



Community Health Profile

UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

The consequences of injuries can be extensive and wide-ranging. Injuries have physical, emotional, and financial consequences that can impact the lives of individuals, their families, and society. Some injuries can result in temporary or long-term disability. Injuries also place an enormous burden on hospital emergency departments and trauma care systems, accounting for approximately one-third of all emergency department visits and eight percent of all hospital stays.

KEY FACTS

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death in 15–24 year olds in Dakota County.

The rate of non-fatal, unintentional injuries is decreasing.

Falls are the leading cause, with older adults most at risk for injury from falls.

In Dakota County, student use of seatbelts when driving or riding is high, but more than half of students reported handling their phone while driving.

Deaths and injuries from unintentional injury

- Unintentional injuries caused 228 deaths in Dakota County residents in 2021.
- Unintentional injuries caused an average of 20,996 emergency room visits or hospitalizations per year in Dakota County residents from 2016 to 2019.
- The rate of unintentional emergency room visit injuries for Dakota County residents decreased by 1.5 percent from 2016 to 2019.

Injury demographics

- Unintentional injuries caused 30 deaths in Dakota County children aged 0-19 from 2018-2021.
- Unintentional injuries caused 218 deaths in Dakota County adults 20 and older in 2021. The rate increased by 26 percent from 2018 to 2021 and was below the state for 2021.
- Unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death in Dakota County 15–24 year olds from 2018 to 2021.
- The highest rates of non-fatal, unintentional injuries are in persons 0-4 years old. Persons 80 and older have the highest rate of fatal unintentional injuries.
- Males have a higher rate of injury than females.



General safety

- For Dakota County residents from 2016 to 2019,
 - there were 25 near-drowning accidents and 11 accidental drowning deaths.
 - there were 95 non-fatal accidental injuries and no deaths due to firearms.
 - there were 229 non-fatal burn injuries and 10 people died in fires.
 - there were 2,185 non-fatal accidental poisonings and 133 deaths due to accidental poisoning.

Note: To protect confidentiality, data on fatal injuries is not reported when the number is small.

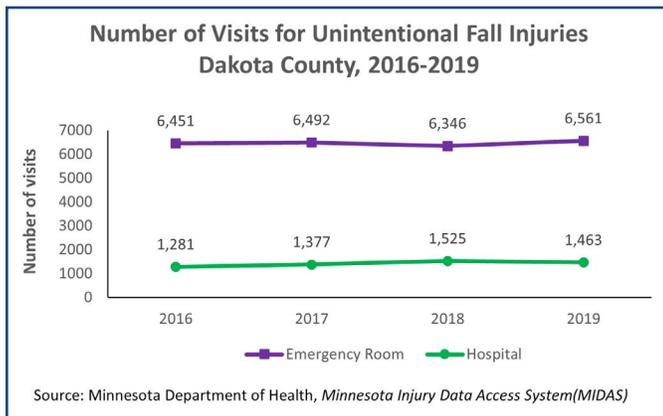


Recreational injuries

- Bicycle crashes increased in Minnesota from 2020 to 2022.

Falls

- Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries for Dakota County residents and the leading cause of hospitalized injury among residents over 65.
- In 2019, 53 percent of all unintentional fatal injuries and 40 percent of all unintentional non-fatal injuries were caused by falls.



- The number of unintentional fall injuries for Dakota County residents generally increased from 2016 to 2019.

Motor vehicle crashes

- Motor vehicle crashes that occurred in Dakota County caused an average of 19 deaths per year from 2018 to 2022. The number of deaths from motor vehicle crashes occurring in Dakota County increased from 2018 to 2022.
- Motor vehicle crashes that occurred in Dakota County caused an average of 1,903 non-fatal injuries per year from 2018 to 2022.
- In 2022, eight vehicle occupants who were killed or severely injured in crashes in Dakota County were not wearing seat belts (eight percent of fatal and severe motor vehicle injuries). Five percent of fatal or severe injuries involved inattentive driving and 20 percent involved speeding from 2018-2022.

Traumatic brain

- Traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries may lead to long-term disability with multiple secondary conditions.
- There were 367 hospitalized traumatic brain injury (TBI) events for Dakota County residents in 2019. The number of TBI injuries generally increased from 2016 to 2019.
- The leading cause of TBI injuries is falls. Persons 85 and older are most susceptible to TBI injury from falls.

Automobile safety

- In 2022, 79 percent of Dakota County 9th graders and 87.5 percent of 11th graders said that they always wear a seatbelt when driving or riding in a car, truck or SUV.
- Among Dakota County 11th graders who drive, 59 percent reported handling their phone to send or read text messages, take pictures, use social media, stream videos or video-chat while driving.



For more information:

- *Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*
www.health.state.mn.us/injury
- *Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Traffic Safety*
www.dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots
- *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)* www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*
www.cdc.gov/injury

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email public.health@co.dakota.mn.us or call 651.554.6100.

