



# North Carolina

## Special Emphasis Report: Infant and Early Childhood Injury, 2014

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

- In 2014, 92 children ages 0-5 died as a result of injury and violence.
- In 2013, there were nearly 2,000 hospital related injuries and over 63,000 emergency department injury and violence related visits.
- For every 1 injury and violence related death, there were 21 hospital related injuries, and 687 emergency department related injuries.
- A significant number of injuries, unaccounted for in this graph, are those treated at an urgent care center, physician's office or at home.

Figure 1: Annual Injuries among Children Ages 0-5 Years, North Carolina, 2014

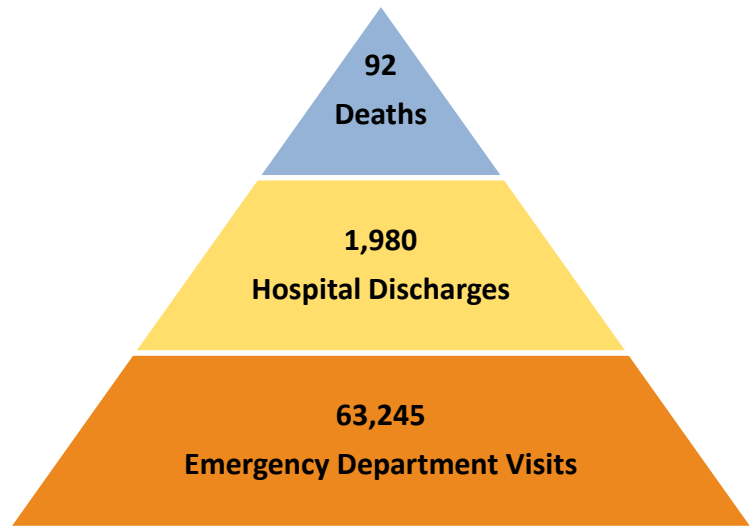
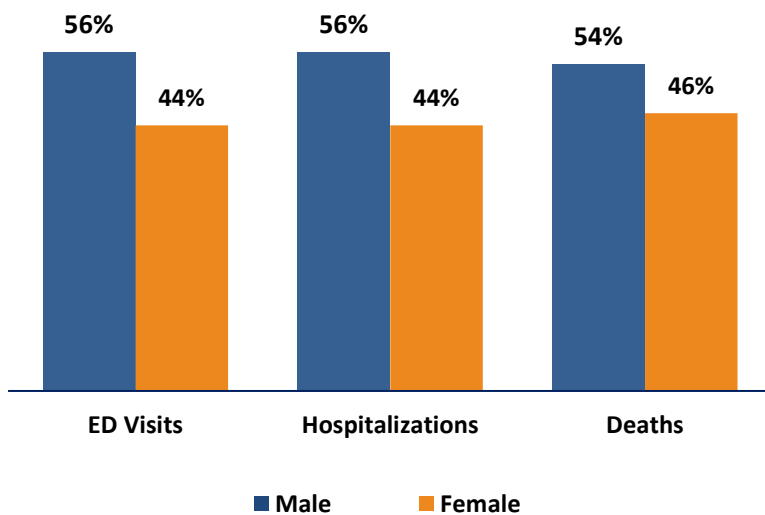


Figure 2: Percent of Injury Deaths, Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits among Children Ages 0-5 Years, by Sex, North Carolina, 2014



### Childhood Injury by Sex

- Boys suffered more injury deaths and nonfatal injuries than girls.
- Boys accounted for 54% of injury related deaths compared to 46% for girls.
- 56% of injury related hospitalizations were boys compared to 44% of girls being hospitalized.
- 56% of ED injury related visits were by boys compared to 44% in girls.

North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
PREVENTION Branch



NORTH CAROLINA  
Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood  
Home Visiting Program



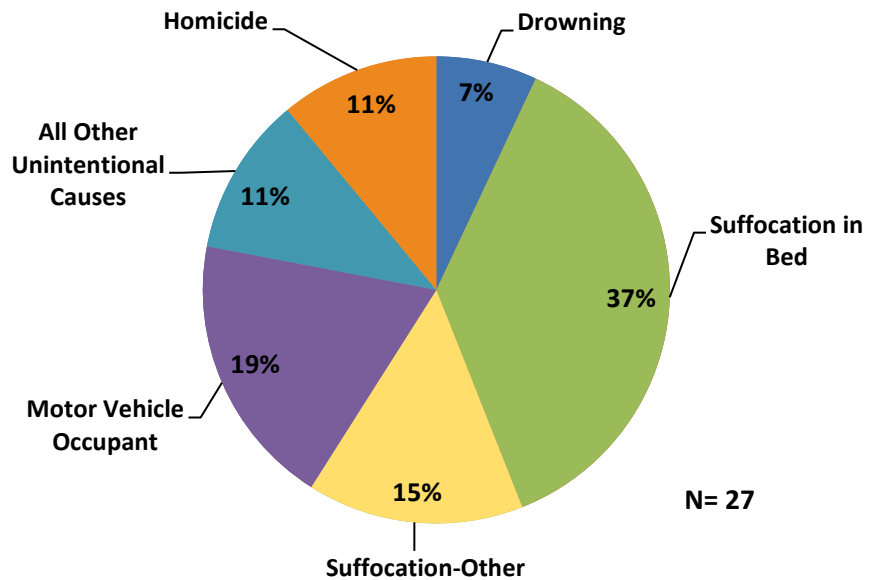
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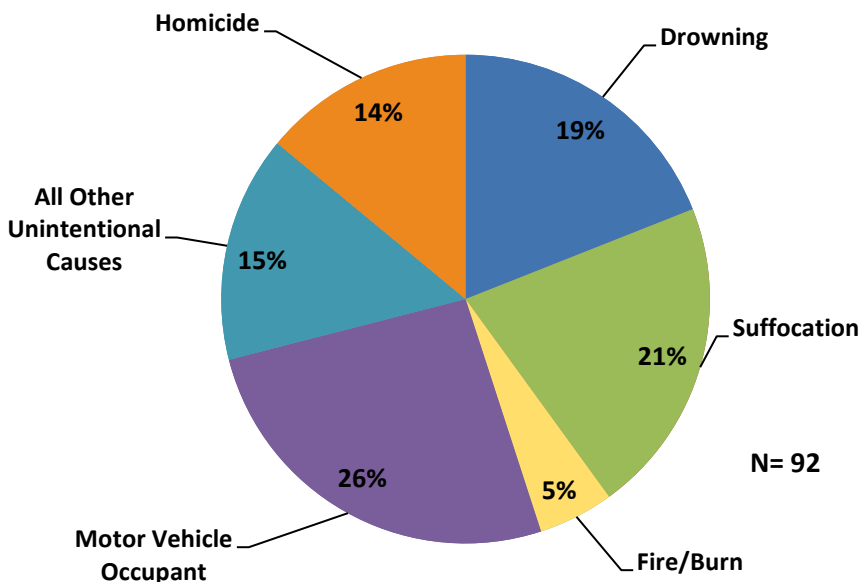
### Injury Deaths in Infants

- The leading cause of death among infants less than 1 year was unintentional suffocation (52%).
- Motor vehicle deaths accounted for 19% of injury deaths for this age group.
- This was followed by homicide (11%), drowning (7%), and all other unintentional causes (fall, poisoning and other) (11%). There were no undetermined/other intent injury deaths for this age group.

**Figure 3: Injury Deaths among Infants Less than 1 Year, North Carolina, 2014**



**Figure 4: Injury Deaths in Children Ages 1 – 5 Years, North Carolina, 2014**



### Injury Deaths in Young Children

- The leading cause of injury deaths among children ages 1-5 years was motor vehicle related (26%).
- Suffocations (21%) and drownings (19%) were the next leading cause of injury deaths for this age group.
- Homicide (14%) and fire/burns (5%) accounted for next leading causes of death.
- All other unintentional causes (fall, poisoning and other) accounted for 15% of injury deaths for this age group

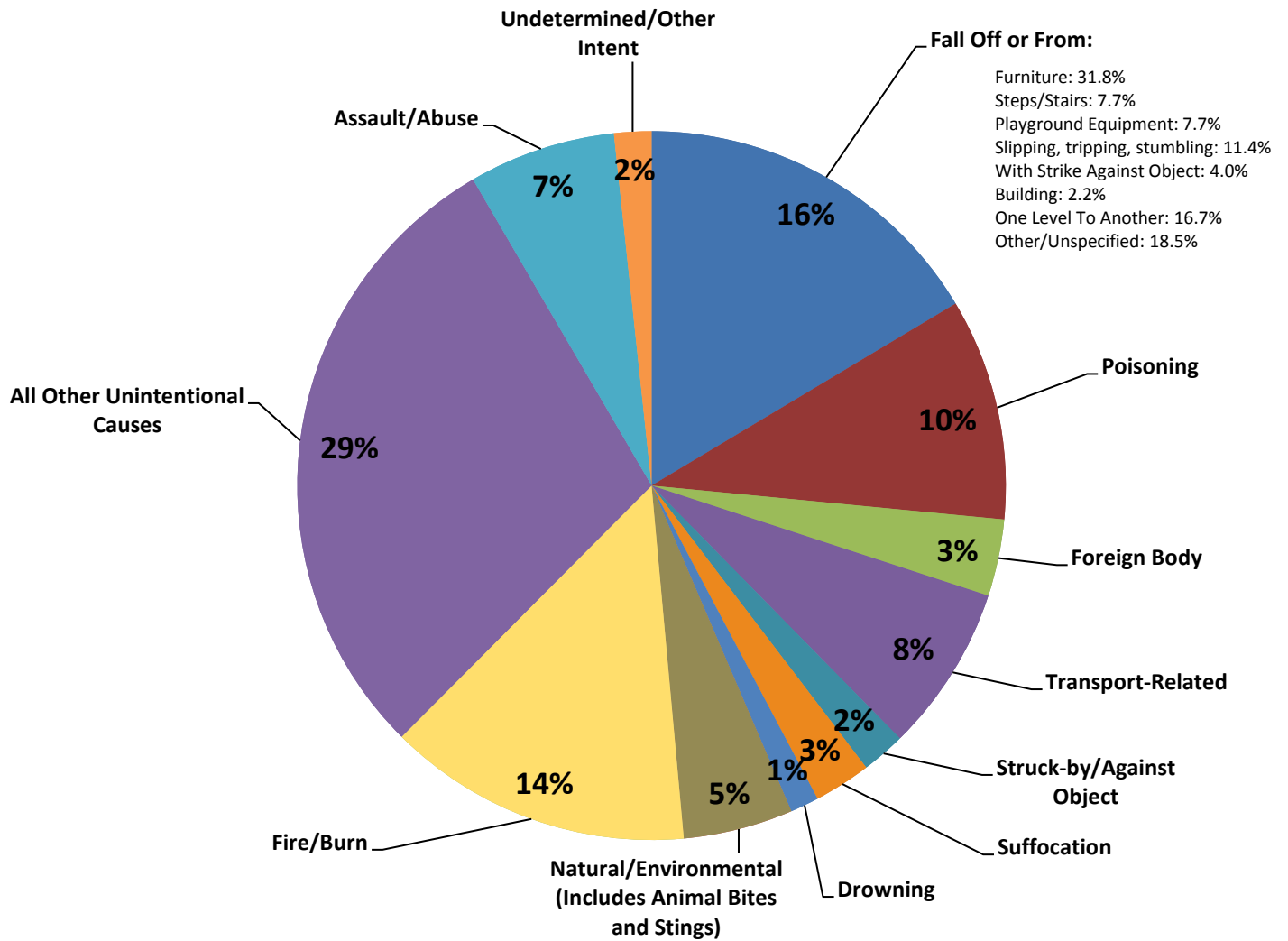


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### Injury-Related Hospitalizations

**Figure 5: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges among Children Ages 0 – 5 Years, North Carolina, 2014**



- Unintentional falls (16%) were the leading cause of the 1,980 injury related hospitalizations among children ages 0 to 5, followed by fire/burns (14%), and unintentional poisonings (10%).
- Falls from furniture (32%) and from one level to another (17%) were the leading types of unintentional falls.
- Assault and abuse accounted for seven percent of injuries in this age group, and transportation-related causes accounted for eight percent.
- All other unintentional injuries accounted for 29% of the injuries to this age group.

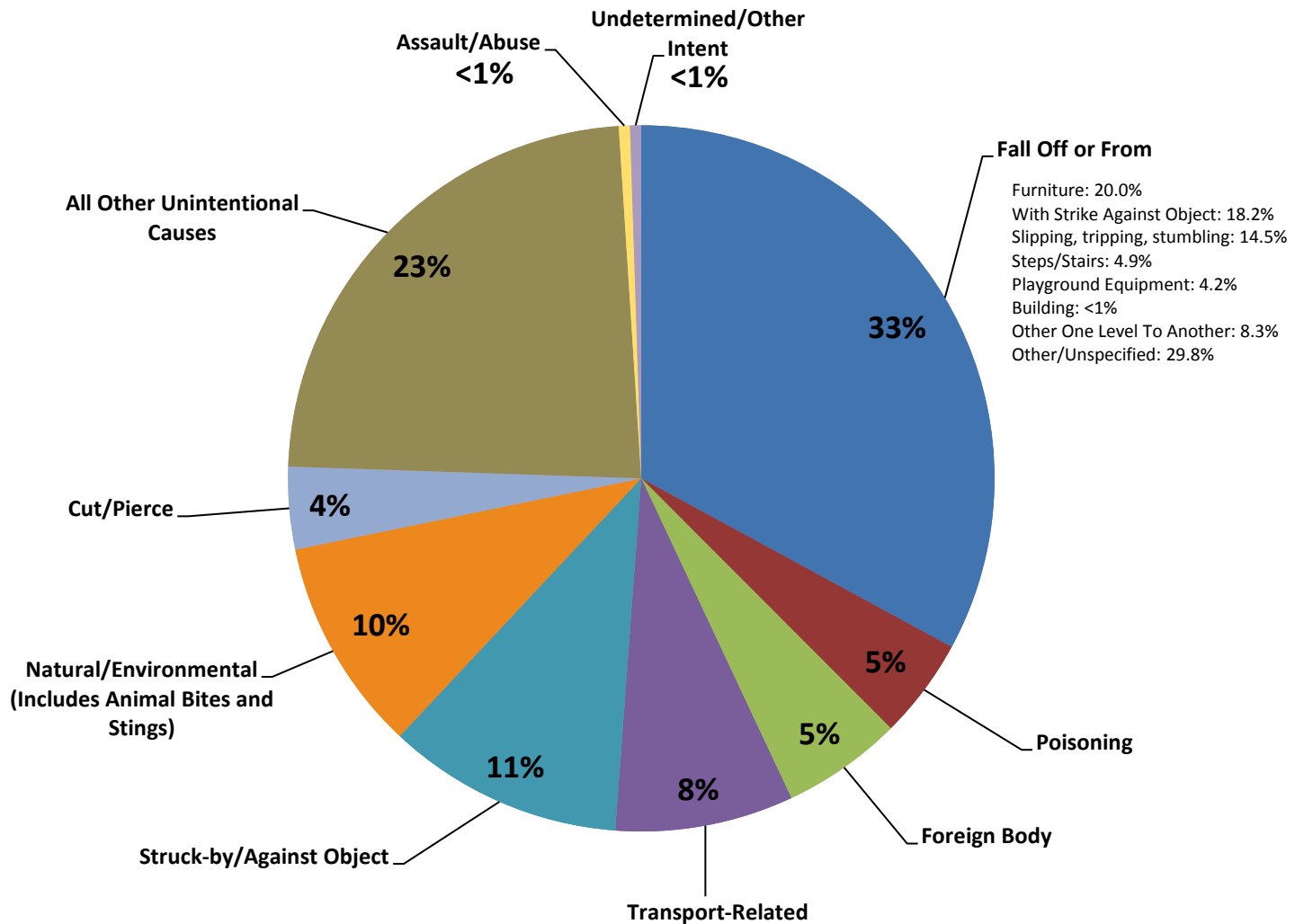


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## Special Emphasis Report: Infant and Early Childhood Injury, 2014

### Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits

**Figure 6: Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits among Children Ages 0 – 5 Years, North Carolina, 2014**



- Unintentional falls (33%) were the leading cause of the 63,248 injury related emergency department visits among children ages 0 to 5, followed by unintentionally struck (11%), natural/environmental (10%) and transportation-related (8%).
- Fall from furniture (20%) and falling against an object (18%) were the leading types of unintentional falls.
- Less than 1 percent of injuries were due to assault or undetermined/other intent.
- Twenty-three percent were other unintentional injuries.



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**Table 1: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges and Emergency Department (ED) Visits among Children Ages 0 -5 Years, by Age Group, North Carolina, 2014**

	Infants less than 1 Year		Children Ages 1-5 Years	
	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits
<b>Unintentional Injuries</b>				
Cut/pierce	6	108	10	2212
Drowning/submersion	2	7	24	100
Falls ( <i>off/from</i> ):				
Furniture	53	1112	50	2969
Steps/stairs	6	99	19	910
With strike against object	3	195	10	3524
Slipping/tripping/stumbling	5	112	32	2849
Playground equipment	1	6	24	852
Building	0	1	7	33
Other fall from one level to another	28	391	26	1311
Other/unspecified	17	619	43	5025
Fire/Burn	48	117	228	1139
Foreign Body	26	231	43	3201
Natural and Environmental				
Excessive heat	0	12	0	22
Dog bites	2	38	21	938
Other bites/stings/animal injury	0	362	47	4542
All other natural/environmental	21	18	8	35
Poisoning	44	367	156	2453
Struck-by/against object	6	438	34	6264
Suffocation	30	61	22	121
Transport-related				
Motor vehicle (MV)-occupant	13	521	65	2558
Bicycle/tricycle (MV & non-MV)	0	1	18	490
Pedestrian (MV & non-MV)	1	3	23	103
Other transport	3	160	21	1093
All other unintentional causes	262	1523	305	13401
<b>Assault/Abuse</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Undetermined/Other Intent</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12834</b>
<b>Total Injury-Related Cases</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>8039</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>69482</b>



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### North Carolina Child Injury Prevention

- Development of a Child Maltreatment Surveillance System.
- Partnerships with SafeKids NC and Child Fatality Task Force to address the leading causes of unintentional injury.
- It's Ok to Ask ([www.itsok2ask.com](http://www.itsok2ask.com)) part of a high profile youth suicide prevention campaign.
- Accomplishments/Successes include:
  - Enactment of legislation requiring the instillation of 10 year lithium batteries in smoke alarms in residential rental units state-wide.
  - Completion of a legislative study to strengthen teen driving state wide.
  - Funding from the John Rex Endowment for 3 years to develop a child maltreatment surveillance system in Wake County.



### North Carolina Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Nearly \$3 million in federal funding expanded the capacity of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program through:

- The development and implementation of a triage and referral system for the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) supporting home visiting in 3 to 5 North Carolina communities
- Evidence-based home visiting program support to Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) through the hiring of a second state NFP nurse consultant and to Healthy Families America (HFA) through the hiring of a program consultant to provide training, technical assistance, and accreditation to HFA programs across the state
- Provision of “community readiness” training and technical assistance to communities across North Carolina assessed to be in greatest need of evidence-based, early childhood home visiting programs, but do not currently have programs

Notes: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Hospitalizations, 2014; North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT), 2014

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.

North Carolina Division of Public Health

[www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov)

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