

The Ontario Regional Injury Data Report & the Media Northern Region

Description and Background Information:

The Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre (OIRPC), operated by Parachute, has released the Ontario Regional Injury Data Report for Northern Ontario, which provides the most up-to-date and detailed description of the causes of injury in the northern region of the province.

This report is a follow up to the Ontario Injury Data Report released in 2012, which provided data for the province as a whole, as well as local data for each of the 36 Public Health Units (PHUs). With the regional version of the report, injury prevention practitioners can now access data for the entire northern region. This will allow practitioners to determine regional priorities and will also promote collaboration on injury prevention programs and campaigns.

Included in the Ontario Regional Injury Data Report are emergency room visits due to injury (a total of 225,663 ER visits in Northern Ontario between 2007 - 2009); hospitalizations due to injury (a total of 13,001 hospital admissions in Northern Ontario between 2007 - 2009) and deaths from injury (a total of 1,893 deaths in the Northern region between 2001 and 2005). The Northern region includes the following PHUs: Northwestern Health Unit, Thunder Bay, Porcupine, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Algoma, and North Bay Parry Sound.

Key Messages:

- Injury is the leading cause of death for Canadians aged 1 to 44 (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2013).
- There is a widespread misconception that injuries are accidents, or 'unavoidable acts of fate,' but in fact, injuries are causally related to specific events and risk factors and thus, they are predictable and preventable.
- The Ontario Regional Injury Data Report provides practitioners with the most up-to-date data on the causes of injury in each Ontario region, allowing for regional priority setting and collaborative action to prevent injuries before they happen.
- As a follow up to 2012's Ontario Injury Data Report that provided data specific to each of the 36 Public Health Units in the province, the regional version of the report contains amalgamated data for the broader region, allowing injury prevention practitioners to address regional priorities.

Key Statistics:

- The most common cause of injury-related hospital admissions in Northern Ontario was falls, resulting in 6,524 hospital admissions between 2007 and 2009.
- In Northern Ontario, the leading cause of death due to injury between 2001 and 2005 was suicide.
- 63% of fall-related deaths in Northern Ontario occurred among adults aged 75 and over.
- 61% of deaths by suicide in the Northern region occurred among those aged 20 - 54.