



Diversity Committee

Fact Sheet Unintentional Injuries/Accidents

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for individuals aged 1-44 (CDC, 2003a)

Rate for unintentional injuries, by age and ethnic group for the years 1999-2002

| | <u>Rate</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>Infants (less than 1)</u> | |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 49.4 |
| Black | 46.1 |
| White | 20.2 |
| Hispanic | 16.4 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 9.5 |

Ages 1-9

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 16.0 |
| Black | 12.7 |
| White | 8.0 |
| Hispanic | 7.7 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 5.0 |

Ages 10-19

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 38.0 |
| White | 22.5 |
| Black | 16.9 |
| Hispanic | 16.7 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 10.8 |

Table from CDC MMWR (CDC, 2007c)

Highlight: Two Types of Unintentional Injuries/Accidents

Fire

Who's at Risk?

- Children 4 and under
- Adults 65 and older
- African Americans and Native Americans
- Low SES
- Rural persons
- Those who live in manufactured homes or substandard housing (CDC, 2007a)

Water

Who's at Risk?

- Males
- Unintentional drowning rate is 1.3 times higher for African Americans than Caucasian's
- for African American's that are between 5-14, the rate is 3.2 times higher than Caucasian's
- Unintentional drowning rate is 1.8 times higher for American Indians and Alaska Natives than Caucasian's
- for American Indian/Alaska Native's that are between 5-14 years of age, the rate is 2.6 times higher than Caucasian's (CDC, 2007b)

Special Focus: American Indian/Alaska Native

Rates of death for unintentional injuries and car accidents are 1.7-2.0 times higher in this population than the rates for all racial/ethnic groups (CDC, 2004).

Compared to Caucasian's, Native American adults are more than twice as likely to die from a car accident (CDC, 2003b).

Compared to Caucasian's, Native American adult death rates from pedestrian accidents are more than three times as high (CDC, 2003b).

Compared to Caucasian's, Native Americans have a drowning rate almost three times higher (CDC, 2003b).

Within the American Indian/Alaska Native population, males 20 years of age or older are:

- Two times as likely to die from a car accident
- Four times more likely to die from a pedestrian related injury
- Almost two times more likely to die from fire and burns
- Five times more likely to drown
- Three times more likely to be murdered (CDC, 2003b)

Resources

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/about/about.htm>

SOPHE Unintentional Injury and Violence Prevention
<http://www.sophe.org/ui/index.html>

References

CDC (2007a). Fire deaths and injuries: Fact sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fire.htm>

CDC (2007b). Water-related injuries: Fact sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown.htm>

CDC (2003a). 10 Leading Causes of death by age group, United States-2003. <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/ncipc/10LC-2003/PDF/10lc-2003.pdf>

CDC (2003b). Injuries among Native Americans: Fact Sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/nativeamericans.htm>

CDC (2004). Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities Fact Sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/fs040402.htm>

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