

Unintentional Injuries

In Kansas, unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children and adults ages 1-44 years. For all age groups, unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death.

- In 2006, nearly 1,200 Kansans were killed and approximately 13,000 were hospitalized due to unintentional related injuries.
- In 2006, the age-adjusted unintentional injury mortality rate for Kansans is 41.2 per 100,000 population.
- Two out of three injuries are unintentional injuries (approximately 69%). The other one third are intentional injuries.
- Motor vehicle traffic crashes, fall related injuries, and poisoning are respectively the first, second, and third leading cause of unintentional injuries in Kansas.
 - Motor vehicle traffic crashes alone accounted for approximately 40% of all unintentional injury deaths with most deaths occurring among teens and young adults ages 15-24 years and among older adults ages 75 years and above.
 - Motor vehicle traffic, falls, and poisoning together account for more than 70% of all unintentional injury deaths
- Men in Kansas are two times more likely to die from unintentional related injuries than are women
- Older adults ages 85 years and older have the highest fatal and non-fatal unintentional injury rate due largely to fall related injuries.
 - Among older adults, 85 years and above, unintentional injury mortality are higher for men than for women (288.6/255.2 per 100,000 population).
 - Among older adults, 85 years and above, unintentional hospital discharges are higher for women than men (506.2/322.3 per 10,000 population).

Prevention Notes

Promoting the use of seat belts and child safety seats; keeping clutter out of homes and closely supervising children; and keeping all household and chemical products in locked cabinets and out of reach of children are some of the important measures that significantly reduce fatal and non-fatal unintentional injuries.

***Mission:** Build Solid Infrastructure to Improve the Health of Kansans by Increasing Awareness & Action to Reduce Unintentional and Intentional Injuries.*

