

## **Serious Injury Deaths and Hospitalizations, 2007**

Erie County, PA, and U.S.

In Erie County, unintentional injury was the fifth leading cause of death for the three year period 2004 through 2006 (Table 1), while suicide ranked eleventh. In comparison, unintentional injury was also the fifth leading cause of death in both Pennsylvania and the United States for the year 2006. (Tables 2, 3)

When evaluating age groups, unintentional injury was the number one cause of death for ages 1 through 44 in Erie County and was the third leading cause of death for ages 45 through 64 surpassed only by cancer and heart disease. (Table 1) Similar rankings can be seen for both Pennsylvania and the United States. (Tables 2, 3)

Most alarming are deaths due to suicide and homicide among youth and young adults in Erie County. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death among 25 to 44 year olds for the years 2004 through 2006. Homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for ages 25 to 44 during this same time frame. (Table 1)

Unintentional injuries do not always result in death but may be severe enough to require hospitalization. In 2005, 3,003 Erie County residents were hospitalized and survived unintentional injuries. Falls resulted in the hospitalization of 1,261 Erie County residents. This accounted for 42% of all injury hospitalizations with subsequent discharge and ranked first among ages 0 to 14 and 45+. 56% of injury hospitalizations among 65 to 74 year olds and 75% of injury hospitalizations among 75+ were due to falls. (Table 4)

Poisoning resulted in the hospitalization of 473 Erie County residents in 2005. This accounted for 16% of all injury hospitalizations with discharge and ranked first for ages 15 to 44, second for ages 0 to 5, 45 to 64, and 75+, and third for ages 5 to 14 and 65 to 74. (Table 4)

7% of all injury hospitalizations in Erie County in 2005 were due to motor vehicle transportation occupant accidents. This ranked second among ages 15 to 24 and 65 to 74 and third for ages 25 to 64 and 75+. Motorcyclist injury hospitalization ranked fifth for ages 25-44. (Table 4) For 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reported a total of 1,422 injury crashes in Erie County, not all of which required hospitalization.

Injury due to some type of physical contact (struck by) but excluding a vehicle or machinery accounted for 3% of all injury hospitalizations and ranked second for ages 5 to 14, fourth for ages 65 to 74, and fifth for ages 0 to 5 and 15 to 24. (Table 4)

3% of all injury hospitalizations with discharge in Erie County in 2005 were due to cutting and piercing. This ranked fourth for ages 5 to 64 and is higher than rankings for PA. (Tables 4, 5)

Unique to children ages 0 to 5 was injury hospitalization due to fire/flame and hot objects. These accounted for 19% of all injury hospitalizations in this age group and ranked third and fourth respectively. (Table 4)

Intentional firearm related injuries are also a concern. From 2001 to 2003, 60 Erie County residents were hospitalized as a result of these injuries. Of 67 counties in Pennsylvania, Erie County ranks ninth for the number of hospitalizations due to firearm injuries by intent.

In addition to hospitalization, accidents can affect individuals after discharge. Some may experience disability as a result of the injury and may incur medical and rehabilitation expenses.

Finally, the total cost of injury in Erie County cannot be measured only by the number of deaths, hospitalizations, disabilities, or financial ramifications. The true cost of injury must also include the lasting effects on the quality of life for those injured as well as their families. In this context, any serious injury is a burden.

### Injury Data Sources

Erie County injury data is obtained from all but one of the sources listed below. Even though the Erie County Adult Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey does not include injury statistics, it provides valuable information on injury prevention behaviors within the adult community. Covered topics include: adult seatbelt use, child car safety seat use, bicycle helmet use by children, smoke detector use and operational checks, and household fire escape plans. Data obtained from all sources is used by the Erie County Department of Health and its community partners to focus and direct community action as well as evaluate the effectiveness of these actions.

- “Injuries in Pennsylvania: County Profiles 2005”  
Source: PA Department of Health
- “Injury Deaths and Hospitalizations in Pennsylvania: 2001-2005”  
Source: PA Department of Health
- “Traumatic Brain Injuries in Pennsylvania: County Profiles, 1995-1999”  
Source: PA Department of Health
- “2007 Pennsylvania Crash Facts & Statistics”  
Source: PA Department of Transportation
- Vital Statistics Database: Deaths  
Source: PA Department of Health; Erie County Department of Health
- “Firearm-Related Injuries in Pennsylvania”  
Source: Research Briefs, Issue No.6, August 2005; PA Health Care Cost Containment Council
- 2007 Erie County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey  
Source: PA Department of Health; Erie County Department of Health

**Table 1: Leading Causes of Death by Age: Erie County  
2004-2006**

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
<1	Perinatal Conditions N=32 Rate=309.2	SIDS N=12 Rate=115.9	Congenital Anomalies N=10 Rate=96.6	Respiratory Disease N=5 Rate=48.3	Nervous System Disease N=4 ---
1-4	Unintentional Injuries N=5 Rate=11.9	Congenital Anomalies N=2 ---	Respiratory Disease N=1 ---	Cancer N=1 ---	Infectious Disease N=1 ---
0-4	Perinatal Conditions N=32 Rate=63.9	SIDS N=12 Rate=23.9	Congenital Anomalies N=10 Rate=20.0	Unintentional Injuries N=6 Rate=12.0	Respiratory Disease N=5 Rate=10.0
5-14	Unintentional Injuries N=5 Rate=4.5	Respiratory Disease N=3 ---	Cancer N=2 ---	Nervous System Dis. N=2 ---	Heart Disease N=1 ---
15-24	Unintentional Injuries N=34 Rate=25.2	Suicide N=13 Rate=9.6	Heart Disease N=5 Rate=3.7	Nervous System Dis. N=5 Rate=3.7	Cancer N=3 ---
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=78 Rate=35.7	Cancer N=52 Rate=23.8	Heart Disease N=32 Rate=14.7	Suicide N=31 Rate=14.2	Homicide N=10 Rate=4.6
45-64	Cancer N=459 Rate=221.0	Heart Disease N=278 Rate=133.8	Unintentional Injuries N=94 Rate=45.3	Diabetes Mellitus N=48 Rate=23.1	CLRD* N=43 Rate=20.7
65+	Heart Disease N=1,857 Rate=1,544.2	Cancer N=1,387 Rate=1,153.4	Stroke N=439 Rate=365.1	CLRD* N=353 Rate=293.5	Kidney Disease N=218 Rate=181.3
All Ages	Heart Disease N=2,173 Rate=229.2	Cancer N=1,904 Rate=204.7	Stroke N=487 Rate=50.7	CLRD* N=399 Rate=41.6	Unintentional Injuries N=324 Rate=37.2

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

Erie County Department of Health

Numbers less than 20 are statistically unreliable; Rates are not reported for numbers less than 5.

Current year populations were used to calculate rates; Population estimates are from PA DOH and U.S. Census Bureau.

\*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Sources: Erie County Department of Health, Vital Statistics Database; Erie County Mortality Statistics, 2004-2006; PA Department of Health.

**Table 2: Leading Causes of Death by Age: PA  
2006**

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
0-4	Perinatal Conditions N=625 Rate=85.5	Congenital Anomalies N=233 Rate=31.9	Unintentional Injuries N=64 Rate=8.8	Cancer N=21 Rate=2.9	Homicide N=20 Rate=2.7
5-24	Unintentional Injuries N=719 Rate=21.3	Homicide N=304 Rate=9.0	Suicide N=176 Rate=5.2	Cancer N=100 Rate=3.0	Heart Disease N=41 Rate=1.2
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=1,390 Rate=43.2	Cancer N=729 Rate=22.7	Heart Disease N=586 Rate=18.2	Suicide N=470 Rate=14.6	Homicide N=306 Rate=9.5
45-64	Cancer N=6,966 Rate=216.0	Heart Disease N=4,514 Rate=140.0	Unintentional Injuries N=1,108 Rate=34.4	Diabetes Mellitus N=722 Rate=22.4	Stroke N=714 Rate=22.1
65-84	Cancer N=16,173 Rate=976.2	Heart Disease N=14,733 Rate=889.3	CLRD* N=3,377 Rate=203.8	Stroke N=3,109 Rate=187.7	Diabetes Mellitus N=1,794 Rate=108.3
85+	Heart Disease N=13,519 Rate=5,913.4	Cancer N=4,964 Rate=2,171.3	Stroke N=3,137 Rate=1,372.2	Alzheimer's Disease N=2,106 Rate=921.2	CLRD* N=1,535 Rate=671.4
All Ages	Heart Disease N=33,414 Rate=225.6	Cancer N=28,955 Rate=195.4	Stroke N=7,093 Rate=47.9	CLRD* N=5,578 Rate=37.3	Unintentional Injuries N=5,143 Rate=39.4

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

Current year populations were used to calculate rates; Population estimates are from PA Dept of Health.

Numbers less than 20 are statistically unreliable.

\*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

These data were provided by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, PA Dept of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.

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**Table 3: Leading Causes of Death by Age: United States**

**2006**

Age Groups	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
<1	Congenital Anomalies N=5,827 Rate=136.6	Short Gestation/LBW N=4,841 Rate=113.5	SIDS N=2,145 Rate=50.3	Maternal Complications of Preg. N=1,694 Rate=39.7	Complications of Placenta N=1,123 Rate=26.3
1-4	Unintentional Injuries N=1,591 Rate=9.8	Congenital Anomalies N=501 Rate=3.1	Cancer N=372 Rate=2.3	Homicide N=350 Rate=2.1	Heart Disease N=160 Rate=1.0
5-14	Unintentional Injuries N=2,228 Rate=5.5	Cancer N=916 Rate=2.3	Homicide N=387 Rate=1.0	Congenital Anomalies N=330 Rate=0.8	Heart Disease N=242 Rate=0.6
15-24	Unintentional Injuries N=15,859 Rate=37.4	Homicide N=5,596 Rate=13.2	Suicide N=4,097 Rate=9.7	Cancer N=1,643 Rate=3.9	Heart Disease N=1,021 Rate=2.4
25-44	Unintentional Injuries N=30,949 Rate=36.8	Cancer N=17,604 Rate=20.9	Heart Disease N=14,873 Rate=17.7	Suicide N=11,240 Rate=13.4	Homicide N=7,525 Rate=8.9
45-64	Cancer N=151,654 Rate=202.6	Heart Disease N=101,588 Rate=135.7	Unintentional Injuries N=29,505 Rate=39.4	Diabetes Mellitus N=17,012 Rate=22.7	Stroke N=16,779 Rate=22.4
65+	Heart Disease N=510,934 Rate=1,371.3	Cancer N=387,828 Rate=1,040.9	Stroke N=117,284 Rate=314.8	CLRD* N=107,058 Rate=287.3	Alzheimer's Disease N=72,135 Rate=193.6
All Ages	Heart Disease N=629,191 Rate=210.2	Cancer N=560,102 Rate=187.1	Stroke N=137,265 Rate=45.8	CLRD* N=124,614 Rate=41.6	Unintentional Injuries N=117,748 Rate=39.3

Rates are age-adjusted per 100,000 population.

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\*Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Source: Deaths: Preliminary data for 2006. National vital statistics reports; vol.56 no.16.

**Table 4: Leading Injury Hospitalization Discharges by Age: Erie County**

**2005**

Age Groups	Injury Discharges	Rank					
		1	2	3	4	5	
<5	47	Fall N=9 %=19.1	Poisoning N=8 %=17.0	Fire/Flame N=5 %=10.6	Hot Object N=4 %=8.5	Bite/Sting N=3 %=6.4	Struck By N=3 %=6.4
5-14	82	Fall N=16 %=19.5	Struck By N=11 %=13.4	Poisoning N=10 %=12.2	Cut/Pierce N=8 %=9.8	Bite/Sting N=5 %=6.1	Transport, Other N=5 %=6.1
15-24	337	Poisoning N=112 %=33.2	MVT Occupant N=56 %=16.6	Fall N=32 %=9.5	Cut/Pierce N=28 %=8.3	Struck By N=23 %=6.8	
25-44	581	Poisoning N=181 %=31.2	Fall N=75 %=12.9	MVT Occupant N=52 %=9.0	Cut/Pierce N=37 %=6.4	MVT Motorcyclist N=25 %=4.3	
45-64	662	Fall N=223 %=33.7	Poisoning N=119 %=18.0	MVT Occupant N=59 %=8.9	Cut/Pierce N=18 %=2.7	Transport, Other N=12 %=1.8	
65-74	332	Fall N=186 %=56.0	MVT Occupant N=18 %=5.4	Poisoning N=16 %=4.8	Struck By N=12 %=3.6	Overexertion N=9 %=2.7	
75+	962	Fall N=720 %=74.8	Poisoning N=27 %=2.8	MVT Occupant N=16 %=1.7	Overexertion N=14 %=1.5	Suffocation N=13 %=1.4	
All Ages	3,003	Fall N=1,261 %=42.0	Poisoning N=473 %=15.8	MVT Occupant N=205 %=6.8	Struck By N=101 %=3.4	Cut/Pierce N=96 %=3.2	

Reported percents are within age groups.

Sources: Injuries in Pennsylvania, County Profiles 2005, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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**Table 5: Leading Injury Hospitalization Discharges by Age: Pennsylvania**

**2005**

Age Groups	Injury Discharges	Rank				
		1	2	3	4	5
<5	2,416	Fall N=677 %=28.0	Poisoning N=285 %=11.8	Hot Object N=245 %=10.1	Bite/Sting N=144 %=6.0	MVT Occupant N=115 %=4.8
5-14	4,386	Fall N=1,102 %=25.1	Struck By N=480 %=10.9	Poisoning N=325 %=7.4	MVT Occupant N=297 %=6.8	Pedal Cyclist, Other N=296 %=6.7
15-24	13,764	Poisoning N=2,882 %=20.9	MVT Occupant N=2,784 %=20.2	Fall N=1,383 %=10.0	Struck By N=1,175 %=8.5	Cut/Pierce N=80 %=5.8
25-44	26,225	Poisoning N=6,377 %=24.3	Fall N=4,234 %=16.1	MVT Occupant N=3,024 %=11.5	Cut/Pierce N=1,462 %=5.6	Struck By N=1,455 %=5.5
45-64	28,771	Fall N=10,262 %=35.7	Poisoning N=4,288 %=14.9	MVT Occupant N=2,381 %=8.3	Struck By N=1,061 %=3.7	Cut/Pierce N=761 %=2.6
65-74	14,227	Fall N=8,457 %=59.4	MVT Occupant N=778 %=5.5	Poisoning N=723 %=5.1	Overexertion N=337 %=2.4	Struck By N=287 %=2.0
75+	48,493	Fall N=36,711 %=75.7	MVT Occupant N=1,225 %=2.5	Poisoning N=993 %=2.0	Overexertion N=681 %=1.4	Struck By N=612 %=1.3
All Ages	138,282	Fall N=62,826 %=45.4	Poisoning N=15,873 %=11.5	MVT Occupant N=10,604 %=7.7	Struck By N=5,168 %=3.7	Cut/Pierce N=3,569 %=2.6

Reported percents are within age groups.

Sources: Injuries in Pennsylvania, County Profiles 2005, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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