

Injury to Children in New Zealand Resulting in Death or Hospitalisation

Injury is a leading cause of death and hospitalisation for children. The main causes of the more serious injuries are shown below.

Fatalities 1990-1998

Mechanism	Unintentional			Self-inflicted			Assault			Undetermined/Other*			Row Total	% of total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14		
Cut/pierce	1	2	1	.	.	.	5	3	6	.	.	.	18	1.6
Drowning/submersion	97	30	16	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	145	13.0
Fall	14	8	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	31	2.8
Fire/burn	53	14	9	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	77	6.9
<i>Fire/flame</i>	49	14	8	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	72	6.4
<i>Hot object/substance</i>	4	0	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	0.4
Firearm	1	2	5	.	.	5	.	2	4	.	.	.	19	1.7
Machinery	6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	0.6
Motor vehicle traffic	172	127	134	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	434	38.8
<i>Occupant</i>	112	53	73	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	238	21.3
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	.	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	0.4
<i>Pedal Cyclist</i>	2	21	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50	4.5
<i>Pedestrian</i>	57	51	31	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	139	12.4
<i>Unspecified</i>	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.1
Pedal Cyclist (other)	.	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	0.4
Pedestrian (other)	26	5	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	38	3.4
Transport (other)	4	8	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22	2.0
Natural/environmental	6	3	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	1.1
<i>Bites and stings</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0.0
Overexertion	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0.0
Poisoning	7	1	4	.	1	6	3	4	.	.	.	1	27	2.4
Struck by/against	8	4	2	.	.	.	3	2	1	.	.	.	20	1.8
Suffocation	124	3	11	.	1	41	4	2	.	1	.	3	190	17.0
Other specified and classifiable	5	2	6	.	.	.	36	2	3	7	1	2	64	5.7
Other specified, not elsewhere classifiable	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	4	0.4
Unspecified	0	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	1	.	.	5	0.4
Total	526	213	221	0	2	52	55	16	16	10	1	6	1118	100.0

* This database includes all fatalities with a primary diagnosis of injury, and excludes the following: adverse effects due to drugs and medical procedures, legal interventions, and operations of war.

- Most injuries in all age groups were unintentional. 17.9% of the deaths to 10-14 year olds were self-inflicted, and 9.3% of the deaths to 0-4 years olds were caused by assault.
- Overall, 53% of the fatalities occurred in the 0-4 year age group, 21% in the 5-9 year age group and 26% in the 10-14 year age group.
- The major mechanism of unintentional injury for all age groups was motor vehicle traffic crashes (45%). This was predominantly as occupants, pedestrians and cyclists (for 10-14 year olds).
- Other major mechanisms were unintentional drowning (13% of all fatal injuries to children), unintentional suffocation for 0-4 year olds (21% of injuries to 0-4s), and self-inflicted suffocation amongst 10-14 year olds (14%).

Hospitalisations 1990-1999

Mechanism	Unintentional			Self-inflicted			Assault			Undetermined/ Other*			Row Total	% of total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14		
Cut/pierce	1896	2688	2619	.	.	15	10	8	30	1	.	3	7270	6.6
Drowning/submersion	452	106	73	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	634	0.6
Fall	14117	20273	12477	.	.	2	3	3	.	1	1	4	46881	42.7
Fire/burn	3725	556	451	.	.	1	4	.	3	3	.	.	4743	4.3
<i>Fire/flame</i>	307	147	226	.	.	1	.	.	2	1	.	.	684	0.6
<i>Hot object/substance</i>	3418	409	225	.	.	.	4	.	1	2	.	.	4059	3.7
Firearm	7	18	61	.	.	5	4	1	.	.	1	6	103	0.1
Machinery	199	181	195	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	575	0.5
Motor vehicle traffic	2051	2416	3008	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7475	6.8
<i>Occupant</i>	1201	949	1187	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3337	3.0
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	26	88	373	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	487	0.4
<i>Pedal Cyclist</i>	19	272	642	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	933	0.8
<i>Pedestrian</i>	759	1035	700	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2494	2.3
<i>Unspecified</i>	35	47	76	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	158	0.1
<i>Other</i>	11	25	30	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	66	0.1
Pedal Cyclist (other)	797	2176	2530	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5503	5.0
Pedestrian (other)	476	205	162	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	843	0.8
Transport (other)	407	1052	2455	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3914	3.6
Natural/environmental	1187	772	528	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2487	2.3
<i>Bites and stings</i>	965	653	351	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1969	1.8
Overexertion	100	151	583	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	834	0.8
Poisoning	4942	376	347	2	10	909	8	8	5	13	8	82	6710	6.1
Struck by/against	2044	2505	3451	.	.	.	18	57	356	.	.	6	8437	7.7
Suffocation	716	81	63	.	1	28	1	.	5	3	.	2	900	0.8
Other specified and classifiable	2795	1421	1100	.	.	1	557	147	100	.	.	1	6122	5.6
Other specified, not elsewhere classifiable	122	114	135	.	1	1	25	10	20	5	1	4	438	0.4
Unspecified	462	232	343	.	.	.	13	8	42	82	59	133	1374	5.5
Total	36495	35323	30581	2	12	962	644	242	562	109	70	235	105237	100.0

* This database includes all discharges from public hospitals with a primary diagnosis of injury, and excludes the following: readmissions for prior injury, stays of less than 1 day, those discharged dead, adverse effects due to drugs and medical procedures, legal interventions, and operations of war.

- Most hospitalisations in each of the age groups were unintentional. Self-inflicted harm however is a significant cause of injury among 10-14 year olds.
- 35.4% of hospitalisations for children 0-14 years due to injury occurred in 0-4 year olds, 33.9% in 5-9 year olds, 30.7% in 10-14 year olds.
- The major mechanisms of unintentional hospitalisations for all ages were falls (45.0%), struck by/against (7.6%) and motor vehicle traffic crashes (7.1%).
- The main mechanisms of injury for each age group were:
 - 0-4 year olds: unintentional falls (38.0%), poisonings (13.3%), and burns (10.0%).
 - 5-9 year olds: unintentional falls (56.9%), cut/pierce (7.5%) and struck by/against (7.0%).
 - 10-14 year olds: unintentional falls (38.6%), struck by/against (10.7%), and motor vehicle traffic crashes (9.3%).

NB: This fact sheet updates IPRU Fact Sheet Number 9

The table is based on the Revised Framework of E-code Groupings provided by the National Centre for Injury Prevention and Control

Data source: Morbidity (1990-1999) and Mortality (1990-1998), New Zealand Health Information Service, Wellington

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