Connecticut: An Overview

There were 7,742 overall injury deaths in Connecticut between 2000 – 2004, an average of 1,548 per year, with the highest rate for adults aged 60 years and older.

Almost three-fourths (73.5%) of all Connecticut injury deaths were due to unintentional injuries.

Over two-thirds of all injury deaths in Connecticut were due to four causes:

I. Motor Vehicle crashes accounted for 20% of all injury deaths and were responsible for almost 50% of all injury deaths among teens 15 – 19 years of age.

II. Suicide was the second leading cause of injury accounting for 18% of all injury deaths—beginning as young as 10 – 14 years, and generally increasing through 45-49 years of age for both males and females.

III. Poisoning led to 17.5% of all injury deaths in the state: 94% of these deaths were drug related, especially narcotics and hallucinogens (62.2%).

IV. Falls contributed to 12% of all injury deaths increasing from <1 death per 100,000 population among 0-29 years of age and 1 – 2 deaths per 100,000 population among 30 – 49 years of age to nearly 50 deaths per 100,000 population among adults aged 80-84 years and 100 deaths per 100,000 population among adults 85 years of age and older.

Injury death rates varied by age group

» Suffocation and homicide accounted for close to one-half of all injury deaths in children under 5 years of age.

» Motor vehicle crashes and drowning lead to nearly one-half of all injury deaths in children 5 – 9 years of age.

» Motor vehicle crashes and drowning continued to account for close to 50% of injury deaths among children in the 10 – 14 years old age group.

» Motor vehicle crashes accounted for nearly one-half of all injury deaths among teens 15 – 19 years of age followed by suicide and homicide, which together accounted for another 30% of the injury deaths.

» Motor vehicle crashes contributed to the majority of injury deaths among 20 – 24 years olds, followed by poisoning at 16.5%.

» Poisoning increased in importance as a leading cause of injury deaths in the 25 – 34 years age group, followed by motor vehicle crashes at nearly 25%. Homicide and suicide accounted for 35% of injury deaths in this age group, with suicide increasing to 20% while homicide remained steady at 15%.

Injury death rates varied by race and ethnicity

» The suicide rate amongst Non-Hispanic Whites (8.7 per 100,000 population) was roughly twice the rate for either Non-Hispanic Blacks (3.9 per 100,000 population) or Hispanics (4.6 per 100,000 population).

» The homicide rate was more than twice the rate among Non-Hispanic Blacks (13.0 per 100,000 population) as compared to Hispanics (6.1 per 100,000 population), and nearly 11 times the rate for Non-Hispanic Whites (1.2 per 100,000 population).

» Motor vehicle crash deaths were 6% to 8% higher among Hispanics (8.2 per 100,000 population) and Non-Hispanic Blacks (8.3 per 100,000 population) as compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (7.7 per 100,000 population).

» Poisoning was close to 20% higher for Hispanics (8.9 per 100,00 population) than for Non-Hispanic Whites (7.6 per 100,00 population).
Connecticut: An Overview (continued)

- There were 86,967 injury hospitalizations in Connecticut between 2000 – 2004, with an average of 17,393 per year
- Eighty-four percent and 10.6% of injury hospitalizations were due to unintentional and intentional injuries, respectively
- One fatality was registered for every 11 persons hospitalized for injury
- For all injury, three days was the average length of hospital stay
- Overall Connecticut injury hospital charges were about $1.6 Billion ($1,584,531,653) between 2000 - 2004
  - Average hospitalization charge per hospital stay was $11,315
Figure 2
All-Injury Death Rates by Intent & Age Group
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
(n = 7,742; average = 1,548/year)
Figure 3
Percentage of Leading Causes of Injury-Related Death in Connecticut
Connecticut Residents (All Ages), 2000 - 2004

- MV Traffic: 19.6%
- Suicide: 18.0%
- Poisoning: 17.5%
- Falls: 11.8%
- Suffocation: 7.4%
- Homicide: 6.6%
- All other causes: 19.2%
Figure 4

All-Injury* Hospitalization Rates by Intent & Age Group
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004

[Graph showing hospitalization rates by age group for different injury intents: Unintentional Injury, Intentional Injury, Undetermined Intent, Missing E-codes, and All Injury.]