



Head Injuries

in Canada, 2003–2004

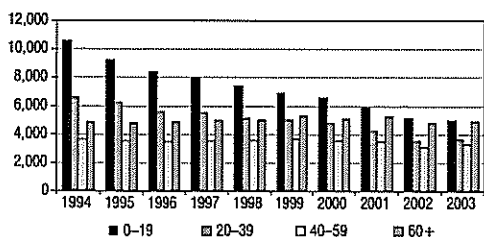
Sources for all data: National Trauma Registry Minimum Data Set (NTR MDS), the National Trauma Registry Comprehensive Data Set (NTR CDS) and the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2007.

- In 2003–2004, children and youth had the highest proportion of hospitalizations due to traumatic head injuries, representing 30% of all cases, or 4,966 admissions.
- Falls accounted for the largest proportion of traumatic head injuries among children and youth, at 40%.
- Motor vehicle incidents were the second leading cause of traumatic head injuries, representing 39% (1,955), in those under the age of 20 years.
- Children and youth (under age 20) experienced a 55% decrease in the number of cycling-related head-injury admissions between 1994–1995 and 2003–2004.

Head Injury Admissions, by Age Group in Canada, 2003–2004

	0–19	20–39	40–59	60+
Number admitted	4,966	3,637	3,306	4,902
Male	3,318	2,870	2,403	2,772
Average age (years)	10	29	49	76
Average LOS in hospital (days)	5	11	13	15
Deaths in hospital	120	217	222	809

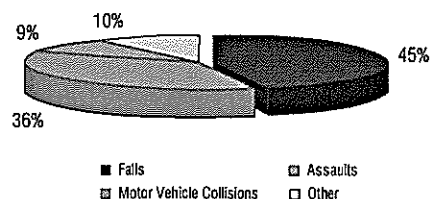
Frequency of Head Injury Hospitalizations by Age Group and Fiscal Year, NTR MDS, 1994–1995 Through 2003–2004



Trends over time

- Children and youth (from birth to 19 years of age) have experienced the largest decrease (53%) in the number of traumatic head injury admissions, representing a significant reduction in 10 years (10,589 in 1994–1995 to 4,966 in 2003–2004).
- Deaths as a result of head injury in the 0-to-19 age group decreased by 34% from 182 in 1994–1995 to 120 in 2003–2004.
- The number of people admitted to specialized trauma hospitals with severe head injuries, as determined by an international injury scoring system, rose by 46% between 2000–2001 and 2003–2004.

Cause of Head Injury Hospitalizations, Overall (2003–2004)



For more information, please see the National Trauma Registry Analysis in Brief, *Head Injuries in Canada: A Decade of Change (1994–1995 to 2003–2004)*, available at www.cihi.ca.