



Pedestrian Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Crashes

2023 Annual Report of Non-Fatal Pedestrian Injuries due to Motor Vehicle Crashes in Washington State Emergency Departments

Summary

In 2023 there were 1,878 Emergency Department (ED) visits for pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington. This represents a 21.7% increase from 2022, which saw 1,543 ED visits. Visits were identified by searching ED visit information for indications that the patient was a pedestrian, not an occupant, struck by a vehicle (car, SUV, pick-up truck, van, or bus) on a public roadway.

Figure 1. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington, 2023 compared to 2022.

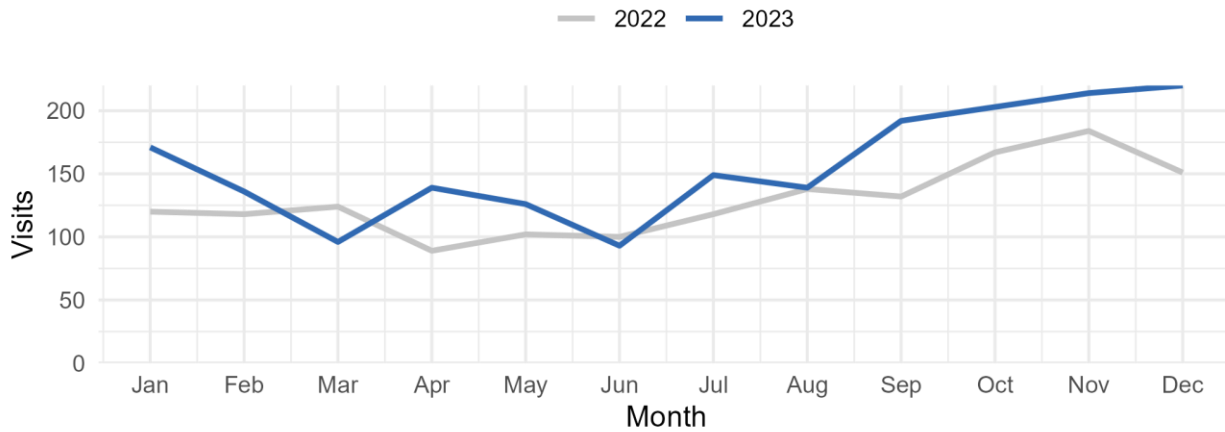


Figure 2. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington, by age groups. *Values less than 10 displayed as 10.

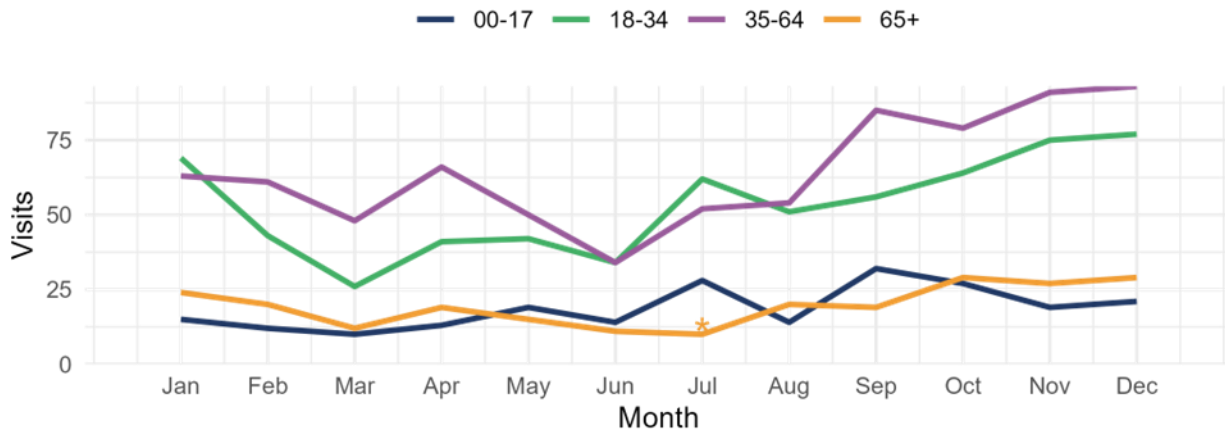


Table 1. Severity* of non-fatal pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash, stratified by demographic grouping, 2023.

	N	Severity ¹	
		Percent ED Only	Percent Admitted
Age Group			
00-17	224	83.5%	16.5%
18-34	640	81.1%	18.9%
35-64	776	74.9%	25.1%
65+	232	68.1%	31.9%
Sex			
Female	727	77.6%	22.4%
Male	1146	76.9%	23.1%
Race			
American Indian or Alaska Native	52	76.9%	23.1%
Asian	95	73.7%	26.3%
Black or African American	239	78.7%	21.3%
Multiracial	29	62.1%	37.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	28	64.3%	35.7%
Other Race	231	86.1%	13.9%
White	1114	75.4%	24.6%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic or Latino	259	82.2%	17.8%
Not Hispanic or Latino	1544	76.2%	23.8%

¹Severity is determined by whether the patient was discharged from the emergency department (ED Only) or hospitalized (Admitted).

Data Notes

The Washington State Department of Health’s Rapid Health Information NetwOrk (RHINO) program collects near real-time health encounter data from participating hospitals and clinics throughout Washington. Washington state law requires emergency departments (EDs) to report each health care visit to the RHINO program in a timely fashion, usually within 24 hours. As of May 2020, 100% of non-federal EDs are reporting data to RHINO. Data include categorical data such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, coded diagnoses, and free-text information such as chief complaint narratives. Data from RHINO does not contain information about the location of traffic-related incidents. For additional information please reach out to RHINO@doh.wa.gov.

The RHINO program is supported by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to provide information to the public on traffic-related emergency department visits in the state of Washington.

Key Takeaways

- Both 2022 and 2023 showed an upward trend in the count of ED visits toward the end of the year. December saw the most visits in 2023, whereas 2022 peaked in November.
- The proportion of severe visits increased with each age group, starting at 16.5% for ages 0-17, while nearly one-third of visits by patients aged 65+ resulted in admission (31.9%).
- Although males and females showed a comparable proportion of visits resulting in admission, 61.2% of visits were male patients.
- Multiracial and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander patients were admitted more often than other race groups, with over one-third of visits resulting in admission.