

A Snapshot of Injuries in Ontario: 2008-2016

Understanding the Issue

This Ontario Injury Compass provides a snapshot of the important takeaways from the new Ontario Injury Data Report 2018¹, with the latest available counts and rates of injury related to emergency room (ER) visits, hospitalizations and deaths.

All data for Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations cover two fiscal years (FY), 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. Therefore, they include all cases from the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016.

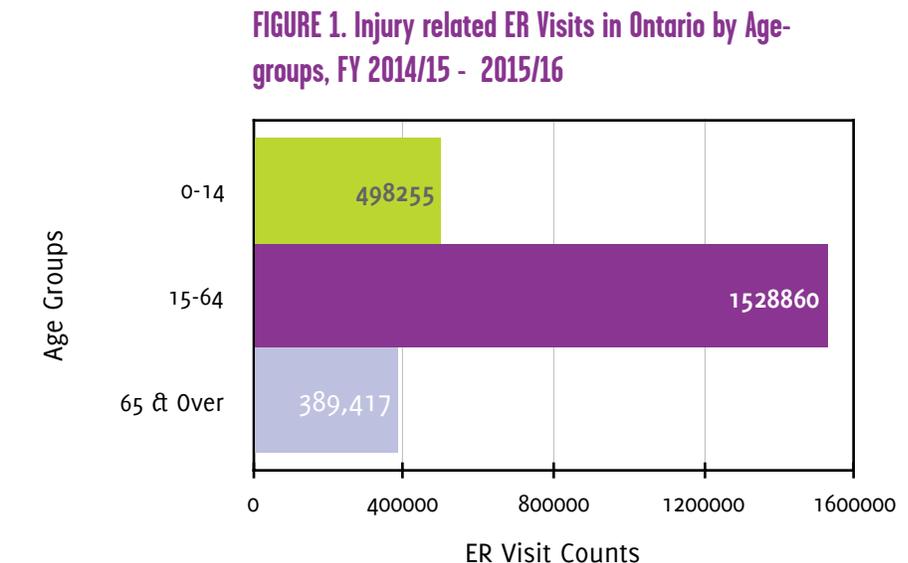
All data for deaths presented within this report cover five calendar years (CY), from 2008 to 2012.

ER Visits

2,416,532 Ontarians, visited an Emergency Room (ER) in Ontario due to intentional and unintentional injuries between 2014/15 and 2015/16. Unintentional injuries result from drowning, falls, off and on-road incidents, poisoning, burns, sports while intentional injuries resulted from causes such as self-harm or interpersonal violence. The top five leading causes of unintentional injuries were Falls (850,003), collision with Inanimate objects (698,882), Sports injuries (318,129) and On-road injuries (129,727). Across the age-groups for all causes of injury, adults between the ages of 25-34 years contributed to most ER visits (N=321,187).

Fall related ER Visits

Falls was the single highest contributor of ER visits across all age groups (N=850,003) and causes of injury. Seniors older than 80 experienced most fall-related injuries resulting in ER visits (N=132,070). Other vulnerable age groups contributing to fall-related ER



visits included adults 45-54 years (N=85,716), Toddlers aged 0-4 years (N=77,380) and Children aged 10-14 years (N=65,521). Injuries to the Head (N=238,035) was the leading cause of ER visits in most age groups. Injuries to the knee and lower leg was the second leading cause of ER Visits (N=107,994).

Hospitalizations

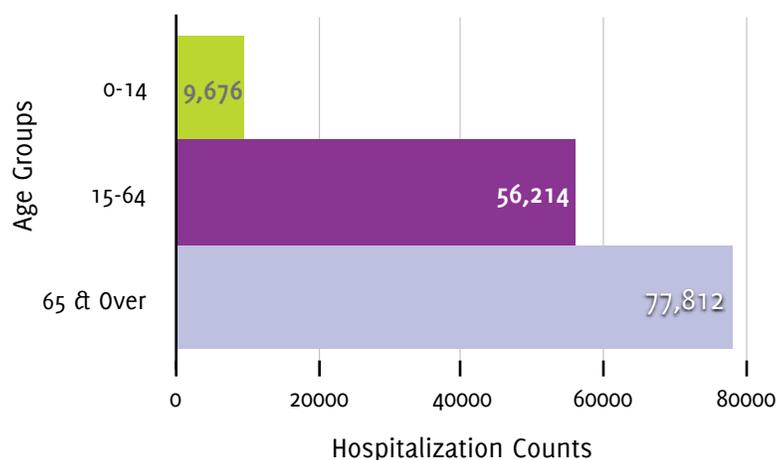
In the 2-year period between 2014/15 and 2015/16, 143,702 Ontarians were hospitalized due to intentional and unintentional injuries. Unintentional injuries were a result of drowning, falls, off and on-road incidents, poisoning, burns, sports while intentional injuries resulted from causes such as self-harm or interpersonal violence. The top five leading causes of Hospitalizations were Falls (85,873), Self-Harm (9,827),

Collision with Inanimate Objects (9,466), Suffocation (7,820) and On-road injuries (7,393). Across the different age groups, falls in Seniors over 80 were the single highest contributor of hospitalizations (N=39,779). For those over the age of 25 years, hospitalization counts steadily increased with the age, while Teenagers between the ages of 15-19 years (N=771) and young adults between the ages of 20-24 (N=851) had the lowest hospitalization counts associated with falls.

Transport Injury Hospitalization

For Hospitalizations related to On-road injuries, Cars (N=4692) and Motorcycles (N=1650) attributed to the highest counts and rates of hospitalizations and together accounted for over 86% of all hospitalizations related to On-road injuries. Off-road motor vehicle injuries

FIGURE 2. Injury related Hospitalizations in Ontario by Age-groups, FY 2014/15 - 2015/16



contributed to over 17,000 Hospitalizations between 2014/15 and 2015/16. ATVs contributed close to 50% of the off-road hospitalizations (N=13,590)

Deaths

In the 5-year period between 2008 and 2012, 25,674 Ontarians lost their lives due to intentional and unintentional injuries. Falls contributed to the highest number of deaths across all age groups (N=10,092) contributing to over 39% of all deaths due to injuries. Seniors over 80 contributed to most deaths across all causes (N=8740). Other leading causes of injuries resulting in death included self-harm (N=5,788), poisoning (N=3,269), on-road injuries (N=2,408) and Suffocation (N=845). As examined by cause of death, Falls in seniors over the age of 80 was the single highest cause of death (N=7395) across the different age groups. Self-harm was the leading cause of injury-related deaths in adults between the ages of 45-54 years (N=1,426) and 35-44 years (N=1,064) respectively.

Intentional Injuries

In the OADR 2018, intentional injuries are reported within two categories;

Interpersonal injuries (ICD-10 X85-Y09) and Self-harm (ICD-10 X60-X84).

Interpersonal Assaults

Between FY 2014/15 and 2015/16, interpersonal assaults accounted for over 63,789 ER visits and 3600 Hospitalizations. Unarmed assaults arising from bodily force accounted for over 70% (N=45,418) Interpersonal assault related ER-visits, while unarmed assaults arising from bodily force accounted for over 46% (N=1,686) and assaults by Sharp/Blunt objects accounted for approximately 30% (N=1,068) of Interpersonal injury Hospitalizations.

Between 2008-2012, 814 Ontarians died as a result of interpersonal assaults. Leading causes included Firearms, which contributed to 271 (33%) of these deaths while intentional assaults by sharp/blunt objects contributed to 360 (44%).

Self-Harm

Between FY 2014/15 and 2015/16, self-harm accounted for over 32,395 ER visits and 9,983 Hospitalizations.

Poisoning was the primary means of self-harm contributing to ER-Visits (N=23,425) and Hospitalizations (N=8,892).

Between 2008-2012, Self-harm also resulted in the deaths of 5,788 Ontarians. Leading mechanisms of self-harm included death by hanging/strangulation and suffocation (N=2,543) and Poisoning (N=1,484).

Methodology

All data for Emergency Room visits and hospitalizations cover two fiscal years, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. Therefore, they include all cases from the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016. All data for deaths cover five calendar years, from 2008 to 2012. They include all cases from the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012. Data was extracted in August 2017 accessed using IntelliHEALTH ONTARIO through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. ICD-10-CA coding was used to population estimates, Ambulatory visits, Inpatient discharges and Vital Stats death data. Further details on the ICD-10 Codes and methodology used can be found within the Ontario Injury Data Report 2018 (See Reference)

References

1. Parachute. (2018). Ontario Injury Data Report 2018. Parachute: Toronto ON. Retrieved from http://www.oninjuryresources.ca/downloads/publications/OADR_2018.pdf

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