

## Injury Pyramid

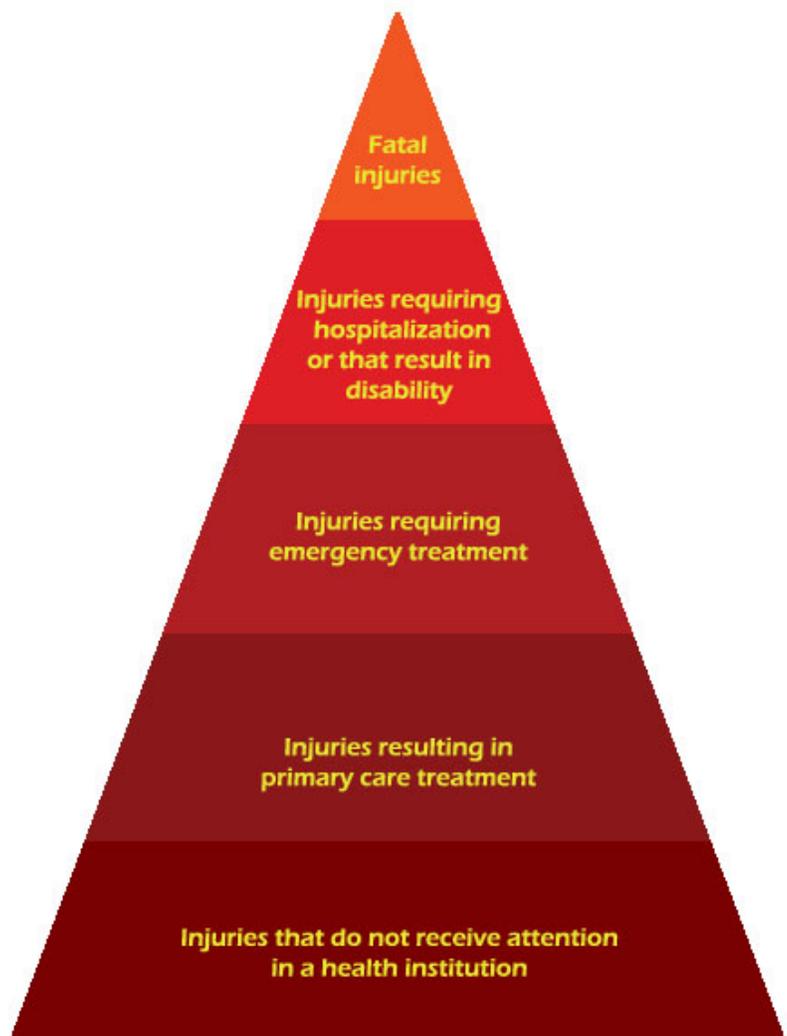
The Injury Pyramid Mortality data are a powerful injury indicator, but *deaths from injury* comprise just a fraction of the impact of injuries on a population. For each death from injury, many more result in hospitalization, emergency department or general practitioner treatment, or treatment that does not involve formal medical care.

According to WHO (World Health Organization) in the world's high-income countries (including U.S.), for every one injury fatality, 30 people are hospitalized, and 300 are treated in emergency rooms; even more are treated in other health care facilities.

The injury pyramid shown here helps illustrate this fact. The pyramid top is composed of deaths, which are fewer in number, but more visible. Following deaths are severe injuries resulting in hospitalization and disability, usually classified by health sector, public or private. The third category is less-severe injuries, requiring emergency treatment.

Next are injuries treated in basic health facilities. At the bottom of the pyramid are injuries which do not receive attention in a health institution.

In addition to the severity of an injury, a host of cultural and economic factors determine the level of treatment an injury victim receives. The proportion of the injury pyramid for your community will depend on data obtained through surveys conducted in your community.



### References

1. CDC Injury Surveillance Training Manual Participant Guide (2005) (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/pubs.htm>)