Injury - Unintentional

DESCRIPTION

Unintentional, or accidental injuries can lead to enormous amounts of death, disability, and cost and can cause immense human suffering for individuals, their families and communities. However, most unintentional injuries are predictable and preventable. In Minnesota, the top five causes of injuries that result in death are: falls, traffic crashes, poisonings, suffocation and drownings. The top five causes of hospital or emergency department visits for nonfatal unintentional injuries are: falls, traffic crashes, poisonings, being struck by or against something, and overexertion.[1]

HOW WE ARE DOING

Ramsey County death rates from unintentional injuries have been steadily rising since 1997 with the largest increase occurring most recently during 2012-2016. Ramsey County ranked second among the metro counties for unintentional injury deaths during that 5-year period and no longer meets the Healthy People 2020 target. Ramsey County also ranked second highest in total number of hospital-treated, nonfatal unintentional injury visits (28,197), second to Hennepin County; most visits were made by residents ages 75 and over (11.4 percent of all visits), followed by children ages one to four years (2,669 visits in 2016). Ramsey County had the second highest nonfatal unintentional injury visit rate among the metro counties at 5,202 per 100,000.[2] Among Ramsey County age groups, the highest nonfatal unintentional injury rate is among those age 85 and over (14,948 per 100,000 residents.) Two other age groups with high rates were those ages 80 to 84 (8,790 per 100,000) and young children ages one to four years (8,722 per 100,000.) Generally, the rate of hospital-treated nonfatal unintentional injuries in Ramsey County decreased between 2010 and 2014. However, in 2015 there was a sharp increase, which then declined slightly in 2016. The top cause of hospital-treated nonfatal unintentional injury in Ramsey County has been falls, with the highest rates among those 85 years or older.[2] Youth under age 19 had the largest rate increases for nonfatal injuries from falls during 2012-2016, with infants under age one increasing 320 percent.

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020[3][4]:
1) Reduce unintentional injury deaths.
U.S. Target: 36.4 per 100,000 population.
2) Reduce number of hospital emergency department visits for nonfatal unintentional injuries.
U.S. Target: 8,310.1 per 100,000 population.
3) Reduce the rate of emergency department visits due to falls among adults 65 years and older.
U.S. Target: 4711.6 per 100,000 population.

DISPARITIES

Males have higher rates of hospital-treated, nonfatal unintentional injury visits than females in Ramsey County. In 2016, males had 14,606 (5,594 per 100,000) visits where females only had 13,591 (4,738 per 100,000) visits.[2] The age group with the largest occurrence of fatal injuries were those ages 65 and over. Ramsey County residents in this age group made-up 70 percent of all fatal injuries in 2016.[2]

(continued on back)

---

[1] Preventing Unintentional Injury in Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Health. https://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org/2020Plan/UnintentionalInjuryOnline.pdf. Published September 2012. Accessed August 2018.
[2] Hospital Treated Injuries. MIDAS- Minnesota Department of Health. http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/midas/index.cfm. Accessed August 2018.
[3] Injury and Violence Prevention. Healthy People 2020. https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/injury-and-violence-prevention/objectives. Accessed August 2018.
[4] Older Adults. Healthy People 2020. https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/older-adults/objectives. Accessed August 2018.

RISK FACTORS

Unintentional injuries among the rural elderly were closely related to chronic disease, mental health and residence environment.[5]

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.

Rate and Number of Hospital-Treated Non-Fatal Unintentional Injury Visits, Metro Counties, 2016
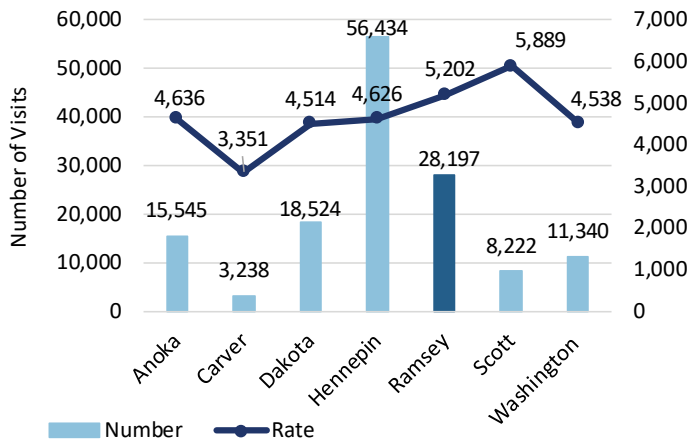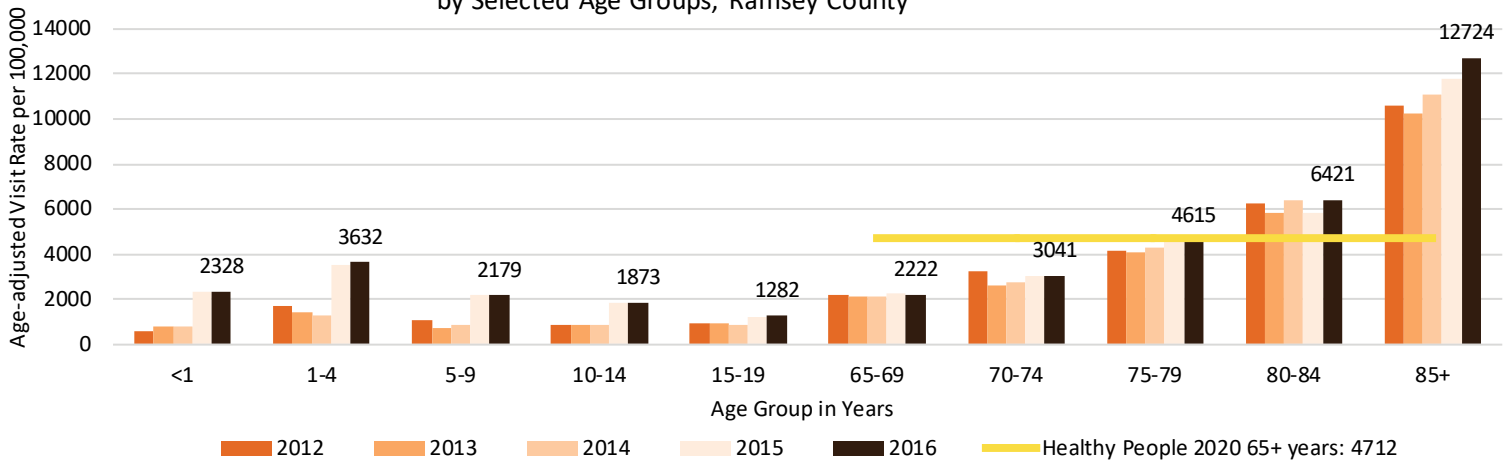

Source: Hospital Treated Injuries. MIDAS-Minnesota Department of Health.[6]

Unintentional Injury Death Rate Over Time, 7-County Metro
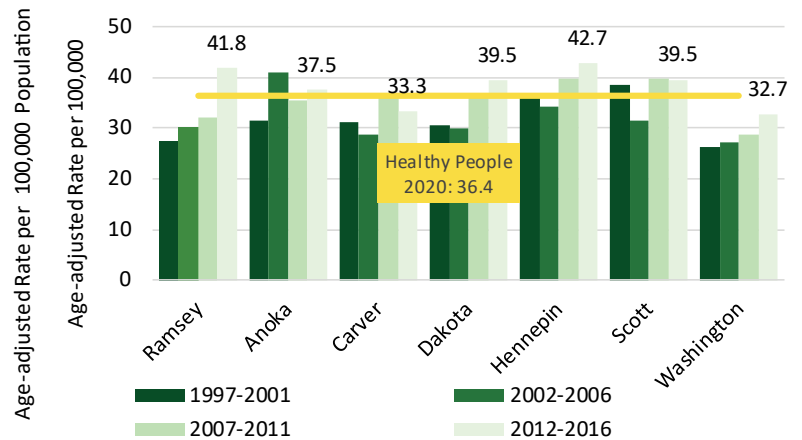
Source: Minnesota Department of Health.[7]

Percent Change Over 5 Years in Hospital-Treated Unintentional Injuries from Falls by Selected Age Groups, Ramsey County

Source: Hospital Treated Injuries. MIDAS. Minnesota Department of Health.[8]

[5] Zang H, Wei F, Han M, Chen J, Peng S, Du Y. Risk factors for unintentional injuries among the rural elderly: a county-based cross-sectional survey. Scientific Reports. 2017. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-12991-3. Published October 2, 2017. Accessed August 2018.

[6] Hospital Treated Injuries. MIDAS. Minnesota Department of Health. https://midas.web.health.state.mn.us/injury/index.cfm. Accessed August 2018.

[7] Minnesota State, County, and Community Health Board Vital Statistics Trend Reports. Minnesota Department of Health. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/genstats/trends/index.html. Accessed August 2018.

[8] Hospital Treated Injuries. MIDAS. Minnesota Department of Health. https://midas.web.health.state.mn.us/injury/index.cfm. Accessed August 2018.