

## DESCRIPTION

Injuries, unintentional and intentional, are a major contributor to mortality rates. Unintentional injuries are the fourth leading cause of death behind cancer, heart disease and stroke in Minnesota. Injuries take the lives of more than 1,800 Minnesotans each year and send nearly 300,000 more to the hospital. This results in enormous human suffering to the victim as well as families and communities. In addition, the economic toll adds up to billions of dollars each year.<sup>1</sup> Many people accept injuries as “accidents,” but most injury deaths are preventable.

## HOW ARE WE DOING

Between 2006 and 2016, the rate of hospital-treated injury deaths in Ramsey County (intentional and unintentional), rose from 14.2 to 28.4 per 100,000 residents. Compared to other counties in the seven-county metro area, Ramsey County ranked second highest with 28.4 for every 100,000 people, behind Hennepin county with 28.7. Both counties were above the Minnesota rate of 24.8 injury deaths per 100,000 population. In residents ages zero to 19, there was a fatal unintentional injury rate of 5.9 for every 100,000 people between 2014 and 2016. In adults age 20 and over, this rate was much higher at 68.4 in 2016.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, Ramsey County lost 129 residents due to unintentional injury fatalities. This was 11 percent of the state total and 22.5 percent of the seven-county metro total in the same year. The most common causes were falls, poisonings and motor vehicle-related crashes.<sup>3</sup>

## BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020: Reduce fatal injuries. Minnesota Injury Data Access System State injury mortality rate in 2016: 24.8 per 100,000 standard population.

Healthy People 2020: Reduce unintentional injury deaths. Minnesota Injury Data Access System State mortality rate in 2016: 17.4 per 100,000 standard population.

## DISPARITIES

Nationally in 2015, the injury death rate for males was two times that for females.<sup>4</sup> The age group most likely to see fatal injuries are those age 85 and over. In 2016 in Ramsey County, there were 41 total unintentional injury deaths in this age group. This was a rate of 367.7 for every 100,000 residents in this age group.<sup>3</sup>

## RISK FACTORS

Unsafe physical environments in the home and community (e.g., unlocked guns, poisonous products, fall hazards). Lack of cohesive social environment within families, neighborhoods, communities. Non-supportive societal-level factors (e.g., lack of laws requiring motorcycle helmet use).

## WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health provides data monitoring and reporting for this topic in order to better understand the overall health and current conditions in the community. The information may help inform community partners, policy makers or county program leadership.

## Information to note

- Males in Ramsey County die from injuries more often than females.
- Ramsey County deaths from injuries is at its highest rate (2016) in 10 years and has the second highest rate in the metro area.

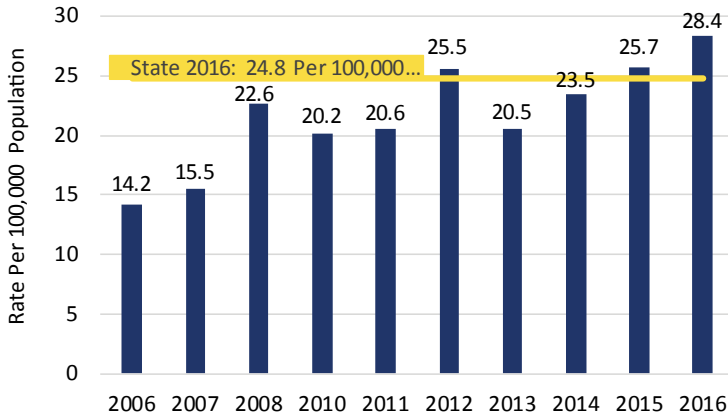
<sup>1</sup> Preventing Unintentional Injury in Minnesota: A Working Plan for 2020. Minnesota Department of Health. <https://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/2020Plan/UnintentionalInjuryOnline.pdf> Accessed October 24, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Vital Statistics Interactive Queries. Minnesota Department of Health Website. <https://mhsq.web.health.state.mn.us/frontPage.jsp>. Accessed May 15, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Minnesota Injury Data Access System. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed September 28, 2017.

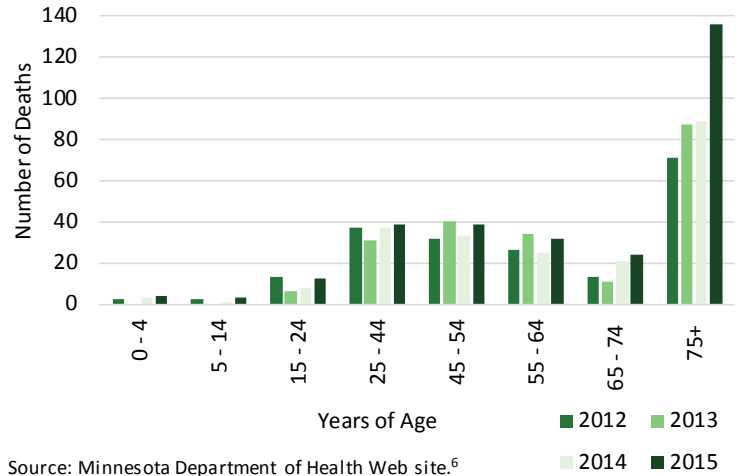
<sup>4</sup> Injury and Violence. Healthy People 2020 Web site. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/leading-health-indicators/2020-lhi-topics/injury-and-violence/data#homicides>. Accessed August 18, 2017.

Deaths Due to Injury among Hospital Treated Patients, All Manners of Intent, Ramsey County



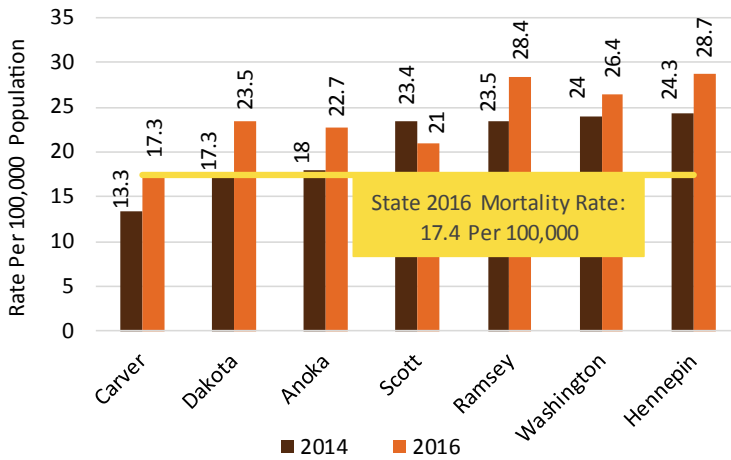
Source: Minnesota Department of Health Web site.<sup>5</sup>

Unintentional Injury Deaths, Ramsey County



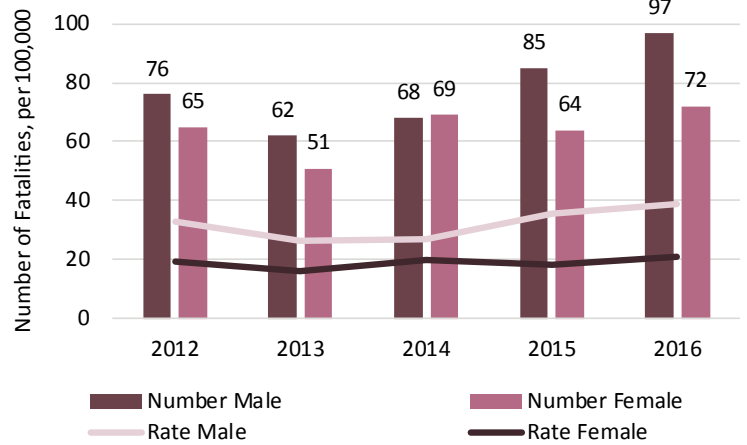
Source: Minnesota Department of Health Web site.<sup>6</sup>

Hospital Treated Unintentional Injury Death Rates



Source: Minnesota Department of Health Web site.<sup>7</sup>

Hospital-Treated Injury Death Rates and Numbers, Ramsey County



Source: Minnesota Department of Health Web site.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota Injury Data Access System. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed September 28, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> MN Public Health Data Access. Minnesota Department of Health Web Site. <https://apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/webmap/lungcancer.html>. Accessed October 3, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Minnesota Injury Data Access System. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/injury/index.cfm>. Accessed September 28, 2017.