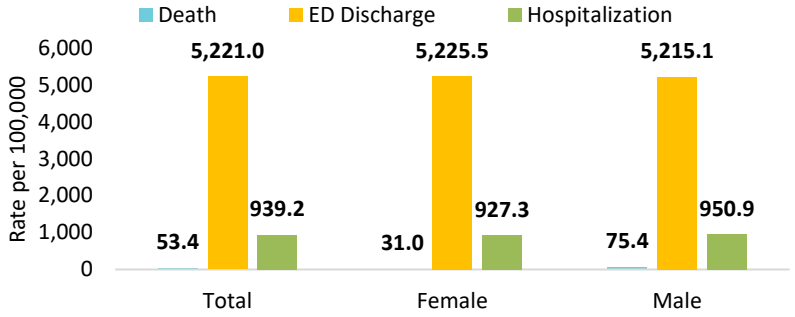


Rates not calculated for fewer than 11 events prior to 2022. Starting in 2022, rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Data Sources: California Department of Public Health, 2016-2023 California Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). California Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2016-2023. SANDAG Population Estimates, 2016 (v9/2018), 2017 (v2/2019), 2018 (v7/2019), 2019 (v5/2020), 2020 (v9/2022), 2021 (v9/2022), 2022 (v11/2023), 2023 (v1/2025). 2016-2021 estimates were derived from the 2010 decennial census. 2022-2023 estimates were derived from the 2020 decennial census. For data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.
Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

- From 2016 to 2023, there was a 59% increase in the age-adjusted death rate due to unintentional injuries in San Diego County.
- The age-adjusted ED discharge rate for unintentional injuries decreased by 25% from 5,177.6 per 100,000 in 2016 to 3,889.4 per 100,000 in 2020 and then increased by 32% to 5,129.9 per 100,000 in 2023.
- The age-adjusted hospitalization rate for unintentional injuries increased by 43% from 575.8 per 100,000 in 2016 to 823.2 per 100,000 in 2023.

Unintentional Injuries by Sex

Figure 69: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Sex, San Diego County, 2023.



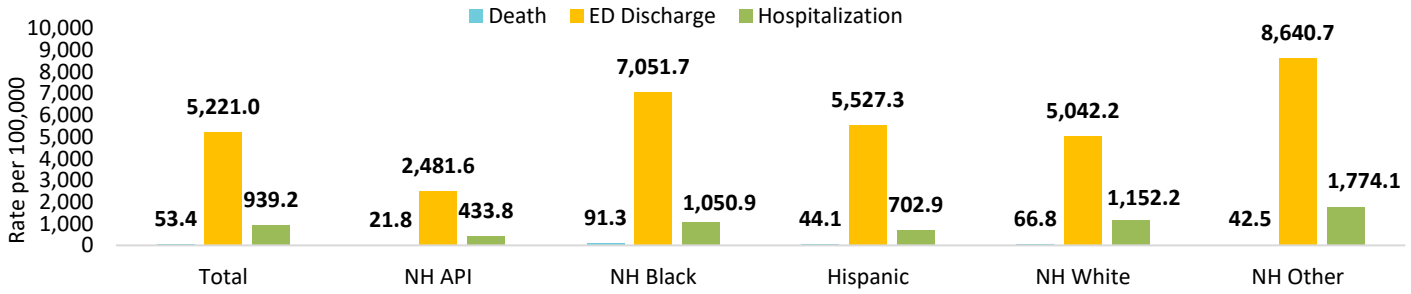
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Males had a death rate due to traumatic brain injury (75.4 per 100,000) that was 2.4 times higher than females (31.0 per 100,000) and 1.4 times higher than the county overall (53.4 per 100,000).
- Females and males had comparable ED discharge rates for unintentional injuries (5,225.5 per 100,000 and 5,215.1 per 100,000, respectively) to the county (5,221.0 per 100,000).
- Additionally, females and males had comparable hospitalization rates for unintentional injuries (927.3 per 100,000 and 950.9 per 100,000, respectively) to the county (939.2 per 100,000).

Unintentional Injuries by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 70: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Race/Ethnicity, San Diego County, 2023.



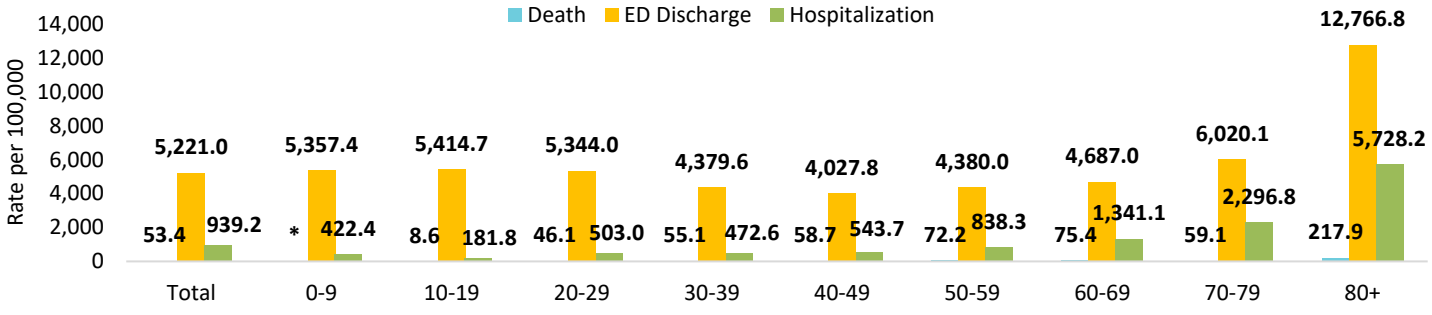
NH: Non-Hispanic. API: Asian/Pacific Islander. Other Race includes American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), multiple races or some other race.
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- NH Black residents had a death rate due to unintentional injuries of 91.3 per 100,000, which was 1.7 times higher than the countywide death rate of 53.4 per 100,000.
- Among all race/ethnicities, NH Black, Hispanic, and NH Other residents had higher ED discharge rates due to unintentional injuries than the county overall, with NH Other having the highest rate at 8,640.7 per 100,000. The ED discharge rate due to unintentional injuries among NH Other residents was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (5,221.0 per 100,000).
- Additionally, NH Other residents also had the highest hospitalization rate due to unintentional injuries at 1,774.1 per 100,000. The hospitalization rate due to unintentional injuries among NH Other residents was 1.9 times higher than the county overall (939.2 per 100,000).

Unintentional Injuries by Age Group20

Figure 71: Death, Emergency Department (ED) Discharge, and Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Age Group, San Diego County, 2023.



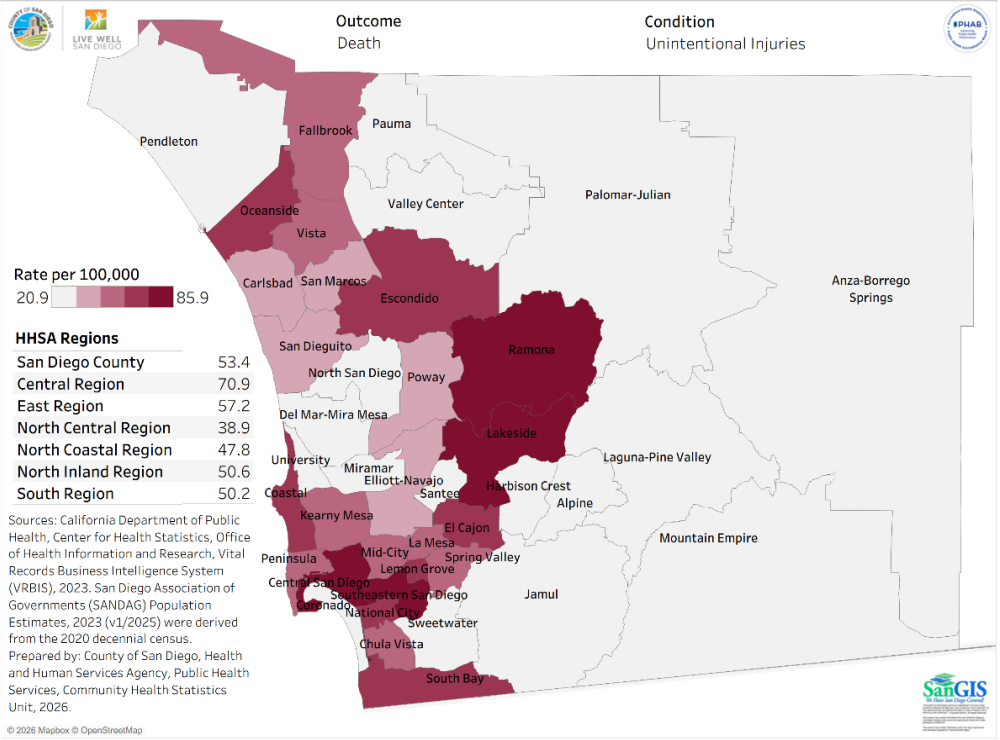
*Rates are suppressed for <20 events due to statistical instability.
Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), 2023. California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department Discharge Database and Patient Discharge Database, 2023. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Population Estimates, 2023 (v1/2025) were derived from the 2020 decennial census.
Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2026.

In 2023:

- Among all age groups, residents aged 80+ years had the highest death rate due to unintentional injuries (217.9 per 100,000), which was 4.1 times higher than the county overall (53.4 per 100,000).
- Younger age groups (0-9, 10-19, and 20-29 years) and older adults (70-79 and 80+ years) experienced higher ED discharge rates due to unintentional injuries than the county overall, with those aged 80+ years having the highest rate. The ED discharge rate due to unintentional injuries among those aged 80+ years was 12,766.8 per 100,000, which was 2.4 times higher than the county overall (5,221 per 100,000).
- Residents aged 60+ years had higher unintentional injury hospitalization rates than the county overall, with those aged 80+ years experiencing the highest rate at 5,728.2 per 100,000. The hospitalization rate due to unintentional injuries among residents 80+ years was 6.1 times higher than the county overall (939.2 per 100,000).

Unintentional Injuries by Geography

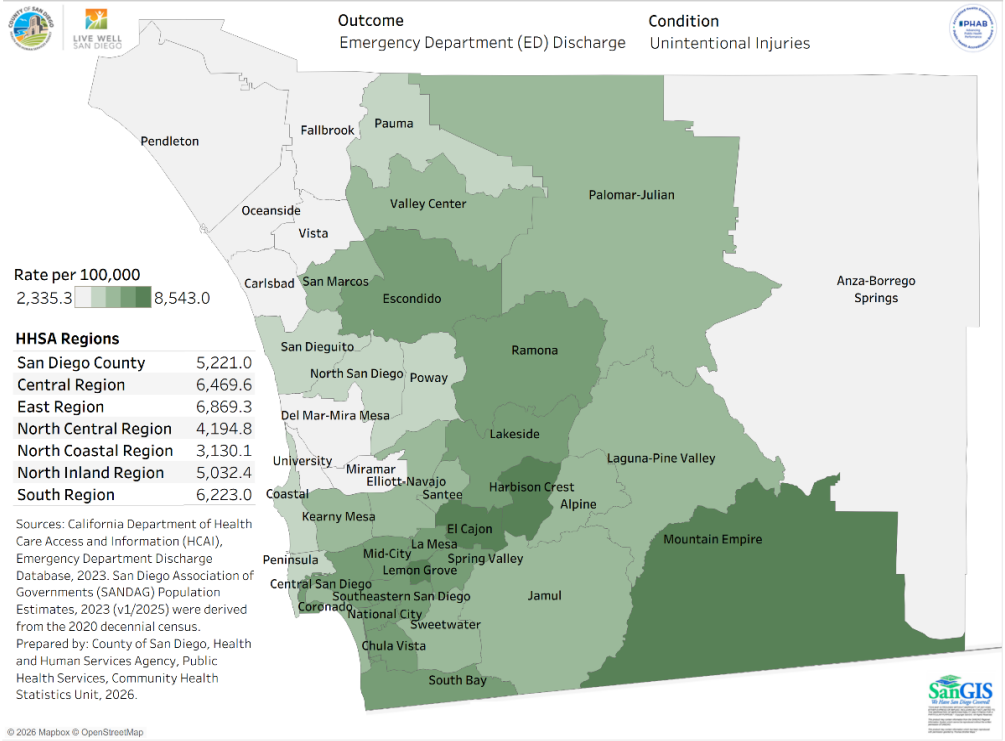
Figure 72: Death Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- The death rate due to unintentional injuries in Central Region was 70.9 per 100,000, which was 1.3 times higher than the county overall (53.4 per 100,000).
- Among subregional areas (SRA), Central San Diego had the highest death rate due to unintentional injuries (85.9 per 100,000), followed by Lakeside (76.0 per 100,000).

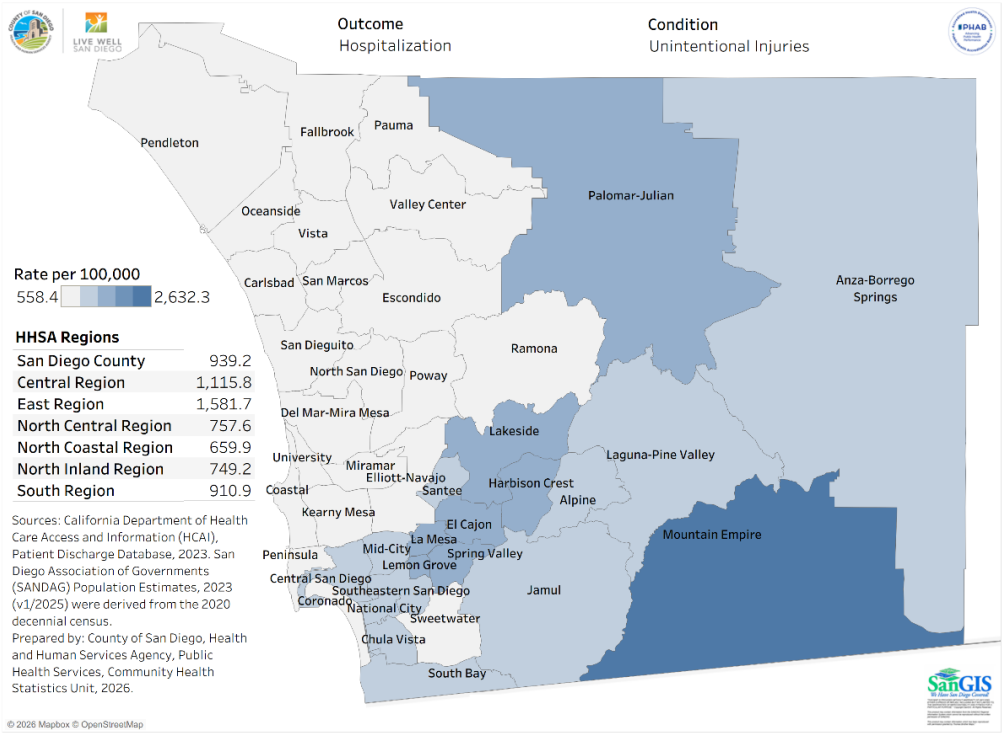
Figure 73: Emergency Department (ED) Discharge Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among health and human services agency (HHSA) regions, East Region had the highest ED discharge rate due to unintentional injuries (6,869.3 per 100,000), followed by Central Region (6,469.6 per 100,000).
- Mountain Empire SRA had the highest ED discharge rate due to unintentional injuries (8,543.0 per 100,000), followed by Lemon Grove (7,608.7 per 100,000).

Figure 74: Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000) due to Unintentional Injuries by Subregional Area (SRA) and Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Region, San Diego County, 2023.



In 2023:

- Among HHSA regions, East Region had the highest hospitalization rate due to unintentional injuries (1,581.7 per 100,000), which was 1.7 times higher than the county overall (939.2 per 100,000).
- Among SRAs, Mountain Empire had the highest hospitalization rate due to unintentional injuries (2,632.3 per 100,000), which was 2.8 times higher than the county overall (939.2 per 100,000).

References

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: WISQARS. *WISQARS Glossary*. https://wisqars.cdc.gov/glossary/.

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Drowning Prevention. *Drowning Facts*. https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/data-research/facts/index.html.

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: WISQARS. *About Nonfatal Injury Data*. https://wisqars.cdc.gov/about/nonfatal-injury-data/#what-the-data-includes.

[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Older Adult Fall Prevention. *Preventing Falls and Hip Fractures*. https://www.cdc.gov/falls/prevention/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/falls/hip-fractures.html.

[5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Traumatic Brain Injury & Concussion. *Facts About TBI*. https://www.cdc.gov/traumatic-brain-injury/data-research/facts-stats/index.html.