

# The Ontario Regional Injury Data Report & the Media South West Region

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## **Description and Background Information:**

The Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre (OIRPC), operated by Parachute, has released the Ontario Regional Injury Data Report for South West Ontario, which provides the most up-to-date and detailed description of the causes of injury in the South West 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 South West 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 361,917 ER visits in South West Ontario between 2007 - 2009); hospitalizations due to injury (a total of 18,020 hospital admissions in South West Ontario between 2007 - 2009) and deaths from injury (a total of 2,716 deaths in the South West region between 2001 and 2005). The South West region includes the following PHUs: Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent, Elgin St. Thomas, Lambton, Middlesex-London, Oxford County, Huron County, Grey Bruce, and Perth.

## **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:**

- Fall-related injuries were the most common cause of hospital admissions in South West Ontario between 2007 and 2009, resulting 10,291 hospital admissions.
- Between 2001 and 2005, the leading cause of death due to injury in South West Ontario was on-road vehicle incidents.
- Considering on-road vehicle incidents, 14% of deaths in the South West region occurred among those aged 15 - 19.
- 77% of fall-related deaths in South West Ontario were among adults over the age of 75.