

Unintentional Injury



Risk Factors:

- **Age**
Those aged 65 years and older are at an increased risk for unintentional injury death and hospitalization.
- **Race/Ethnicity**
American Indians/Alaska Natives are at a higher risk for unintentional injury death compared to any other racial or ethnic group.
- **Gender**
Males are twice as likely to die from unintentional injury compared to females.
- **Socioeconomic Status**
- **Alcohol and drug abuse**
1 in every 3 traffic-related deaths involves a drunk driver.
- **Lack of physical activity**

Prevention:

- **Physical activity**
- **Moderate alcohol consumption**
- **Varies based on cause of unintentional injury**

Unintentional injuries are injuries that are not caused on purpose and are free from harmful intent. Some would call unintentional injuries “accidents” but they are not because they are predictable and preventable. Most unintentional injuries are related to falls, poisonings/overdoses, motor vehicle crashes, struck by/against events, fires/burns, cuts/piercing, drowning/submersion, and overexertion.

Facts:

- Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among those aged 1-44 in the U.S.
- Unintentional injury is the 5th leading cause of death for all ages.
- In 2010, unintentional injuries resulted in approximately 120,000 deaths, 1.7 million hospitalizations, and 26 million emergency department discharges in the U.S.

For more information and data, go to www.SDHealthStatistics.com

Community Health Statistics Unit:
619-285-6479

Leading Causes of Unintentional Injury:

- Falls
- Struck by/against events
- Overexertion
- Motor-vehicle crash
- Cuts/piercings
- Overdose/poisonings

Cost:

- In 2009, unintentional injury cost the United States an estimated \$341.0 billion: \$63.9 billion in direct medical costs, and \$277.1 billion in lost productivity (indirect costs).



Resources

CDC Injury and Violence Prevention
www.cdc.gov/injury

World Health Organization (WHO)
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/