

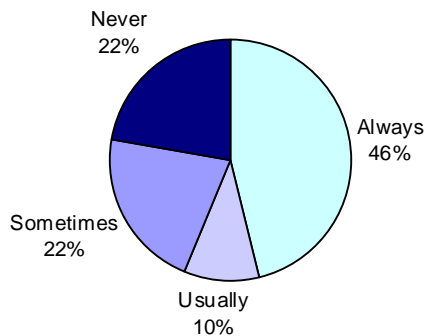


Two New York City Child Safety Topics: Helmet Use and Injuries

Helmet use when using bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, and roller blades among NYC children, according to parents¹

- Helmet use is required by law in New York City among children younger than 14 years old.
- Still, in 2009, only 46% of NYC children aged six to 12 always wore helmets (264,000 children) and 22% never wore helmets (127,000 children) when using bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates, or roller blades.

In 2009, less than half of NYC children aged six to 12 years always wore a helmet



Source: NYC Child Health Survey, 2009

- Overall, girls were more likely than boys to always wear helmets, according to parents (51% vs. 42%).
- Nearly two thirds (61%) of children living in Manhattan always wore helmets. This proportion was 49%, 44%, 42%, and 37% in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx, respectively.
- White children were more likely to always wear helmets (55%) than Hispanic children (45%), black children (42%), and Asian or Pacific Islander children (32%).
- Children living in the poorest households [$<200\%$ of the federal poverty level (FPL)] were less likely to always wear helmets than children living in wealthier households (42% vs. 53% for children in both 200-399% FPL and $\geq 400\%$ FPL households).
- Children born outside of the United States were less likely to always wear helmets than U.S.-born children (29% vs. 47%, respectively).
- Children who were physically active one day or less per week (33%) were less likely to always wear helmets than children who were active two or more days per week (49%).

Data Sources

¹Child Health Survey 2009:

The **Child Health Survey** is a population-based telephone survey conducted in 2009 by the Health Department with support from Children's Health Fund. A parent, guardian or other knowledgeable adult (referred to as "parents") was interviewed about the health of one randomly selected child in the selected household for a total sample of 3,002 children. Survey data are weighted to the NYC population of children from birth to 12 years using the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (PUMS). All estimates presented here are limited to children aged six to 12 years. Parents were asked about "injury" generally, without further definition.

²SPARCS 2008:

The **Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)** is an administrative database of all hospital discharges reported by all New York State (NYS) hospitals to the NYS Department of Health. SPARCS data include patient demographics and characteristics of the hospital visit (e.g., primary diagnosis, other diagnosis, place of injury, and injury cause). Diagnoses are coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems-9th Revision framework. All data presented here are limited to live discharges of NYC children aged six to 12 years treated at NYC hospitals for unintentional injuries and use the 2008 hospitalization dataset updated in December 2009.

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Acknowledgements

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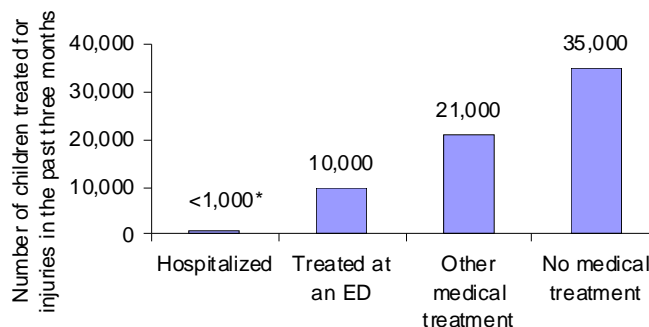


Injuries among NYC children aged six to 12: Characteristics of all injury events, according to parents¹

- According to parents, 10% of NYC children aged six to 12 years were injured in the past three months – an estimated burden of 67,000 children.
- Three quarters (77%) of injured NYC children were injured outdoors.
- Falls accounted for 60% of child injuries in the City – approximately 39,000 NYC children.
- Most (83%) NYC children (56,000) who were injured in the past three months did not receive medical treatment at a hospital after the injury. An estimated 10,000 children were treated at emergency departments (EDs) and nearly 1,000 children* were hospitalized.
- NYC children living in higher-income households (incomes \geq 400% FPL) were most likely to be injured (16% vs. 10% for those in 200-399% FPL households and 7% for children in <200% FPL households).

*Due to small numbers, the estimate should be interpreted with caution.

In 2009, fewer than one in five NYC children aged six to 12 who were injured were treated in a hospital setting

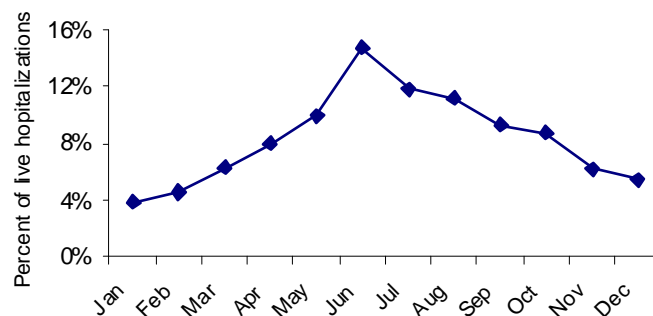


Source: Child Health Survey 2009

Injuries among NYC children aged six to 12: Characteristics of injury events resulting in hospitalizations, according to administrative data²

- Hospital records indicate there were 1,492 admissions due to unintentional injuries among NYC children aged six to 12 in 2008.
- In 2008, the five leading documented causes of child injury hospitalizations were:
 - 1) Falls (42%)
 - 2) Pedestrian injuries (14%)
 - 3) Struck by or against an object (10%)
 - 4) Natural or environmental causes (e.g., excessive cold, animal bite) (9%)
 - 5) Fire, flame, or hot objects (7%)
- In 2008, the most common documented locations for unintentional injuries resulting in hospitalization were the home (44%) and places of recreation and sport (27%).
- Unintentional injury hospitalization admissions varied by season in the City: children were most likely hospitalized during summertime. In 2008, children were most likely to be admitted to hospitals for injuries in June (15%) and least likely in January (4%).

In 2008, hospital admissions due to unintentional injuries peaked during the summer among NYC children aged six to 12 years



Source: SPARCS 2008

MORE New York City Health Data and Publications

- For complete tables of data presented in this Brief, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable2.pdf
- For data on both unintentional and intentional injury in NYC, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/html/ip/ip-index.shtml.
- Visit EpiQuery – the Health Department’s online, interactive health data system at nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery

My Community’s Health: Data and Statistics at nyc.gov/health/mycommunityhealth