



# Kansas

## Special Emphasis Report: Infant and Early Childhood Injury, 2012

### Injury is a Leading Cause of Death in Children

Although many injuries and injury deaths can be prevented, injuries are the leading cause of death for those younger than 45 years old in the United States and Kansas.

In 2012, among Kansas children 5 years old and younger: 34 died, 388 were admitted to the hospital for at least 24 hours (hospital discharge, HD) and 20,771 went to the emergency department (EDV) for an injury (Figure 1). The number of children who were injured and received treatment in physician offices or at home is unknown.

Figure 1: Injuries Among Children Ages 0-5 Years, KS 2012

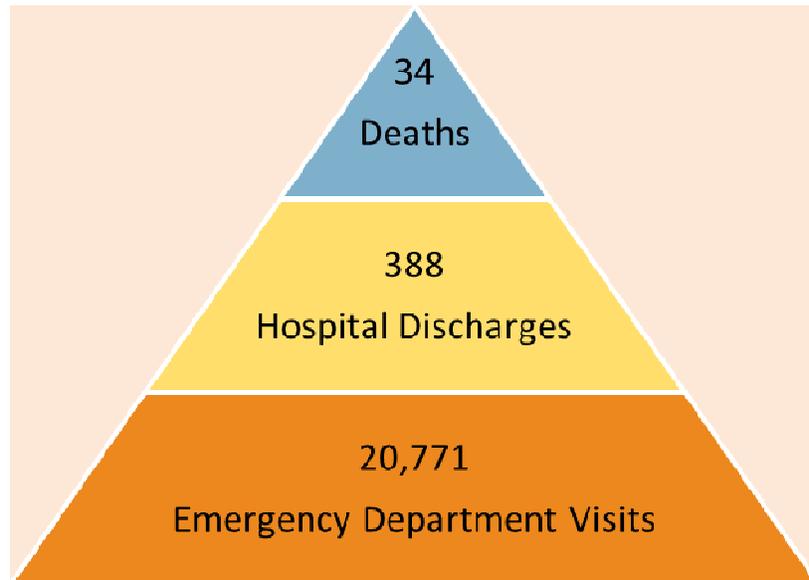
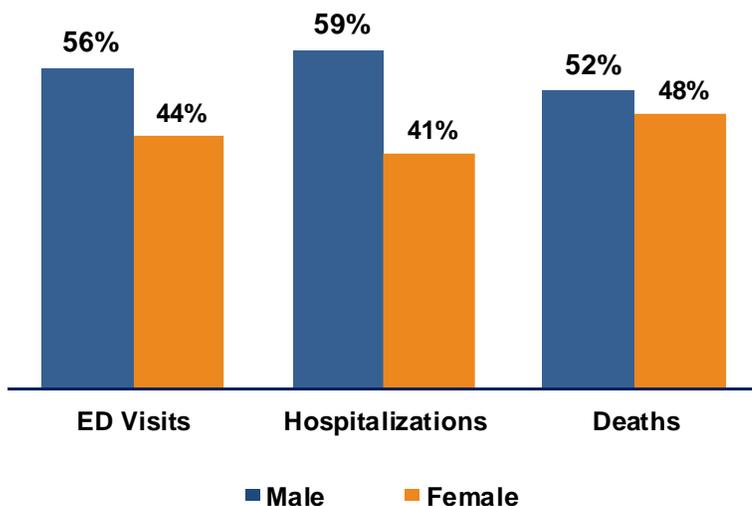


Figure 2: Percent of Injury Deaths, Hospitalizations and Emergency Department (ED) Visits Among Children Ages 0-5 Years, by Sex, KS 2012



### Childhood Injury by Sex

In Kansas, fatal and non-fatal injuries are more common among boys than girls (Figure 2). In 2012, among Kansas children 5 years old and younger:

- Boys accounted for 56% of all injury related emergency department visits
- Boys accounted for 59% of all injury related hospital discharges
- Boys accounted for 52% of all injury deaths





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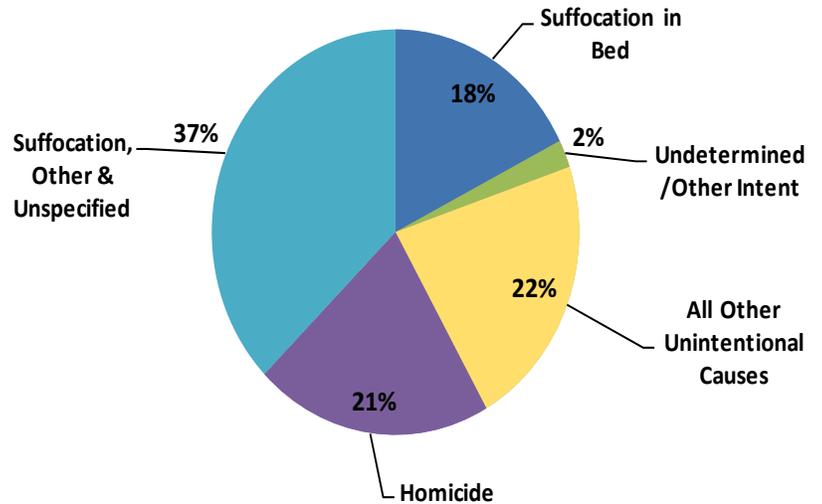
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### Injury Deaths in Infants

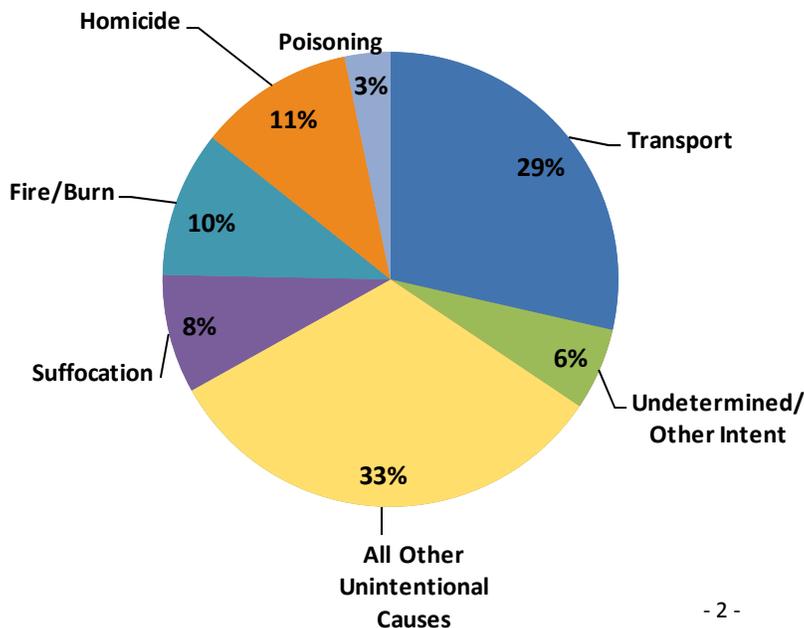
From 2008 to 2012, suffocation comprised 56 percent of all injury deaths in Kansans younger than 1 year old and nearly 75 percent of all unintentional injury deaths among the same age group (Figure 3).

Most suffocation injuries in children are coded without specificity. Nearly three-quarters of all suffocation deaths in those younger than 1 year old had “Other/Unspecified” as the cause of suffocation.

**Figure 3: Injury Deaths Among Infants Younger than 1 Year Old, KS 2008-2012**



**Figure 4: Injury Deaths in Children Ages 1 – 5 Years Old, KS 2008-2012**



### Injury Deaths in Young Children

Unintentional transport related injury was the leading cause of injury death for those 1 to 5 years old in Kansas from 2008 to 2012 (Figure 4). The second leading cause of injury death among those 1 to 5 years old during this time period was homicide.

Nearly, two-thirds of transport related injury deaths among Kansas children 1 to 5 years old occurred when the child was an occupant of a vehicle in a traffic collision.

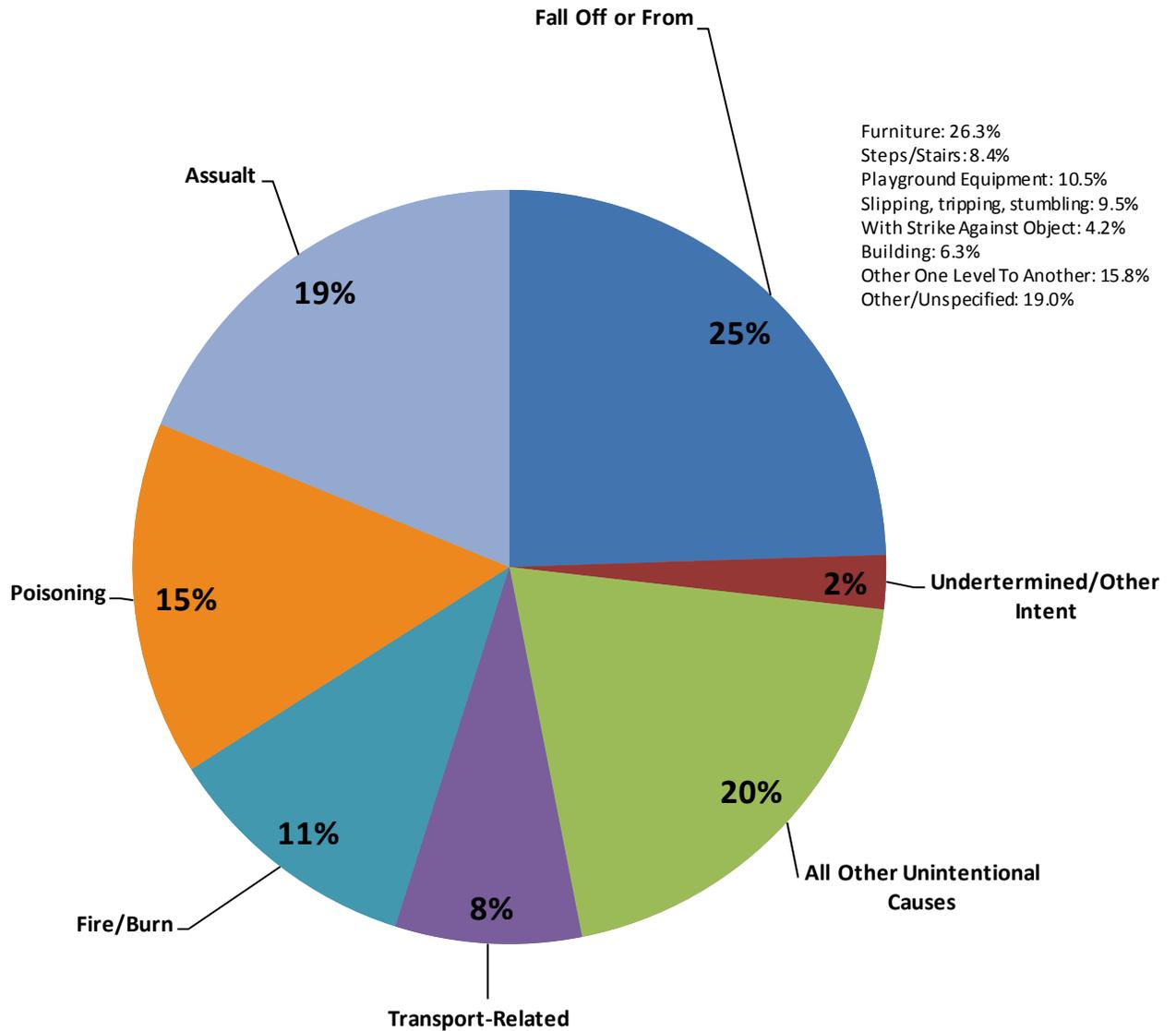


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### Injury-Related Hospitalizations

**Figure 5: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges Among Children Ages 0 – 5 Years, KS 2012**



- In 2012, the leading cause of injury hospital discharges (HDs) among Kansans 5 years old and younger was unintentional falls.
  - The leading cause of unintentional falls HDs was due to falling off of furniture
  - A large proportion of falls related HDs are non-specific. In 2012, 19.0 percent of fall related HDs were coded as “other/unspecified” while 15.8 percent were coded as “other one level to another”
- The second leading cause of injury HDs among those 5 years old and younger was assault.

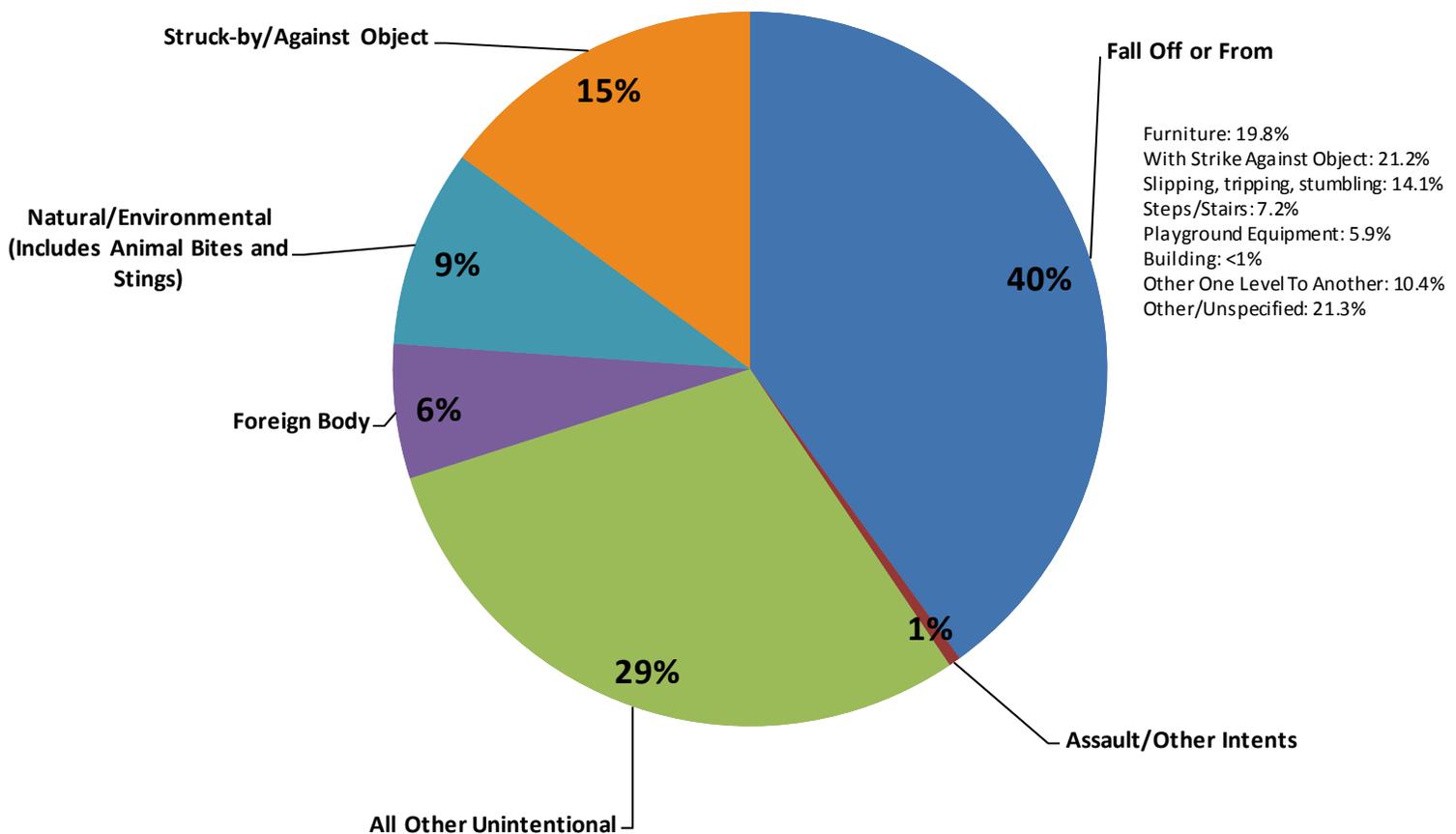


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### Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits

**Figure 6: Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits Among Children Ages 0 – 5 Years, KS 2012**



- In 2012, the leading cause of injury emergency department visits (EDVs) among Kansans 5 years old and younger was unintentional falls.
  - The leading cause of unintentional falls EDVs was due to injuries from falling and striking against an object
  - A large proportion of falls related EDVs are non-specific. In 2012, 21.3 percent of fall related EDVs were coded as “other/unspecified” while 10.4 percent were coded as “other one level to another”
- The second leading cause of injury EDVs among those 5 years old and younger was struck-by/against object.



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**Table 1: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges and Emergency Department (ED) Visits Among Children Ages 0 - 5 Years, by Age Group, KS 2012**

	Infants younger than 1 Year		Children 1-5 Years Old	
	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits
<b>Unintentional Injuries</b>				
Cut/pierce	.	59	.	987
Drowning/submersion	.	.	8	15
Falls ( <i>off/from</i> ):	20	977	75	7,336
Furniture	9	401	16	1,246
Steps/stairs	.	86	5	508
With strike against object	.	115	.	1,648
Slipping/tripping/stumbling	.	50	8	1,122
Playground equipment	.	5	10	482
Building	.	.	6	17
Other fall from one level to another	5	165	10	696
Other/unspecified	.	154	16	1,617
Fire/Burn	5	87	38	502
Foreign Body	.	96	7	1,167
Natural and Environmental	.	95	17	1,768
Excessive heat	.	.	.	8
Dog bites	.	16	.	320
Other bites/stings/animal injury	.	75	11	1,427
All other natural/environmental	.	.	.	13
Poisoning	.	109	55	860
Struck-by/against object	.	196	11	2,900
Suffocation	.	16	.	74
Transport-related	.	73	30	834
Motor vehicle (MV)-occupant	.	67	12	370
Bicycle/tricycle (MV & non-MV)	.	.	.	248
Pedestrian (MV & non-MV)	.	.	13	40
Other transport	.	6	.	176
All other unintentional causes	7	226	15	2,279
<b>Assault/Abuse</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Undetermined/Other Intent</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total Injury-Related Cases</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>18,821</b>



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### Kansas Child Injury Prevention Activities

The mission of the Kansas Injury Prevention Program is to increase awareness and action to reduce unintentional and intentional injuries. A statewide needs assessment was conducted in 2012 highlighting the most prominent unintentional injury childhood risk areas including, but not limited to, motor vehicle crashes, falls and poisoning. Additionally, each year Safe Kids Kansas approves a Public Policy Platform and Priorities document to be distributed to advocates and legislators.



#### **The Kansas Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program seeks to:**

Contribute to the development of a comprehensive, high quality early childhood system that promotes maternal, infant and early childhood health, safety and development and strong parent-child relationships through:

- Delivering a coordinated, integrated system of evidence-based home visiting programs with high model fidelity and quality to families with pregnant women and children in at-risk communities.
- Effectively engaging and retaining underserved, hard-to reach populations in home visiting services.
- Utilizing a coordinated, integrated system to determine outcomes and quality of home visitation programs.

#### **Prevention Strategies**

The Kansas MIECHV Program has increased the number of families with pregnant women and children (0-5 years) served by Early Head Start, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting programs in two identified at-risk areas: Wyandotte County (urban Kansas City, Kansas) and three counties in rural southeast Kansas. Also in Wyandotte County, a promising approach serving pregnant and postpartum women affected by alcohol or other drugs, the Team for Infants Endangered by Substance Abuse (TIES) Program, has been implemented.

Data Sources: Death: 2008-2012 Kansas Vital Statistics, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE. HD Data\*: 2012 Kansas Hospital Discharge Database, Kansas Hospital Association\* ED Data\*: 2012 Kansas Hospital Emergency Department Database, Kansas Hospital Association. Federal and specialty hospitals in Kansas do not report their discharges and emergency department visits to these databases. All nonfederal, short stay community or general hospitals in Kansas do not report their emergency department visits or hospital discharge data to Kansas Hospital Association; therefore these databases do not include 100% of emergency department visits and hospital discharges. All injuries are considered unintentional unless specified otherwise. Reference to any commercial entity or product or service on this page should not be construed as an endorsement by the Government of the company or its products or services.

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Injury Prevention and Disability Program**