

Childhood Injury Report

**An analysis of Stark County Hospital
emergency room visits**

**2nd Annual Report
January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003**



REPORT PREPARED BY:

Stark County Safe Kids Coalition
Data & Research Committee

&

Stark County Health Department
Administration & Support Services Division



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Committee & Report Information

Data & Research Committee Members

<i>Safe Kids Coordinator:</i> Amanda Eckelberry Stark County Health Department	<i>Committee Chair:</i> Lisa Tavallali Aultman Hospital
<i>Members:</i> Mike Abrams Stark County Bicycle Club Beth Canfield-Simbro Mount Union College Kay Conley Stark County Health Department Steve Gronow Stark County Engineer's Office	Tammy Jacobson Aultman Hospital Danette Lund Early Childhood Resource Center Carolyn Schooley Mercy Medical Center Laurie Weaver North Lawrence Fire Department

The committee members include: child safety advocates, health educators, trauma coordinators, and data analysts. The committee is a part of the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition. The Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids USA are the parent organizations.

The Stark County Health Department is the lead agency for the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition. This department has an injury prevention grant and child and family health services grant, which enables them to conduct child safety and injury prevention programs.

Report Information

This report includes e-code (etiology) data collected from **Alliance Community Hospital, Aultman Hospital, Doctors Hospital of Stark County, Massillon Community Hospital and Mercy Medical Center** from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. "E-codes permit the classification of environmental events, circumstances and conditions as the cause of the injury, poisoning, and other adverse effects. The use of E-codes together with the code identifying the injury or condition, provides additional information of a particular concern to industrial medicine, insurance carriers, national safety programs and public health agencies. External causes of injury and poisonings codes (E-codes) are intended to provide data for injury research and evaluation for injury prevention strategies. E-codes capture how the injury or poisoning happened (cause), the intent (unintentional or accidental or intentional, such as suicide or assault), and the place where the event occurred. * E-codes are never to be reported as a principal diagnosis."

The hospitals were asked to provide their e-code data for children ages 14 and under during the time frame. Date of treatment, patient's age, sex, zip code and the e-code were reported for combined analysis.

If you have questions regarding the data collection or analysis process, if you would like to learn more about the Safe Kids Coalition or have comments or suggestions, please contact the Stark County Safe

Value to the Community

In 2002, the Stark County Health Department began researching a method to collect county wide data regarding childhood injuries. For the 2002 pilot report, three out of the five local hospitals agreed to provide the department with their injury data (E-codes) for analysis. Data collection for all five hospitals began by the health department for the 2003 report.

In 2004, a data & research committee was formed, as a part of the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition, to analyze this data.

In 2005, the Stark County Health Department was awarded an Injury Prevention Grant from the Ohio Department of Health to help with this initiative.

Once the data was analyzed, the committee published an annual report of the findings. The committee has published a pilot report for 2002 and is currently working on the 2004 report and collecting the 2005 data.

The reports are being distributed to community leaders and agencies for heightened awareness. Recommendations are being made to the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition board regarding the need for additional injury prevention programming. The data will be used to develop these new programs.

For this report, injury data was collected from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. During that time, 7,627 children ages 14 and under (which is the age group that is focused on by the Safe Kids Coalition) were treated in the five Stark County Emergency Room's for unintentional injuries.

Prior to this committee and their work, there was no accurate way of collecting all of the hospital information for a county-wide analysis.

Childhood Injuries

According to Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids USA accidental injury kills one million children annually worldwide. Ninety-eight percent of these deaths occur in low-income countries, where injury is making significant gains on disease as the leading cause of death in young children. In the United States and most other industrialized nations, accidental injury has surpassed disease to become the number one cause of death among children ages 14 and under.

The accidental injury death rate among children ages 14 and under declined 45 percent from 1987 to 2002.

In addition, each year more than 92,000 children are permanently disabled. Each year, one out of every four children (a total of more than 14 million children ages 14 and under) sustains an injury serious enough to require medical attention.

According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, in Ohio, over 2,300 children ages 0-14 were killed during the past ten years by unintentional injuries. Although these statistics are grim, most injuries are predictable and preventable. In fact, it is estimated that 9 out of 10 injuries can be prevented.

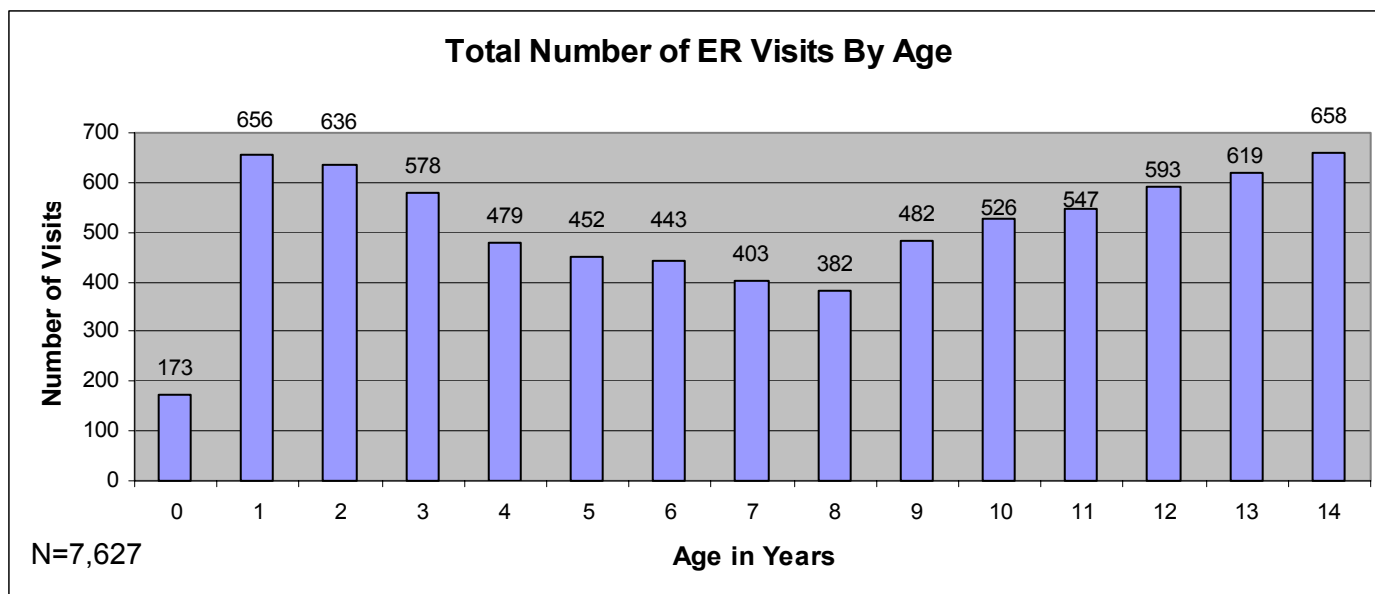
Demographic Analysis

- More male patients were treated for injuries than female patients.
- September was the most prevalent month for emergency room visits, followed by May and July, respectively.
- Fourteen year old children were most often seen in the emergency rooms, followed by one year olds and two year olds, respectively.
- However, one year old children have the highest injury rate, followed by two year olds and three year olds, respectively.
- The 44601 zip code (which includes Alliance City, Marlboro Twp, Washington Twp, Lexington Twp) was the most prevalent for injuries, followed by 44705 (which includes Canton City, Plain Twp), and 44646 (which includes Massillon City, Jackson Twp, Perry Twp) respectively.

Overall Demographic Information

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN TREATED

7,627



Overall Demographic Information

Number of Visits By Age

Age	# Injuries	Population	% Injured	Rate
0	173	4,769	3.63%	3,627.6 per 100,000
1	656	4,731	13.87%	13,866.0 per 100,000
2	636	4,826	13.18%	13,178.6 per 100,000
3	578	4,732	12.21%	12,214.7 per 100,000
4	479	5,109	9.38%	9,375.6 per 100,000
5	452	5,015	9.01%	9,013.0 per 100,000
6	443	5,048	8.78%	8,775.8 per 100,000
7	403	5,303	7.60%	7,599.5 per 100,000
8	382	5,406	7.07%	7,066.2 per 100,000
9	482	5,615	8.58%	8,584.1 per 100,000
10	526	5,629	9.34%	9,344.5 per 100,000
11	547	5,433	10.07%	10,068.1 per 100,000
12	593	5,326	11.13%	11,134.1 per 100,000
13	619	5,291	11.70%	11,699.1 per 100,000
14	658	5,517	11.93%	11,926.8 per 100,000

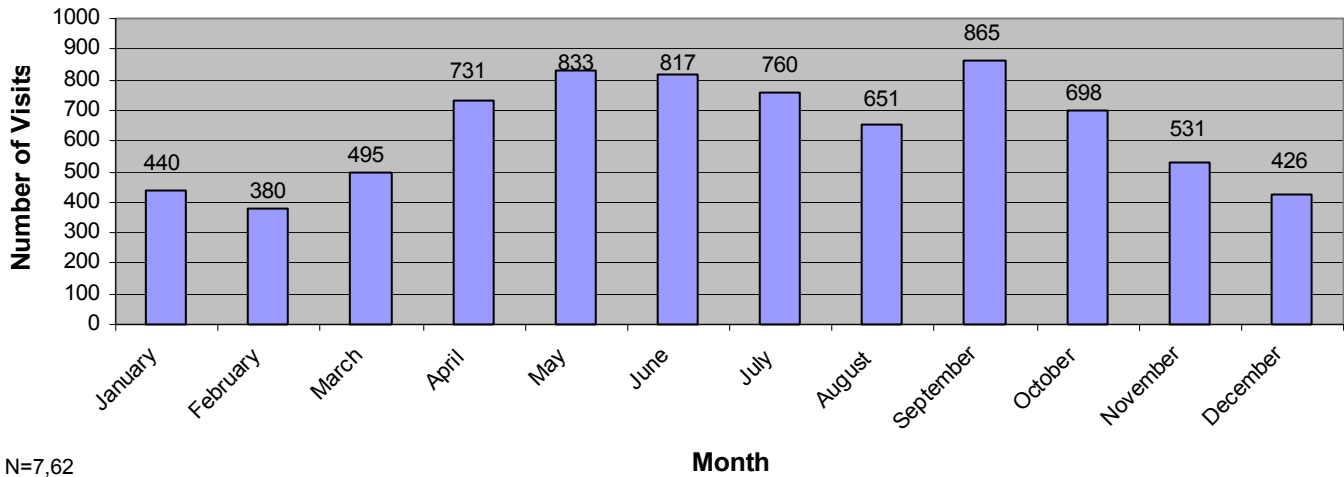
Fourteen year old children suffered the most injuries (658), accounting for 8.63% of all ER visits. However, one year old children had the highest rate of injury, at 13,660 per 100,000.

Overall Demographic Information

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN TREATED

7,627

Total Number of ER Visits By Month



Number of Visits Per Month

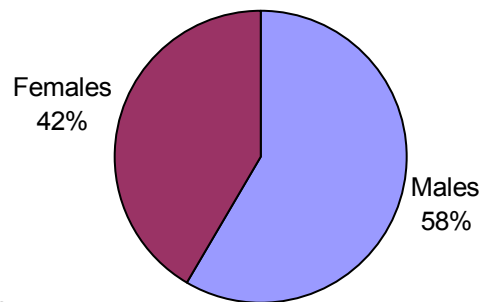
Month	#	%
January	440	5.8%
February	380	5.0%
March	495	6.5%
April	731	9.6%
May	833	10.9%
June	817	10.7%

Month	#	%
July	760	10.0%
August	651	8.5%
September	865	11.3%
October	698	9.2%
November	531	7.0%
December	426	5.6%

Number of Visits By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	4,439	58.2%
Females	3,188	41.8%

Total Number of Visits By Gender



Zip Code Information

Percent of Visits by Zip Code N=7627

Zip	#	Percent	Zip	#	Percent
44601	1186	15.56%	44685	41	< 1%
44608	20	< 1%	44688	112	1.47%
44613	14	< 1%	44689	8	< 1%
44614	57	< 1%	44701	14	< 1%
44626	90	1.18%	44702	22	< 1%
44630	1	< 1%	44703	388	5.09%
44632	50	< 1%	44704	171	2.24%
44641	368	4.82%	44705	753	9.87%
44643	72	< 1%	44706	628	8.23%
44646	728	9.55%	44707	411	6.87%
44648	9	< 1%	44709	270	3.54%
44650	3	< 1%	44710	287	3.76%
44652	1	< 1%	44714	192	2.52%
44657	205	2.69%	44718	125	1.64%
44662	115	1.51%	44720	284	3.72%
44666	32	< 1%	44721	124	1.63%
44669	31	< 1%	44730	132	1.73%
44670	11	< 1%	44735	1	< 1%

Top 10 Zip Codes for Injuries

44601	Alliance City, Marlboro Twp, Washington Twp, Lexington Twp
44705	Canton City, Plain Twp
44646	Massillon City, Jackson Twp, Perry Twp
44706	Canton City, Canton Twp, Perry Twp, East Sparta
44708	Canton City, Jackson Twp, Plain Twp, Perry Twp, Canton Twp
44707	Canton City, Canton Twp
44703	Canton City
44641	Louisville City, Plain Twp, Nimishillen Twp, Hartville, Osnaburg Twp
44710	Canton City, Canton Twp, Perry Twp
44720	North Canton, Lake Twp, Plain Twp, Jackson Twp, Greentown, Hartville

Zip Code Description

For each child treated, the zip code reported is where the child lives, not necessarily where the injury occurred.

For the purposes of this report, the following areas are identified to each zip code:

44601	Alliance City, Marlboro Twp, Washington Twp, Lexington Twp
44608	Beach City, Brewster, Wilmot
44613	Brewster, Wilmot
44614	Canal Fulton, Jackson Twp, Lawrence Twp
44626	East Sparta
44630	Greentown
44632	Hartville
44641	Louisville City, Plain Twp, Nimishillen Twp, Hartville, Osnaburg Twp
44643	Magnolia, East Sparta
44646	Massillon City, Jackson Twp, Perry Twp
44647	Massillon City, Lawrence Twp, Tuscarawas Twp
44648	Massillon City, Perry Twp
44650	Maximo
44652	Middlebranch, Plain Twp
44657	Minerva
44662	Navarre, Brewster, Perry Twp, Wilmot
44666	North Lawrence, Lawrence Twp, Tuscarawas Twp
44669	Paris, Minerva
44670	Robertsville, Minerva
44685	Uniontown
44688	Waynesburg
44689	Wilmot
44701	Canton City
44702	Canton City
44703	Canton City
44704	Canton City, Canton Twp
44705	Canton City, Plain Twp
44706	Canton City, Canton Twp, Perry Twp, East Sparta
44707	Canton City, Canton Twp
44708	Canton City, Jackson Twp, Plain Twp, Perry Twp, Canton Twp
44709	Canton City, Plain Twp, North Canton
44710	Canton City, Canton Twp, Perry Twp
44714	Canton City, Plain Twp
44718	Canton City, Plain Twp, Jackson Twp
44720	North Canton, Lake Twp, Plain Twp, Jackson Twp, Greentown, Hartville
44721	Plain Twp, North Canton, Hartville
44730	East Canton, Osnaburg Twp, Canton Twp

E-Code Headings

There are over 1,200 potential e-codes used in hospital emergency rooms. For the purposes of this report, the committee assigned each e-code to a particular heading. E-codes with no statistical significance were not included in these headings. Some e-codes will have multiple subheadings. They will be described in the following pages.

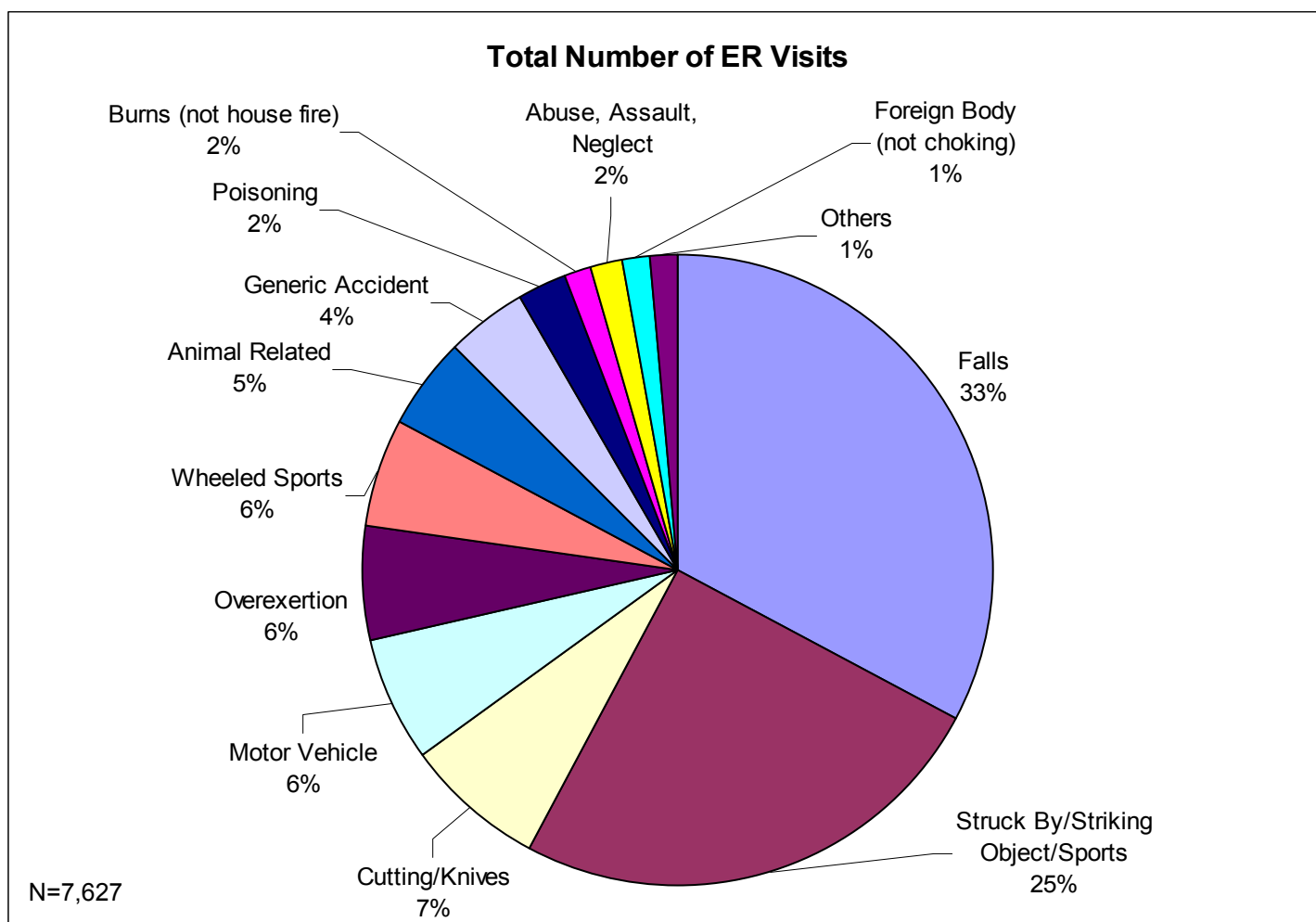
A	Motor Vehicle	L	Choking/Suffocation
B	Wheeled Sports	M	Foreign Body (Not Choking)
C	Water Related	N	Struck By/Striking Object/Sports
D	Generic Accident	O	Machinery
E	Poisoning	P	Cutting/Knives
F	Medical Procedures	Q	Fire Arms
G	Falls	R	Suicide
H	Fire Related	S	Burns (Not Fire Related)
I	Weather	T	Human Bites
J	Abuse, Assault, Neglect	U	Overexertion & Strenuous Movement
K	Animal Related		

Top 12 Leading Causes of Injury

There were 7,627 children treated between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003.

The leading causes of injury, as differentiated by heading include:

Injury Type	#	%
Falls	2,492	32.7%
Struck By/Striking Object/Sports	1,916	25.1%
Cutting/Knives	540	7.1%
Motor Vehicle	493	6.5%
Overexertion	442	5.8%
Wheeled Sports	423	5.5%
Animal Related	377	4.9%
Generic Accident	304	4.0%
Poisoning	186	2.4%
Burns (not house fire)	124	1.6%
Abuse, Assault, Neglect	117	1.5%
Foreign Body (not choking)	103	1.4%
All other Causes of Injury (not in the top 12)	110	1.4%



Falls

Falls were the leading cause of injury for children. There were 2,492 children treated for a fall related injury, accounting for 33% of the injuries during this report time frame.

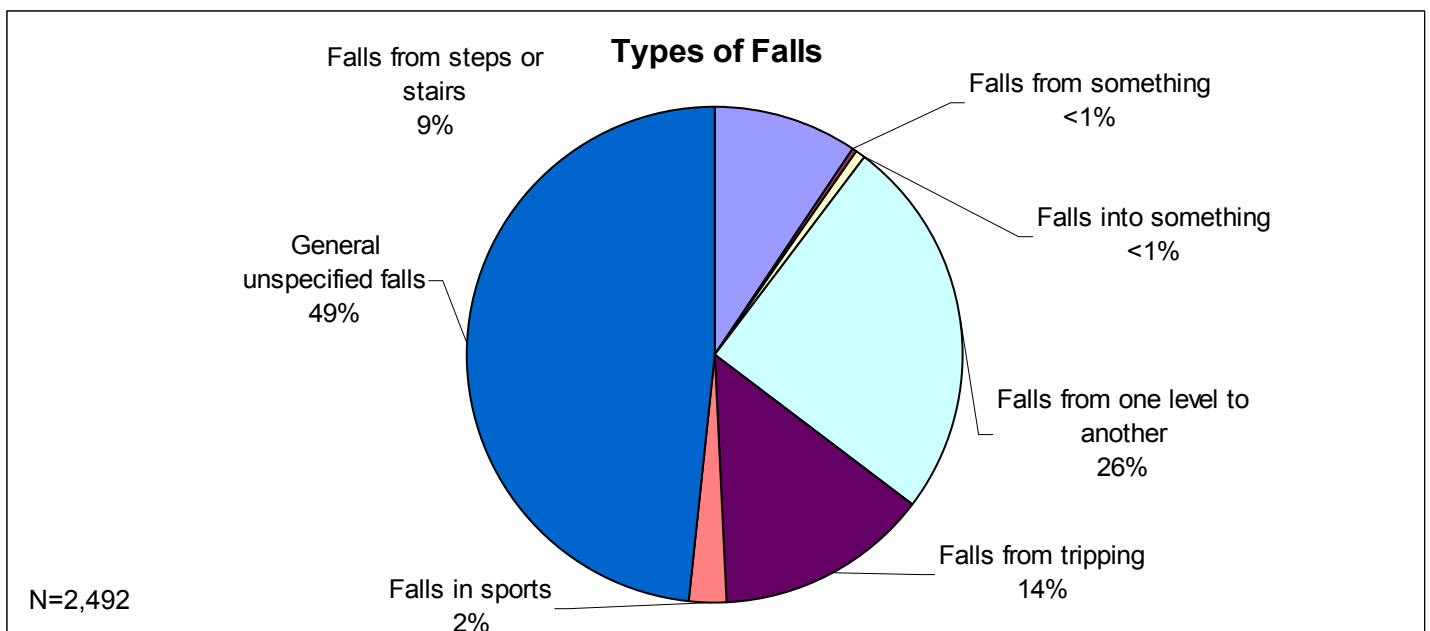
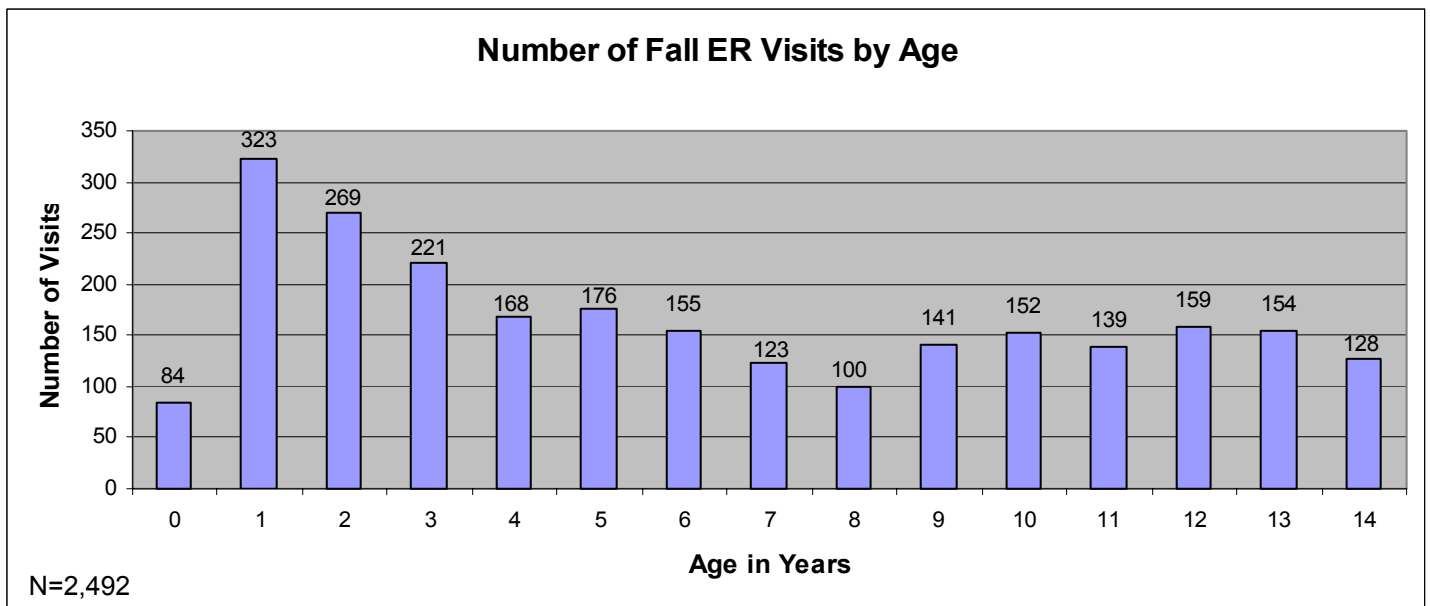
Number of Falls By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	1,350	54.2%
Females	1,142	45.8%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip Code	#	%
44601	333	13.4%
44705	250	10.0%
44646	240	9.6%
44706	203	8.1%
44708	172	6.9%

May (323) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by September (262) and April (253).



Struck By/Striking Object/Sports

There were 1,916 children treated for an injury caused by being struck by or striking an object. This was the second leading cause of injury, accounting for 25% of the injuries during this report time frame.

Number of Struck By/Striking Objects by Gender

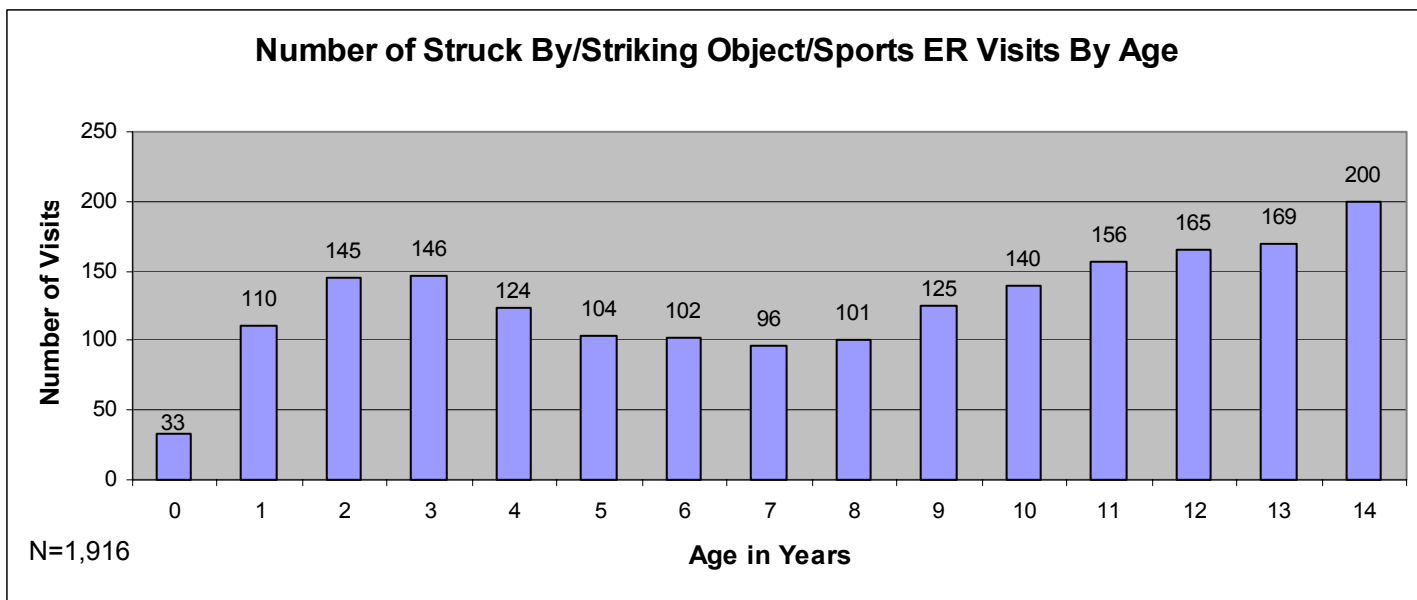
Gender	#	%
Males	1,241	65.0%
Females	675	35.0%

Leading Zip Codes

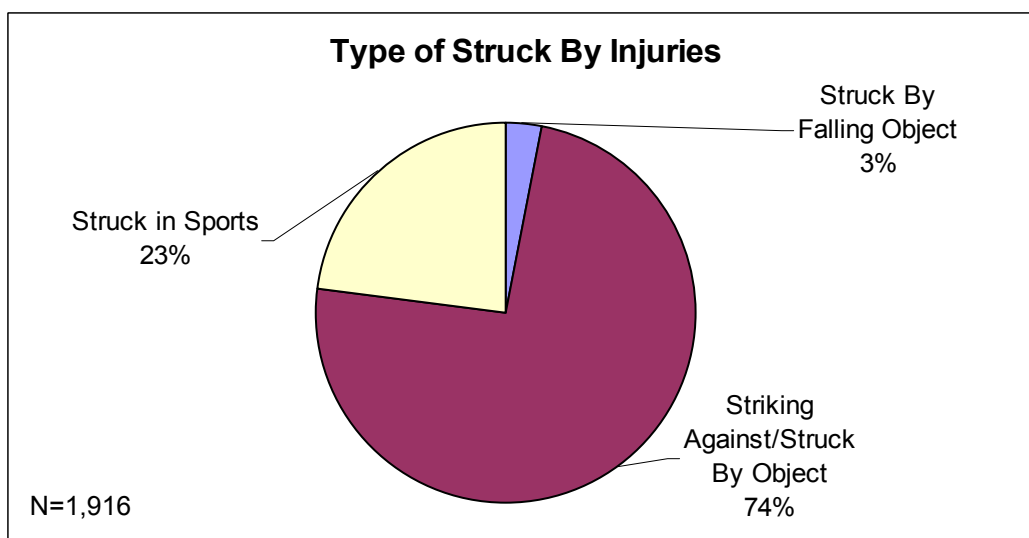
Zip	#	%
44601	271	14.1%
44705	189	9.9%
44646	174	9.1%
44706	170	8.9%
44708	144	7.5%

September (237) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by May (214) and June (200).

Number of Struck By/Striking Object/Sports ER Visits By Age



Type of Struck By Injuries



Cutting/Knives

There were 540 children treated for an injury caused by cutting instruments. This was the third leading cause of injury, accounting for 7% of the injuries during this report time frame.

Number of Visits By Gender

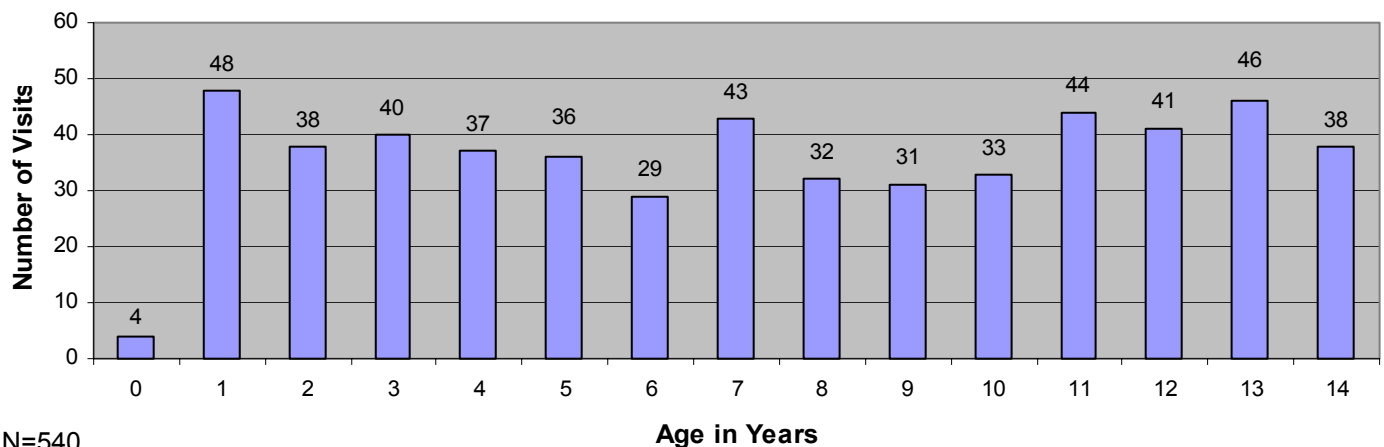
Gender	#	%
Males	327	60.6%
Females	213	39.4%

Leading Zip Codes

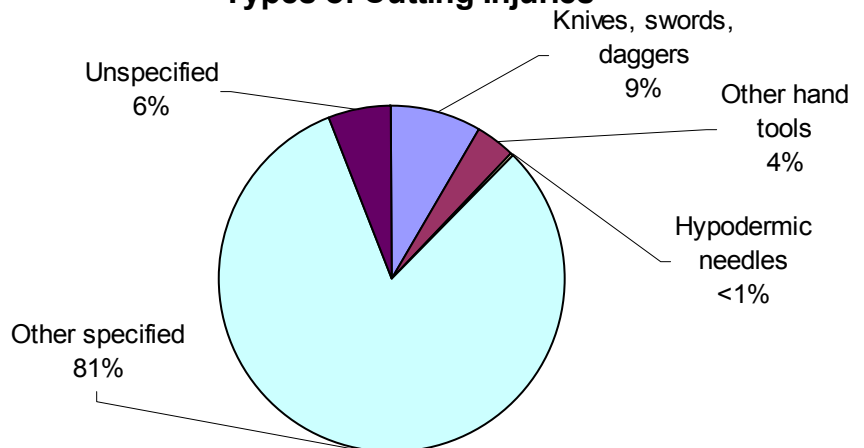
Zip	#	%
44601	80	14.8%
44705	57	10.6%
44706	47	8.7%
44646	37	6.9%
44707	37	6.9%
44708	37	6.9%

July (73) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by June (72) and September (65).

Number of Cutting ER Visits by Age



Types of Cutting Injuries



Other specified instrument includes something that is too specific and there is no specific code for it (such as cutting your foot on a curtain rod).

Unspecified instrument includes a cut with no known implement (such as a child was running through the yard and cut their foot).

Motor Vehicle

There were 493 children treated for a Motor Vehicle related injury. This was the fourth leading cause of injury, accounting for 6% of the injuries during this report time frame.

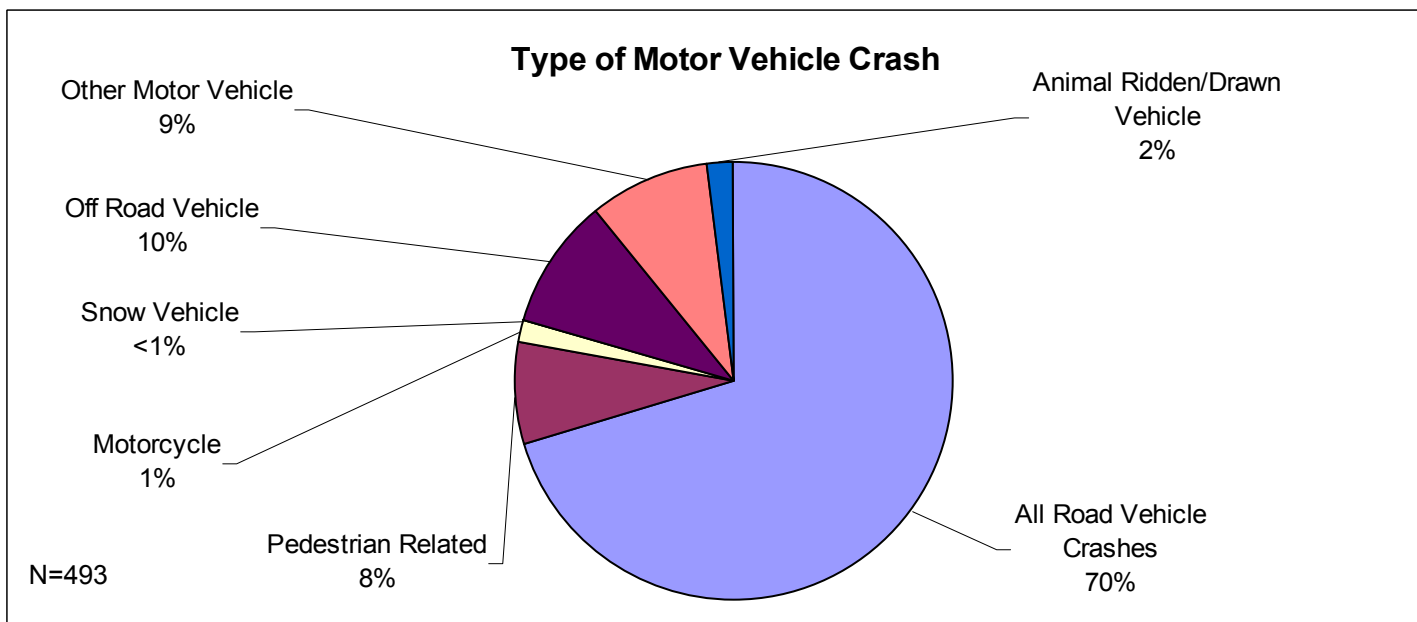
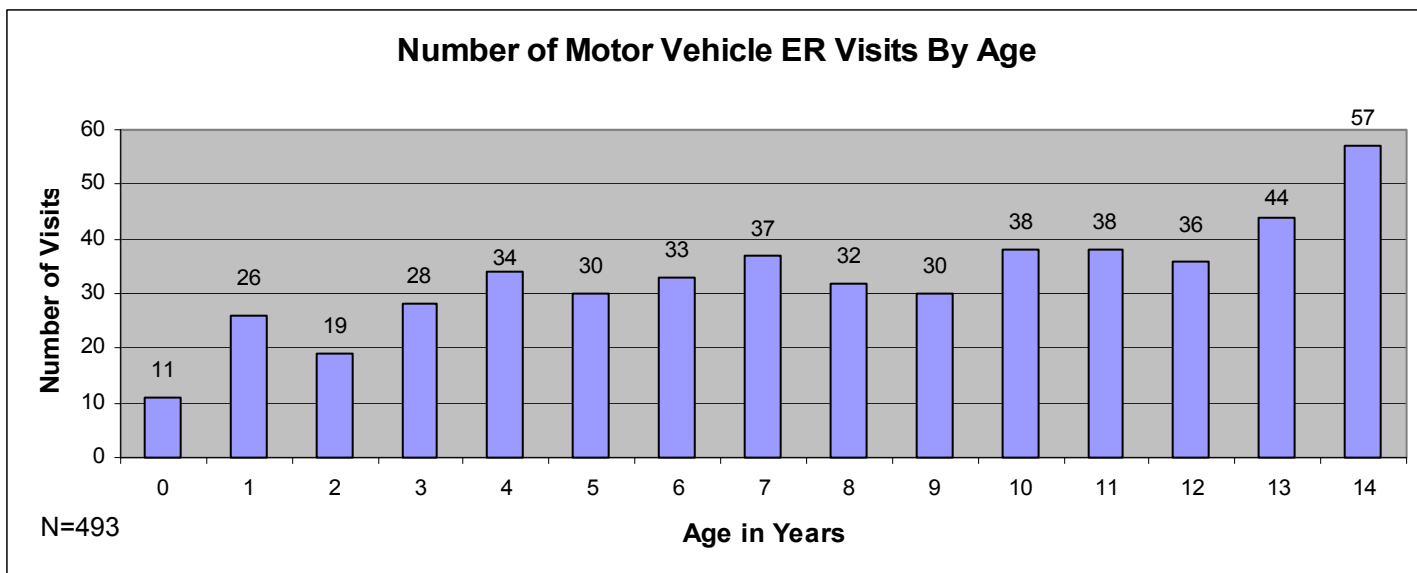
Number of Visits By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	276	56.0%
Females	217	44.0%

Leading Zip Codes:

Zip	#	%
44601	66	13.4%
44705	48	9.7%
44646	47	9.5%
44703	34	6.9%
44706	34	6.9%

September (57) and July (55) were the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by May and October (47).



Overexertion or Strenuous Movement

There were 442 children treated for overexertion injuries. This was the fifth leading cause of injury, accounting for 6% of the injuries during this report time frame.

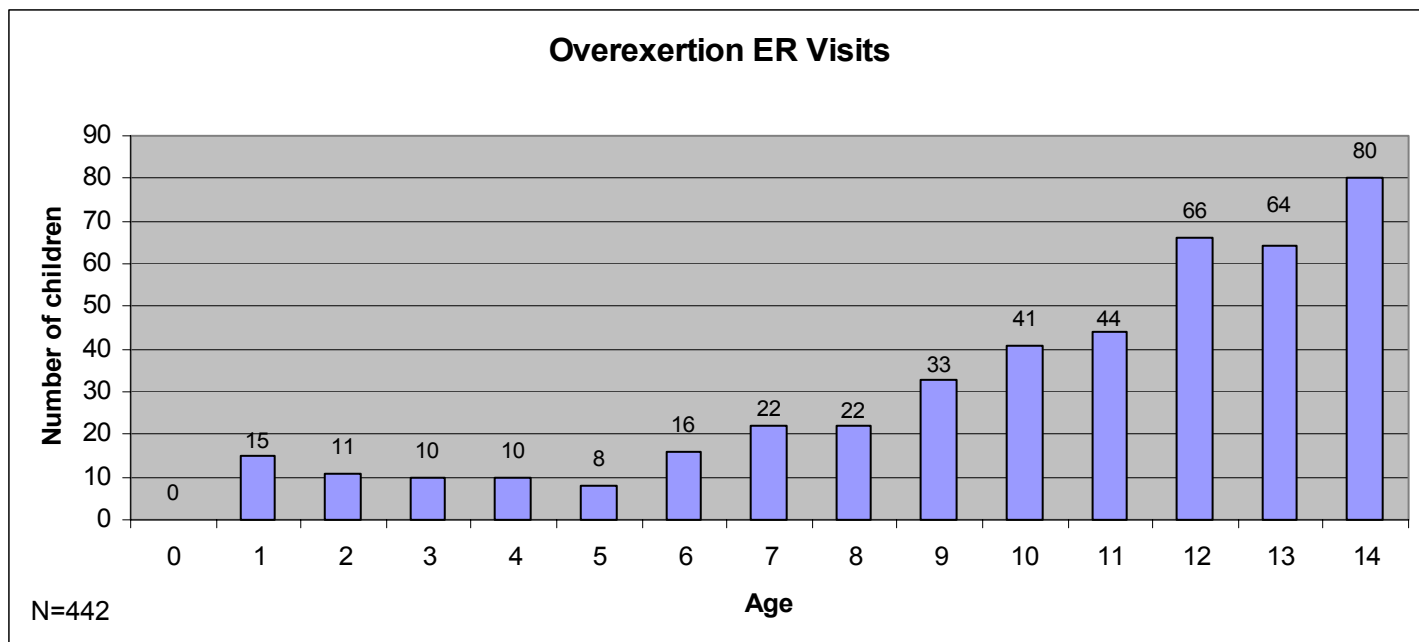
Number of Visits by Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	207	46.8%
Females	235	53.2%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip	#	%
44601	84	19.0%
44646	59	13.3%
44706	41	9.3%
44708	34	7.7%
44707	33	7.5%

April (57) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by October (54) and May (50).



An **Overexertion/Strenuous Movement Injury** includes a type of injury or strenuous movement, where the body is stressed beyond normal capabilities causing injury.

Wheeled Sports

There were 423 children treated for wheeled sports related injuries (such as bicycle, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades). This was the sixth leading cause of injury, accounting for 6% of the injuries during this report time frame.

Number of Visits by Gender

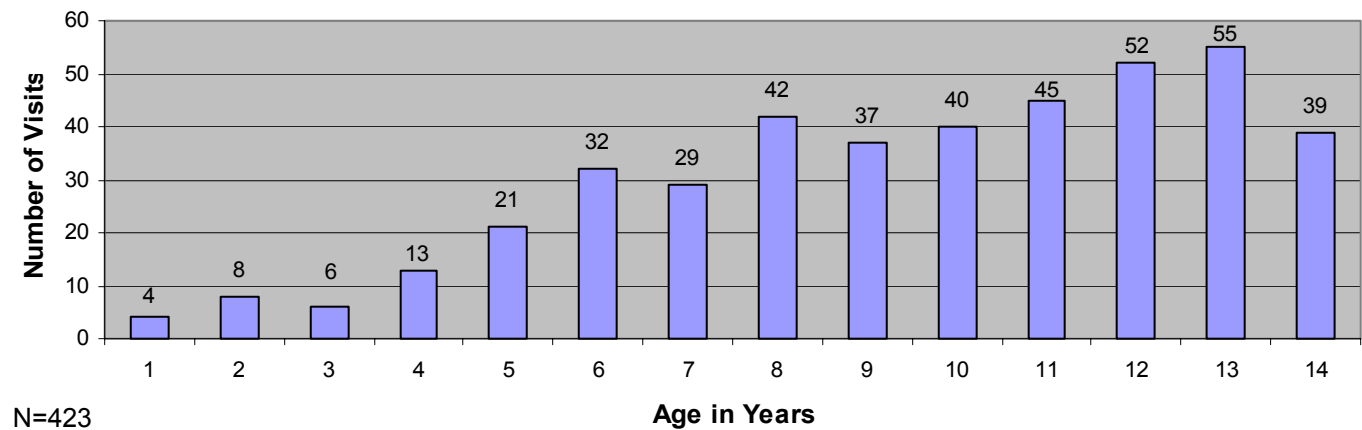
Gender	#	%
Males	285	67.4%
Females	138	32.6%

Leading Zip Codes

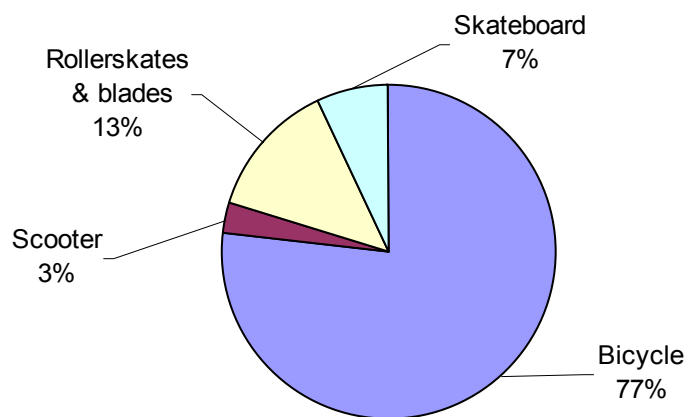
Zip	#	%
44601	71	16.8%
44646	54	12.8%
44705	44	10.4%
44708	29	6.9%
44706	26	6.1%

July (78) was the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by June (67) and August (57).

Number of Wheeled Sports ER Visits By Age



Type of Wheeled Sport Injuries



Animal Related

There were 377 children treated for animal related injuries. This was the seventh leading cause of injury, accounting for 5% of the injuries during this report time frame.

Number of Visits By Gender

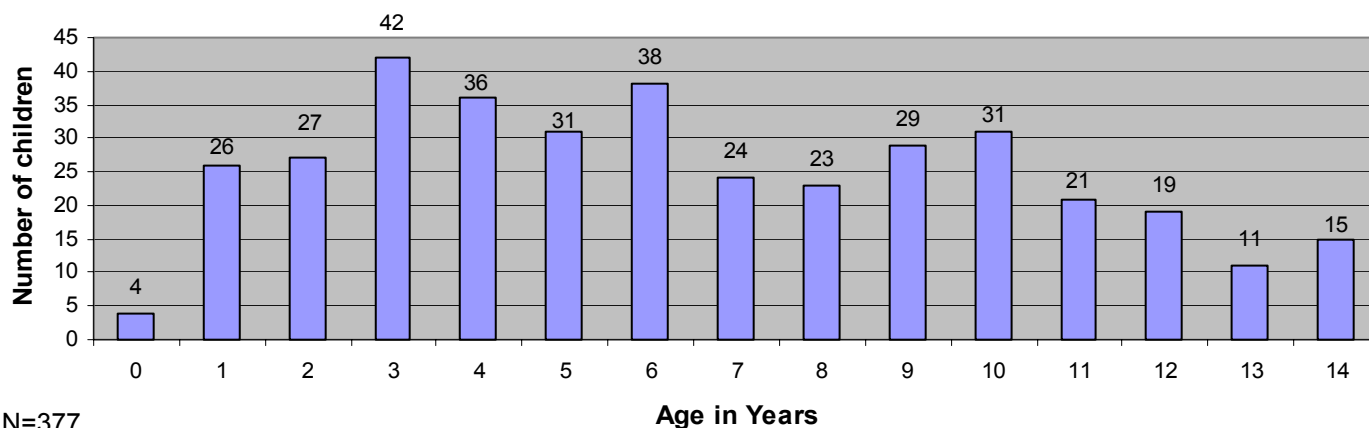
Gender	#	%
Males	218	57.8%
Females	159	42.2%

Leading Zip Codes

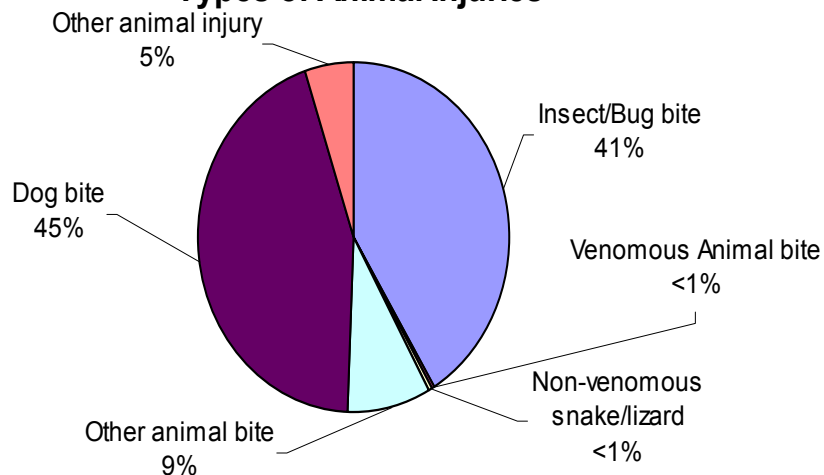
Zip	#	%
44601	100	26.5%
44646	37	9.8%
44705	36	9.5%
44706	24	6.4%
44708	21	5.6%

August (65) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by June (62) and September (57).

Number of Animal Related ER Visits by Age



Types of Animal Injuries



Generic Accident

There were 304 children treated for Generic Accidents. This was the eighth leading cause of injury, accounting for 4% of the injuries during this report time frame.

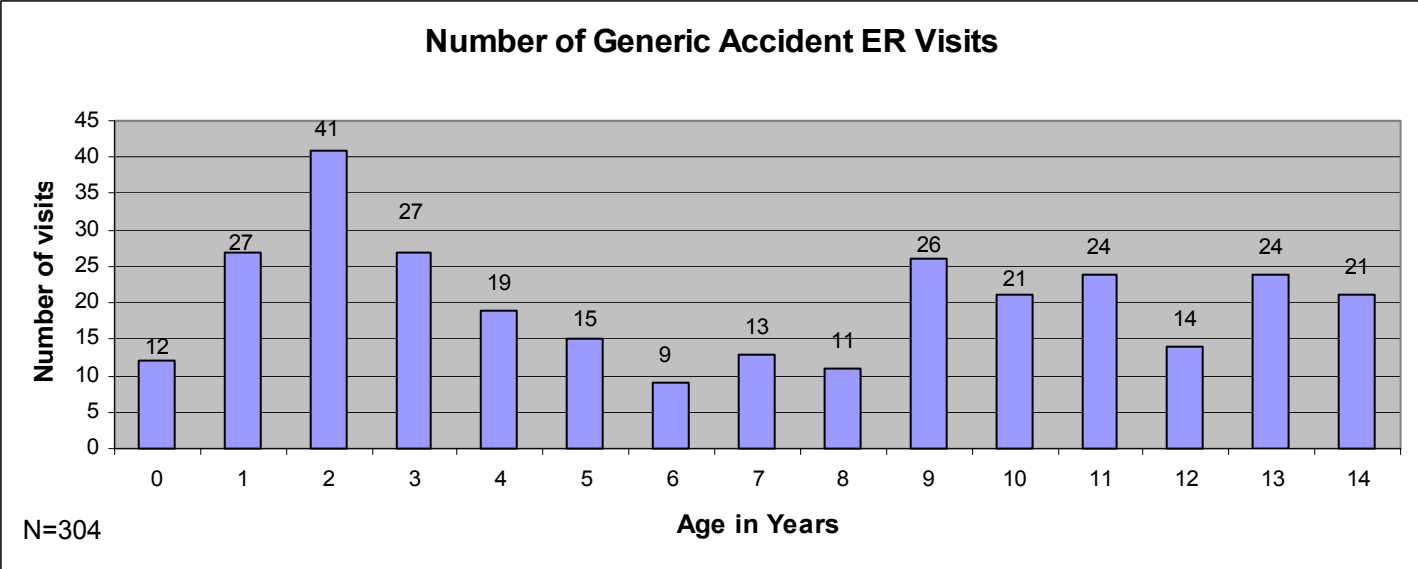
Number of Visits by Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	158	52.0%
Females	146	48.0%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip	#	%
44601	41	13.5%
44705	36	11.8%
44707	36	11.8%
44706	33	10.9%
44646	22	7.2%

April (44) was the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by October (35) and September (33).



A **Generic Accident** Includes anything not otherwise specified in the reporting process.

**Committee Note: we have asked the hospitals to become more detailed in their reports to reduce the number of generic and unspecified types of injuries for future reports.

Poisoning

There were 186 children treated for poisoning injuries. This was the ninth leading cause of injury, accounting for 2% of the injuries during this report time frame.

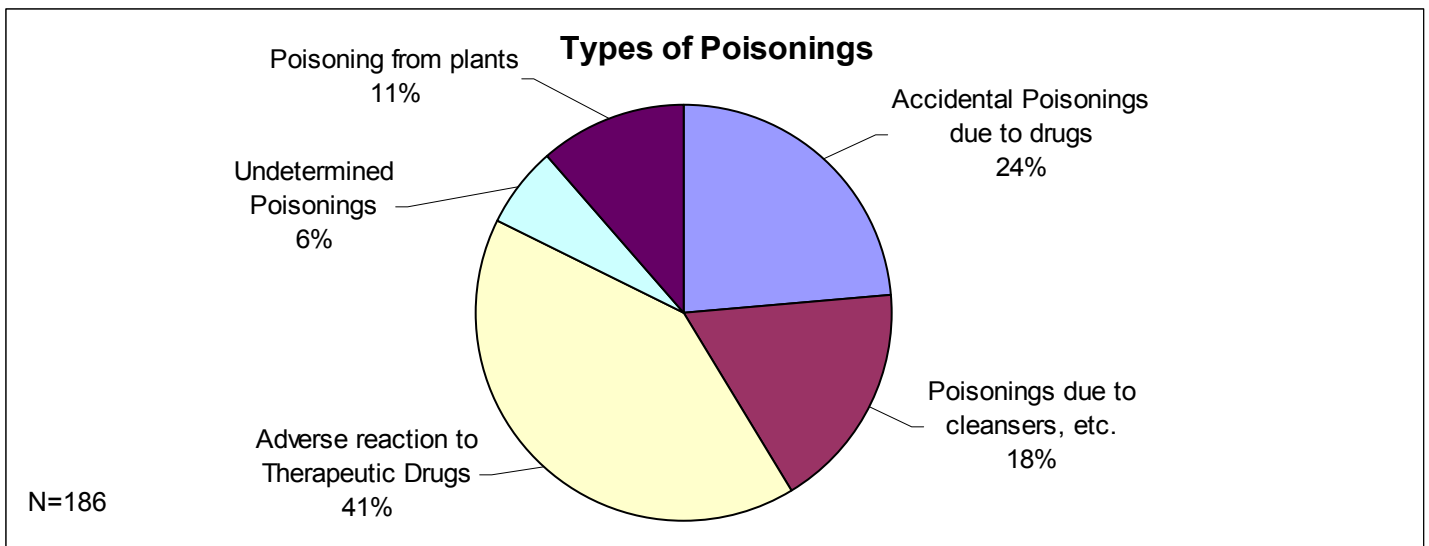
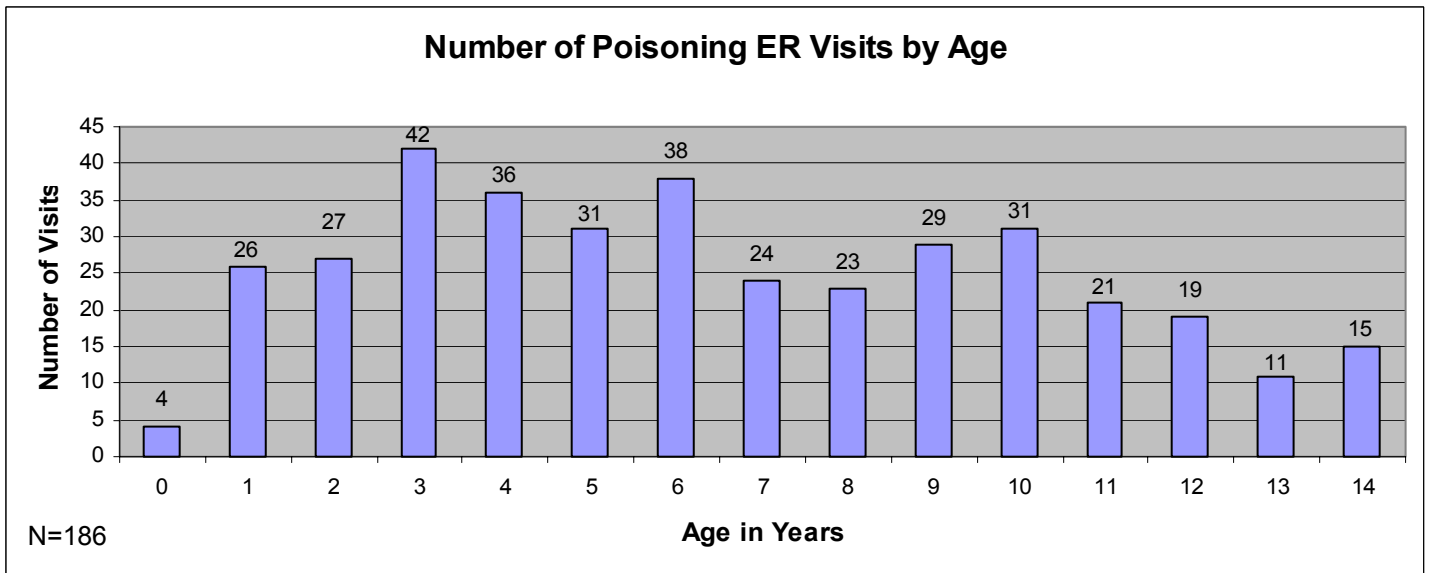
Number of Visits By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	109	58.6%
Females	77	41.4%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip	#	%
44601	43	23.1%
44646	22	11.8%
44706	17	9.1%
44705	14	7.5%
44703	10	5.4%

February (27) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by July (22) and March (20).



Burns (not house fire related)

There were 124 children treated for burn related injuries (not from fire). This was the tenth leading cause of injury, accounting for 2% of the injuries during this report time frame.

Number of Visits by Gender

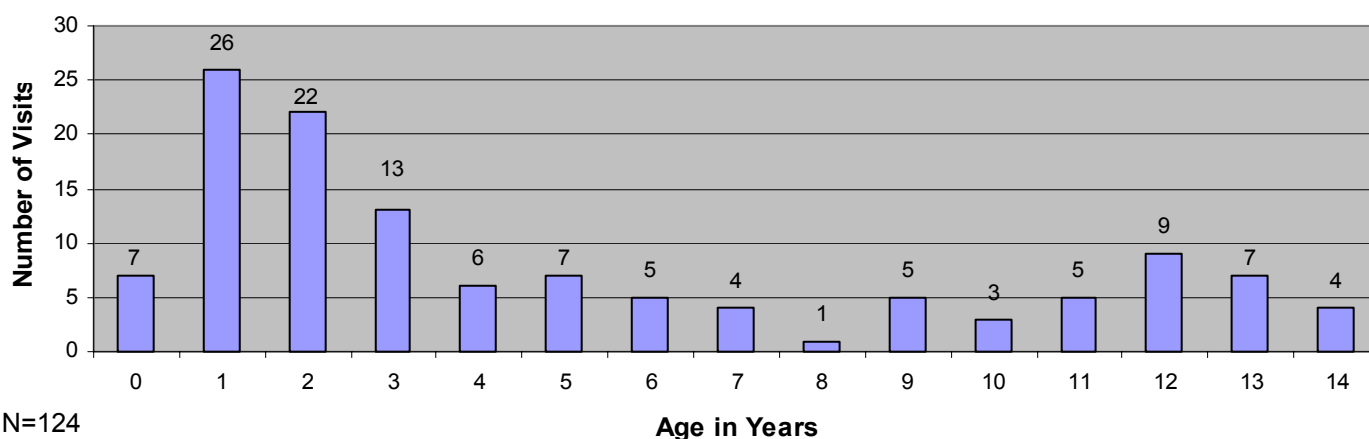
Gender	#	%
Males	59	47.6%
Females	65	52.4%

Leading Zip Codes

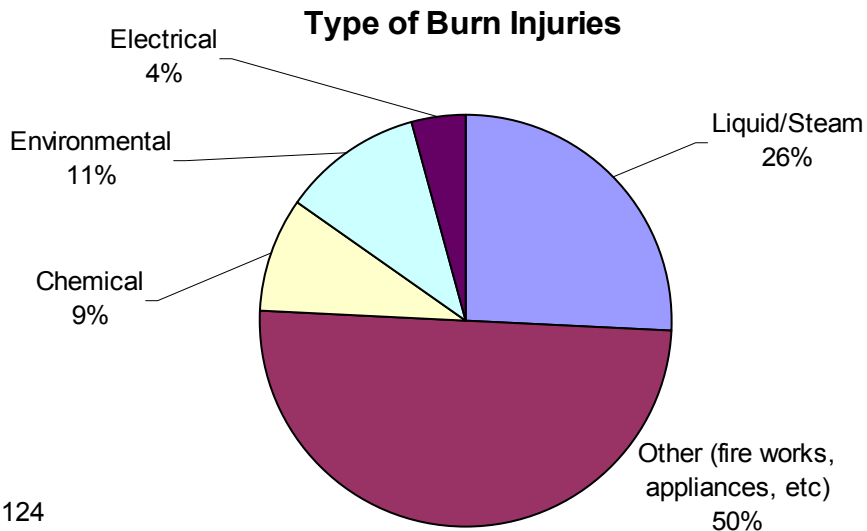
Zip	#	%
44705	22	17.7%
44601	16	12.9%
44646	11	8.9%
44707	10	8.1%
44706	9	7.3%
44706	9	7.3%

July (16) was the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by June (15) and May (12).

Number of Burn ER Visits by Age



Type of Burn Injuries



These burn injuries were not related to a home or dwelling fire. Those injuries accounted for less than 1% of all of the injuries during the 2003 reporting year.

Abuse, Neglect, Assault

There were 117 children treated for abuse, neglect and assault related injuries. This was the eleventh leading cause of injury, accounting for 2% of the injuries during this report time frame.

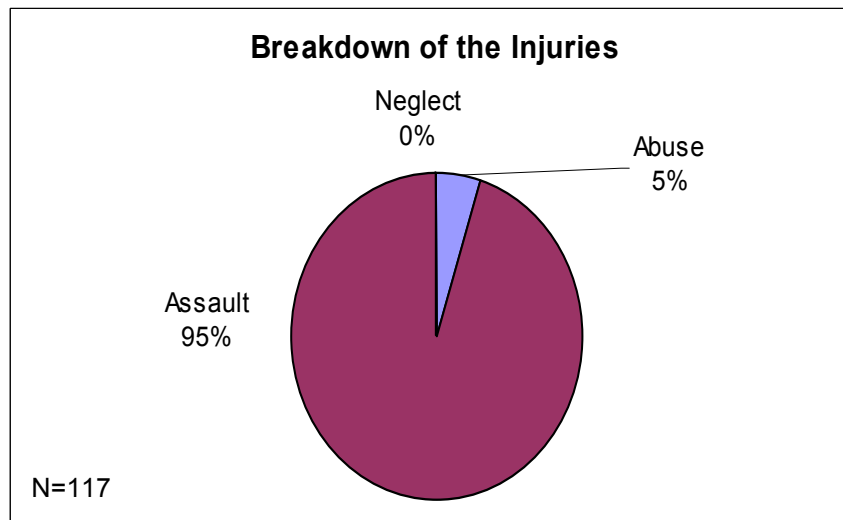
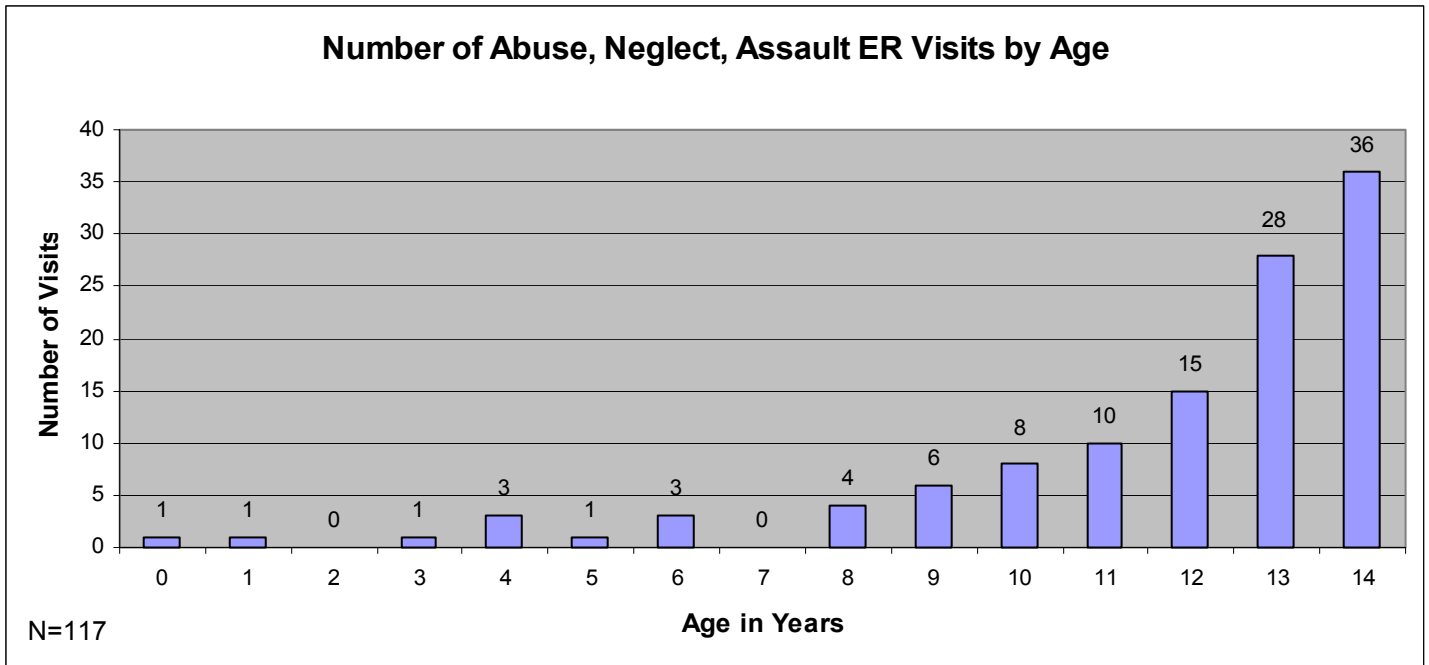
Number of Visits By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	88	75.2%
Females	29	24.8%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip	#	%
44601	24	20.5%
44705	16	13.7%
44464	10	8.5%
44706	10	8.5%
44708	8	6.8%

June (21) is the most prevalent month for these injuries, followed by May (15) and October (15).



Foreign Body

There were 103 children treated for foreign body (not choking) related injuries. This was the twelfth leading cause of injury, accounting for 1% of the injuries during this report time frame.

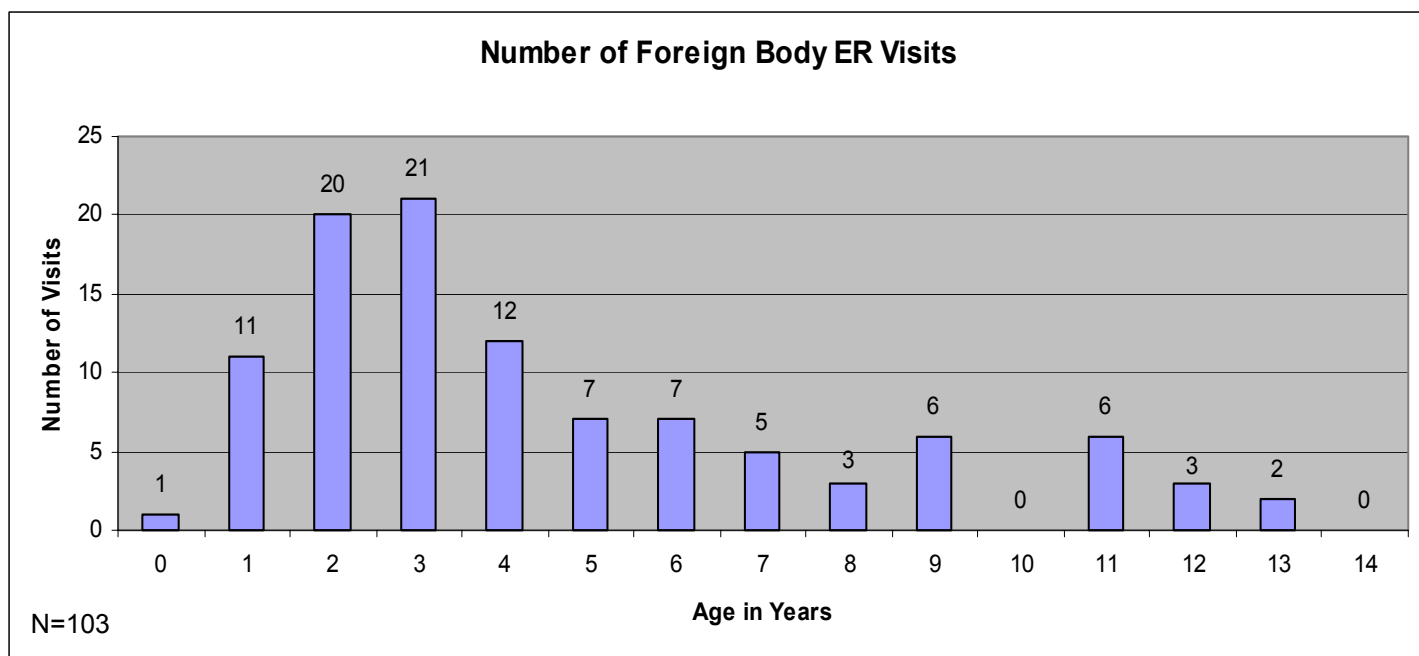
Number of Visits By Gender

Gender	#	%
Males	57	55.3%
Females	46	44.7%

Leading Zip Codes

Zip	#	%
44601	29	28.2%
44646	13	12.6%
44706	8	7.8%
44703	7	6.8%
44709	6	5.8%

June (14) and November (14) were the most prevalent months for these injuries, followed by March (13).

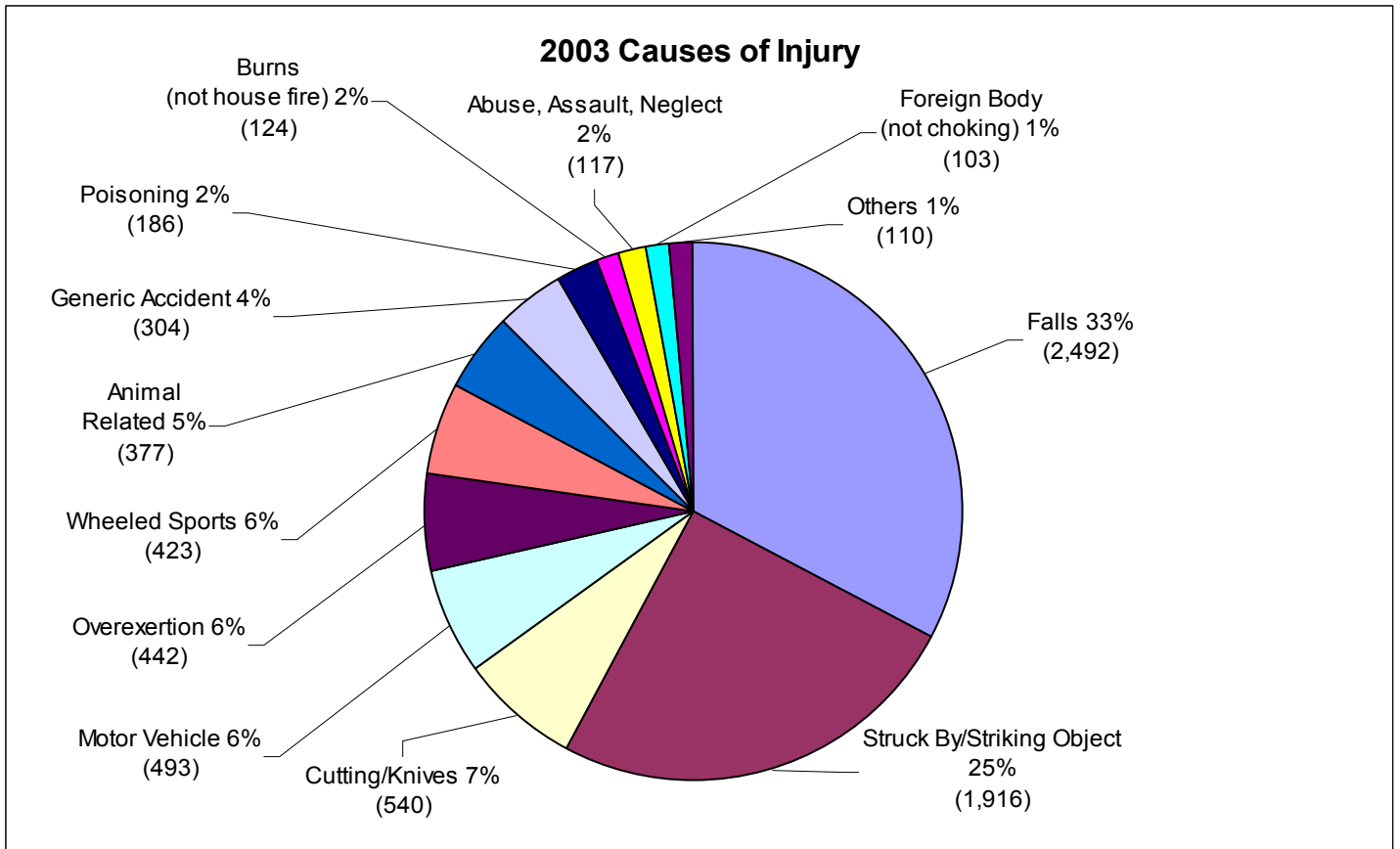
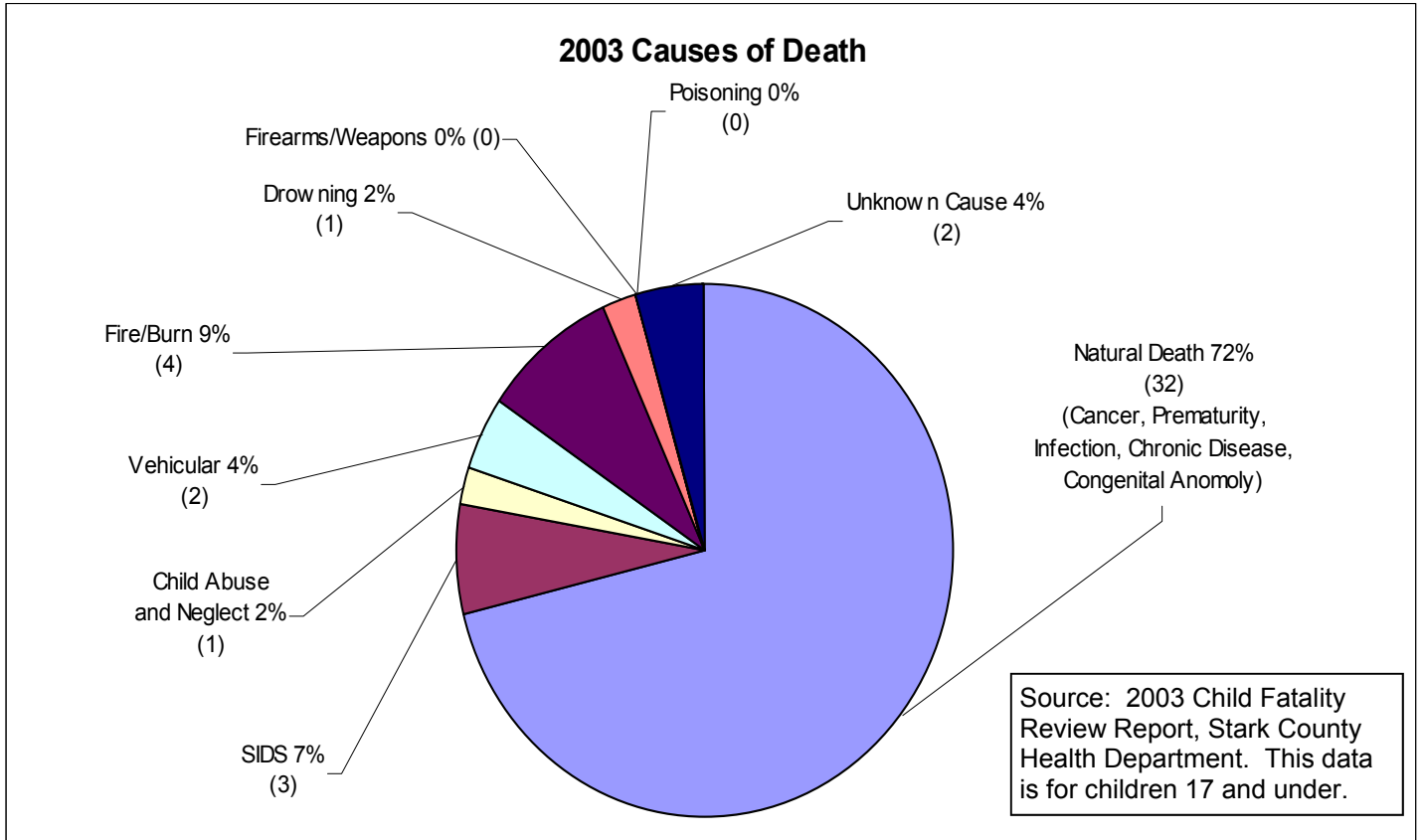


The foreign body injury includes any foreign body entering the eye or other orifice. Choking related injuries are not included here. Choking accounted for less than 1% of the injuries during the 2003 reporting year.

Leading Cause of Injuries Per Age

Age	Total Number of Patients Treated	Leading Cause of Injury Number/Percent	Second Leading Cause of Injury Number/Percent	Third Leading Cause of Injury Number/Percent
0	173	Falls 84 or 48.6%	Struck By/Striking Object 33 or 19.1%	Generic Accidents 12 or 6.9% Poisonings 12 or 6.9%
1	656	Falls 323 or 49.2%	Struck By/Striking Object 110 or 12.2%	Cutting/Knives 48 or 7.3%
2	636	Falls 269 or 42.1%	Struck By/Striking Object 145 or 18.7%	Generic Accident 41 or 6.4%
3	578	Falls 221 or 38.2%	Struck By/Striking Object 146 or 20.8%	Animal Related 42 or 6.9%
4	479	Falls 168 or 35.1%	Struck By/Striking Object 124 or 22.1%	Cutting/Knives 37 or 7.8%
5	452	Falls 176 or 37.3%	Struck By/Striking Object 104 or 19.7%	Cutting/Knives 36 or 8.0%
6	443	Falls 155 or 35.0%	Struck By/Striking Object 102 or 20.3%	Animal Related 38 or 8.8%
7	403	Falls 123 or 30.5%	Struck By/Striking Object 96 or 21.8%	Cutting/Knives 43 or 10.7%
8	382	Struck By/Striking Object 101 or 24.1%	Falls 100 or 26.2%	Wheeled Sports 42 or 10.7%
9	482	Falls 141 or 29.3%	Struck By/Striking Object 125 or 23.0%	Wheeled Sports 37 or 7.9%
10	526	Falls 152 or 28.9%	Struck By/Striking Object 140 or 24.1%	Wheeled Sports 40 or 7.8%
11	547	Struck By/Striking Object 156 or 26.5%	Falls 139 or 25.4%	Wheeled Sports 45 or 9.1%
12	593	Struck By/Striking Object 165 or 26.5%	Falls 159 or 26.8%	Overexertion 66 or 11.1%
13	619	Struck By/Striking Object 169 or 25.7%	Falls 154 or 24.9%	Overexertion 64 or 10.3%
14	658	Struck By/Striking Object 200 or 28.7%	Falls 128 or 19.3%	Overexertion 80 or 12.2%

2003 Injury and Death Comparison (for all causes)



**2003 Injury and Death Comparison
(for unintentional injury causes)**

Cause	# Injuries in 2003	***# Deaths in 2003**
Falls	2,492	0
Struck By/Striking Object/Sports	1,916	0
Cutting/Knives	540	0
Motor Vehicle	493	2
Overexertion/Strenuous Movements	442	0
Wheeled Sports	423	0
Animal Related	377	0
Generic Accident	304	0
Poisoning	186	1
Burns (not house fire related)	124	0
Assault, Abuse, Neglect	117	1
Foreign Body	103	0
Suicide	35	0
Fire Related	29	4
Fire Arms	11	0
Machinery	11	0
Human Bites	8	0
Medical Procedures	7	0
Weather Related	6	0
Choking/Suffocation	2	0
Water Related	1	1

**Source: 2003 Child Fatality Review Report, Stark County Health Department.
This data is for children 14 and under.

Significant Findings

- The 44601 zip code was the leading zip code for eleven of the top twelve injury categories; the leading zip code for *burn injuries (not house fire related)* was 44705.
- Females suffered more injuries than males in only 2 categories: *Overexertion/Strenuous Movements and Burns (not house fire)*.
- *Cutting/Knife* injuries occurred evenly across the age groups.
- The majority of the *falls* were “unspecified”.
- One year olds suffered the most *falls*.
- There were more *motor vehicle injuries* for children ages 8 to 14 than for children ages 0 to 7 years of age.
- The majority of the *wheeled sports* injuries were bicycle related.
- Dog bites accounted for 45% of the animal related injuries.
- Males had a much higher abuse/assault/neglect rate. The number of overall incidence got significantly higher for older children.
- The top two (of twelve) most occurring injuries, *falls* and *struck by/striking objects/sports*, accounted for over 55% of all injuries.
- Thirteen and fourteen year olds had more *abuse/neglect/assault injuries* (64) than all other age groups combined (53).

Recommendations

- Determine a method to compare number of injuries per zip code to injury rate, based on the zip code population.
- Incorporate injury prevention strategies into existing community programs, pediatrician offices and clinics, schools, preschools and daycares.
- Develop a mechanism to document all types of injury prevention occurring, aside from work done through the Injury Prevention Grant (Stark County Health Department) and the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition.
- Present findings to the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition, Stark County Health Department, local hospitals, the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board and other community groups and agencies.
- Publish this document on the Stark County Safe Kids Coalition website.
- Provide this information to Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids USA.
- Use data to impact prevention strategies.
- Determine the level of injury prevention occurring in pediatrician offices and in schools.
- Provide this report to local elementary and middle schools, as well as parent education programs.
- Injury Specific Recommendations:
 - Work with hospitals to improve charting, which should decrease the number of “generic” or “unspecified” types of injuries.
 - Determine proper mechanism to educate youth ages 8 to 14 to increase their use of safety belts in the vehicle.
 - Increase injury prevention programming in the 44601 zip code.
 - Work with the hospital staff to get more specific when coding the falls—decrease the number of “unspecified”.

Current Safe Kids Injury Prevention Programs

The Stark County Safe Kids Coalition was established in 1992 to reduce unintentional injuries and death among children 14 and under in Stark County. The 90 member coalition is comprised of child safety advocates who support this mission. The Coalition conducts safety events throughout the county year round. Members of the Coalition also conduct their own safety programs in their communities.

Program Highlights

Child Passenger Safety/Car Seat Safety

- Car Seat Distribution Program: Safe Kids provides low-cost seats to families on the WIC (Women, Infant and Children's) Food Supplement Program through the local health departments. The group has given out over 1,750 car seats to families.
- Child Safety Seat Inspections: The coalition offers free car seat check-ups in the community throughout the year. Over 35 members have been certified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The coalition has hosted over 100 inspections and checked over 3,000 seats.
- Fitting Stations: The Coalition has organized weekly car seat fitting stations at 4 locations. These check-ups are free to the public.

Fire Safety

- Hector the Missing Smoke Detector: The annual educational program has been implemented in 5 elementary schools, resulting in the distribution of over 1,500 batteries and educational materials.
- Instilling Positive Fire Safety Reaction: In 2002, the coalition produced a fire safety video that teaches adults and children how to escape a burning building. This video has been disseminated to all county fire departments, and is being used in other counties across the state.

Bike Safety

- Use Your Head, Wear A Helmet: Helmets are sold at cost to the community. Helmets and educational materials are distributed at community events. The Coalition also offers free helmets to the county Emergency Departments for children treated with a head injury or wheel related incident.
- In bicycling safety classes, bicycles are considered vehicles, like cars, not toys. Children are taught age appropriate bicycle driving information to prevent injury. The importance of helmet use is emphasized.

Pedestrian Safety

- Safe Kids Walk This Way: In 2001, the coalition began to participate in the international program. Eight elementary schools were selected to have educational assemblies and a safety walk during the month of October since 2001. Following these programs, the Coalition reviews the data from the walkability surveys and attempts to make safety changes surrounding the schools.

Safe Kids Day

- Each year, a free interactive safety fair is held in a selected community. This event is in conjunction with National Safe Kids Week. Children have the opportunity to participate in safety activities (provided by community organizations) and receive educational resources.

Other Areas

- The Coalition is a clearinghouse for other injury risk areas. Information is provided at health fairs and community events. Parents, caregivers and community members are able to call and request information from the Coalition and partner agencies.

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