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

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Data Sources

Child Health Survey 2009: The **Child Health Survey** is a population-based telephone survey conducted in 2009 by the Health Department with support from the 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. All estimates presented here are limited and weighted to the NYC population of children aged six to 12 years using the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (PUMS).

SPARCS 2008: The **Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System** (SPARCS) is an administrative database of all hospital discharges reported by 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 NYC children aged six to 12 years treated at NYC hospitals for unintentional injuries. SPARCS 2008 data were delivered on December 2009.

To access the related Epi Data Brief, go to nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief2.pdf

Table 1. Helmet use during non-motorized vehicle use among NYC children, according to parents

Population estimates and frequency of helmet use among NYC children aged six to 12 years who use non-motorized vehicles

Source: NYC Child Health Survey, 2009

Survey question: How often does your child wear a helmet when riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller skates, or roller blades? (excludes children who do not use or are unable to use non-motorized vehicles)

Data are weighted to the NYC population of children aged 6-12 using the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (PUMS).

| Characteristic | N, % Always use helmet | | | | N, % Never use helmet | | | |
| | | | 95% Confidence Interval | | | | 95% Confidence Interval | |
	Estimate	%	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Estimate	%	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Overall	264,000	46.1	42.3	49.9	127,000	22.1	19.1	25.6
Sex								
Male	133,000	42.3	37.1	47.6	76,000	24.0	19.7	28.9
Female	131,000	50.7	45.2	56.2	51,000	19.9	15.7	24.8
Borough								
Bronx	40,000	36.9	28.3	46.5	29,000	26.8	18.6	36.9
Brooklyn	92,000	49.2	42.5	55.8	40,000	21.4	16.5	27.2
Manhattan	46,000	60.8	50.4	70.3	8,000	11.2	6.1	19.5
Queens	70,000	42.2	35.3	49.5	40,000	24.6	18.9	31.3
Staten Island	17,000	44.0	31.6	57.3	9,000	24.1	15.2	35.9
Race/ethnicity								
White, non-Hispanic	90,000	55.0	48.1	61.8	27,000	16.7	12.0	22.8
Black, non-Hispanic	63,000	41.6	34.7	48.8	32,000	21.3	16.2	27.6
Hispanic	82,000	44.7	38.3	51.3	54,000	29.3	23.3	36.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	19,000	32.1	20.7	46.2	12,000	19.9	11.8	31.7
Other, non-Hispanic	10,000*	67.2*	47.9	82.0	^			
Household income by federal poverty level [+]								
<200%	122,000	41.8	36.1	47.7	72,000	24.8	20.1	30.1
200-399%	55,000	53.0	44.8	61.0	21,000	20.0	14.4	27.1
≥ 400%	72,000	53.1	46.6	59.5	17,000	12.2	9.1	16.2
US Born								
Yes	249,000	47.4	43.3	51.5	110,000	21.0	17.9	24.6
No	13,000	28.6	19.4	40.0	17,000	35.8	24.6	48.9
Physical Activity, per week								
0-1 day	31,000	33.2	24.2	43.7	32,000	34.9	25.6	45.7
2-4 days	84,000	47.9	41.1	54.8	31,000	17.7	13.4	23.1
5-7 days	145,000	49.5[D]	44.2	54.8	61,000	20.7	16.6	25.5

95% confidence intervals are a measure of estimate precision. The wider the interval, the more imprecise the estimate.

*Estimate should be interpreted with caution. Estimate's Relative Standard Error (a measure of estimate precision) is greater than 30% or the sample size is too small, making the estimate potentially unreliable.

+ Don't know category is not reported

^ Data are suppressed due to imprecise and unreliable estimates.

D Data rounded down to nearest whole number for purposes of reporting.

Table 2. Number of injuries in the past three months among NYC children

Population estimates and prevalence of one or more injuries in the past three months among NYC children aged six to 12 years, by demographics, as reported by parents.

Source: NYC Child Health Survey, 2009

Survey question: During the past three months, how many different times was your child injured, including any poisonings?

Data are weighted to the NYC population of children aged 6-12 using the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (PUMS).

N, % injured one or more times in the past three months, according to parent reports

Characteristic	Estimate	%	95% Confidence Interval Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Overall	67,000	9.6	7.8	11.8
Sex				
Male	37,000	9.9	7.5	12.9
Female	30,000	9.4	6.8	12.8
Borough				
Bronx	16,000	11.5 D	7.1	17.9
Brooklyn	19,000	8.2	5.2	12.7
Manhattan	12,000	11.8	7.6	17.8
Queens	17,000	9.1	6.2	13.1
Staten Island	4,000*	8.4*	4.2	16.0
Race/ethnicity				
White, non-Hispanic	22,000	12.3	8.9	16.9
Black, non-Hispanic	13,000	7.6	4.8	11.9
Hispanic	18,000	7.3	4.9	10.6
Asian or Pacific Islander	8,000*	10.6*	5.5	19.4
Other, non-Hispanic	6,000*	29.0*	10.6	58.4
Household income by federal poverty level [+]				
<200%	26,000	6.8	4.5	10.2
200-399%	13,000	10.5 D	6.8	15.7
≥ 400%	24,000	16.5 D	12.5	21.4

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Table 3. Injury event characteristics among NYC children injured in the past three months

Population estimates of injury event characteristics among NYC children aged six to 12 years who were injured, as reported by parents.

Source: NYC Child Health Survey, 2009

Survey questions:

1) [Thinking about the most severe injury that occurred during the past three months,] Could you briefly tell me what was the cause?
2) Could you please tell me what kind of medical attention, if any, was sought for this injury/poisoning?
3) Did this injury/poisoning occur indoors or outside?

Data are weighted to the NYC population of children aged 6-12 using the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (PUMS).

N, % with select injury event characteristics, according to parent reports

Characteristic	Estimate	%	95% Confidence Interval Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Cause of injury				
Fall	39,000	59.7	48.6	69.9
Cut/Pierce	6,000*	9.7*	4.8	18.5
Struck by/against object	5,000*	7.1*	3.7	13.5
Other	15,000	23.5^D	15.3	34.3
Medical Treatment				
Emergency department	10,000	15.7	9.4	25.2
Inpatient hospitalization	<1,000*	1.2*	0.4	3.8
Other medical treatment	21,000	31.1	22.1	41.9
No medical treatment	35,000	51.9	41.1	62.6
Injury location				
Outdoors	51,000	76.5^U	67.0	84.0
Indoors at home	8,000	12.5^D	7.0	21.4
Other indoor	7,000	11.0	6.6	17.7

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Table 4. Unintentional injury event characteristics leading to live hospitalizations among NYC children

Prevalence of live hospitalizations among NYC children six to 12, by injury event characteristics

Source: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), 2008
Data are from SPARCS 2008, December 2009 update.

N, % of injury-related hospitalizations		
Characteristic	**n**	**%**
Total	1492	100%
Causes of injury [+]		
1. Falls	562	37.7%
2. Pedestrian	200	13.4%
3. Struck	135	9.0%
4. Natural/environmental	122	8.2%
5. Fire/flame/hot object	94	6.3%
6. Pedal cyclist	92	6.2%
7. Cut	56	3.8%
8. Poisoning	39	2.6%
9. Vehicle occupant	14	0.9%
10. Other transportation-related	7	0.5%[D]
Places of injury [+]		
1. Home	411	27.5%[U]
2. Place for recreation and sport	253	17.0%
3. Street and highwawy	132	8.8%
4. Public building	93	6.2%
5. Residential institution	43	2.9%
Month of hospital admission		
January	58	3.9%
February	68	4.6%
March	94	6.3%
April	119	8.0%
May	148	9.9%
June	219	14.7%
July	176	11.8%
August	167	11.2%
September	138	9.2%
October	130	8.7%
November	93	6.2%

+ Other and unspecified are not reported

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