

2002 U.S. Injury Mortality Rates Stats Summary

U.S. Injury Mortality Stats

All ages, all races and both sexes¹

- 161,269 resident deaths occurred in the United States as the result of injuries.
- Unintentional injuries were the fifth leading cause of death overall and the leading cause for those under 45 years of age.
- 66.2% of injury deaths were classified as unintentional, 19.6% were suicides, and 10.9% were homicides.
- Persons aged 75 years and over have the highest injury death rates.
- The five leading mechanisms-of-injury death accounted for 81% of all injury deaths and were (in rank order):
 - Motor vehicle traffic (27.3%)
 - Firearm (18.8%)
 - Poisoning (16.4%)
 - Fall (10.6%)
 - Suffocation (7.9%)
- Firearm suicide accounted for 56.6% of all firearm-related deaths.
- 30.1% of injuries that resulted in deaths were to the head and neck region; this was the most commonly mentioned injury condition resulting in death. Poisoning and toxic effects were the second most common injury conditions, together accounting for 20.2% of all injuries mentioned.
- 66.4% of poisoning deaths were classified as unintentional, 20.8% as suicides, 12.6% as undetermined intent, and the remainder as homicides.
- 93.4% of unintentional poisonings were drug-related. Of suicides involving poisoning, 70.8% were drug-related and 25.9% were due to exposure to gases and vapors.

- Of these injury deaths, 66.2% were classified as unintentional, 19.6% were suicides, 10.9% were homicides, 3.0% were of undetermined intent, and 0.3% involved legal intervention or operations of war.
- The five leading mechanisms of injury death were motor vehicle traffic, firearm, poisoning, falls, and suffocation, accounting for 81% of all injury deaths.
- The rate of poisoning deaths increased by 17.9% between 2001 and 2002, but the reader is advised to interpret these numbers cautiously as a portion of this increase is due to stricter procedures concerning data processing that were implemented in 2002.
- Suffocation was the leading mechanism of unintentional injury death among infants (more than two-thirds of all unintentional injury deaths among infants occurred through suffocation).²
- Injuries involving the whole body system accounted for 28% of all injuries mentioned (17% were poisoning and 7% were other effects of external causes, such as submersion or asphyxiation).
- Suicide rates by age increased rapidly from 0.5 per 100,000 population at age 11 years to 13.2 per 100,000 at age 24 years. The rate showed relatively small changes from ages 25 to 68 years.³
- Homicide rates rapidly increased after age 13 and reached a peak at 21 years (17.1 per 100,000).⁴
- In 2002 the American Indian/Alaska Native population had the highest age-adjusted unintentional injury death rate at 53.8 per 100,000 standard population and the Asian or Pacific Islander (API) population had the lowest rate (17.9).
- Firearm and poisoning death rates for children under 12 years of age are low (fewer than 1 per 100,000). It is not until the age of 14 years that the number of poisoning deaths exceeds 20 at any single year of age.⁵
- Between the ages of 15 and 16 years, the Motor Vehicle Traffic-related injury death rate more than doubled from 11 to 25 per 100,000; by ages 25–26 years, the rate had fallen back to 21 per 100,000.⁶
- The Motor Vehicle Traffic-related injury death rates for those in their eighties are as high as those 16–17 years of age.
- From the ages of 35 to 51 years, poisoning is the leading cause of injury death.⁷

- For ages 60–62 MVT-related injuries, firearms, and poisoning are the first, second, and third causes of injury death, respectively.⁸

Figure 1. Injury death rates for leading mechanisms of injury by single years of age among persons 60 years of age and over: United States, 2002

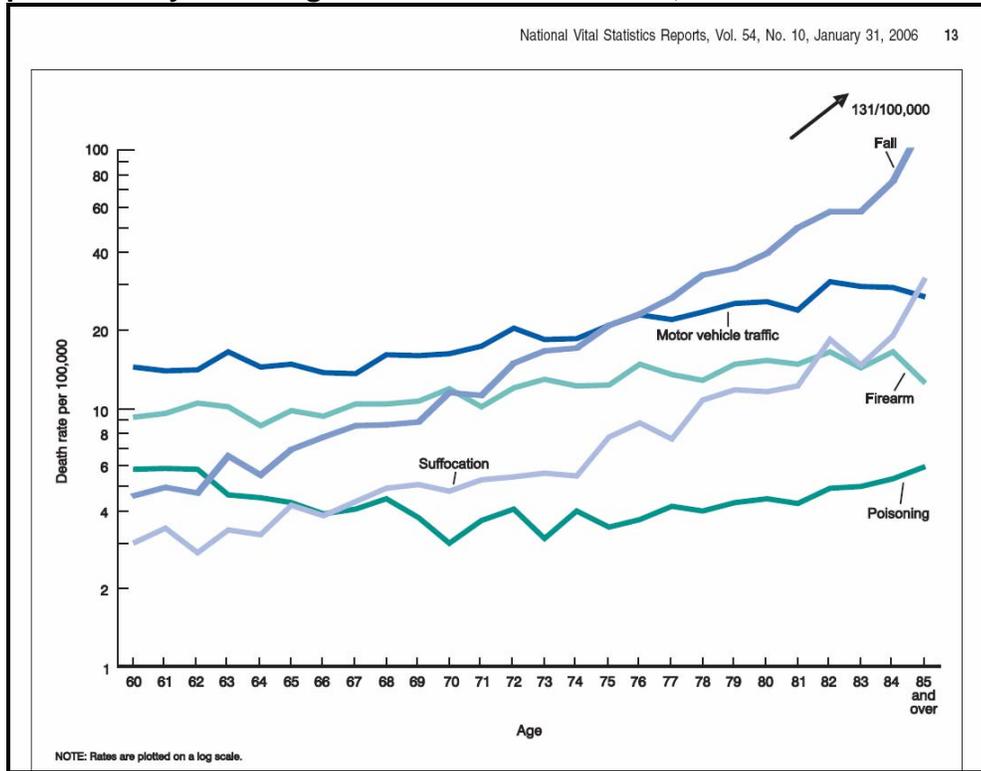




Figure 2. Deaths, percentage of total deaths, death rates, and age-adjusted death rates for the 15 leading causes of death in 2002: United States

Death rates on an annual basis per 100,000 population: age-adjusted rates per 100,000 U.S. standard population

Rank	Cause of death (Based on the <i>Tenth Revision International Classification of Diseases, 1992</i>)	Number	Percent of total deaths	Crude death rate	Age-adjusted death rate
...	All causes	2,443,387	100.0	847.3	845.3
1	Diseases of heart (I00–I09,I11,I13,I20–I51)	696,947	28.5	241.7	240.8
2	Malignant neoplasms (C00–C97)	557,271	22.8	193.2	193.5
3	Cerebrovascular diseases (I60–I69)	162,672	6.7	56.4	56.2
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40–J47)	124,816	5.1	43.3	43.5
5	Accidents (unintentional injuries) (V01–X59,Y85–Y86)	106,742	4.4	37.0	36.9
6	Diabetes mellitus (E10–E14)	73,249	3.0	25.4	25.4
7	Influenza and pneumonia (J10–J18)	65,681	2.7	22.8	22.6
8	Alzheimer's disease (G30)	58,866	2.4	20.4	20.2
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis.... (N00–N07,N17–N19,N25–N27)	40,974	1.7	14.2	14.2
10	Septicemia (A40–A41)	33,865	1.4	11.7	11.7
11	Intentional self-harm (suicide) (*U03,X60–X84,Y87.0)	31,655	1.3	11.0	10.9
12	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (K70,K73–K74)	27,257	1.1	9.5	9.4
13	Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease (I10,I12)	20,261	0.8	7.0	7.0
14	Assault (homicide) (*U01–*U02,X85–Y09,Y87.1)	17,638	0.7	6.1	6.1
15	Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids (J69)	17,593	0.7	6.1	6.1
...	All other causes	407,900	16.7	141.5	...

References

- ¹ Miniño, Arialdi M., Robert N. Anderson, Lois A. Fingerhut, Manon A. Boudreault, and Margaret Warner. "Deaths: Injuries, 2002." *National Vital Statistics Report 54* (2006): pg 1-30.
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr54/nvsr54_10.pdf 14 Aug. 2007.
- ² Ibid., p. 10.
- ³ Ibid., p. 9.
- ⁴ Ibid., p. 9.
- ⁵ Ibid., p. 10.
- ⁶ Ibid., p. 10.
- ⁷ Ibid., p. 10.
- ⁸ Ibid., p. 11.