



# Austin Public Health

## Data Brief

### Injury-Related Deaths and Hospitalizations, Travis County

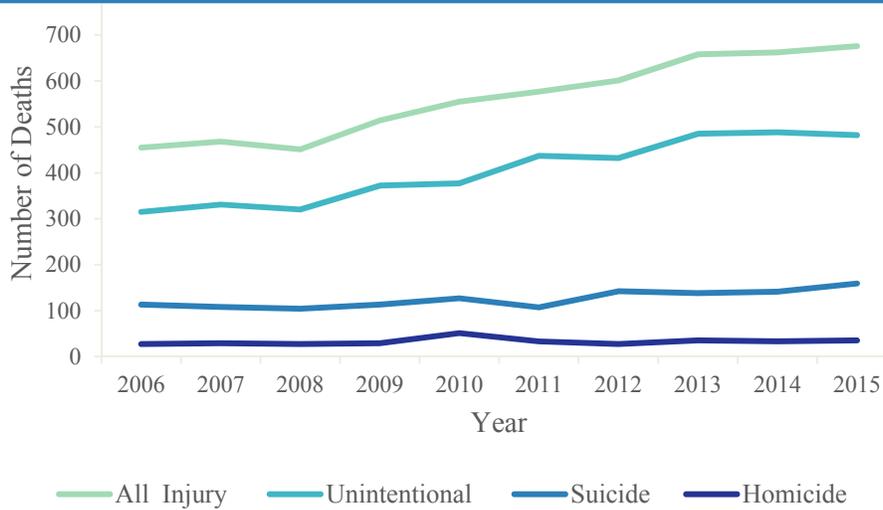


### A Major Public Health Issue

Injury-related deaths and hospitalizations are a major public health issue in Travis County. Injuries include unintentional injuries (e.g., falls, motor vehicle crashes, poisonings, drownings, and other events sometimes called “accidents”), suicides, and homicides. Injuries are preventable. This data brief summarizes injury-related deaths and hospitalizations among Travis County residents.

Between 2006 and 2015, there were nearly 6,000 injury-related deaths (figure 1). In 2015, there were 676 injury-related deaths for Travis County residents. The number of deaths varied by intent. Unintentional injuries are the third leading cause of death; suicide is the seventh leading cause of death (*2017 Critical Health Indicators Report*).

Figure 1. Injury-Related Deaths by Intent and Year, Travis County, 2006 - 2015



Suicides, poisonings, motor vehicles, and falls are major causes of injury deaths (table 1). Nearly 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths are caused by drugs. Most (75%) of the deaths due to falls occurred in those 75 years of age or older. Over half (51%) of the homicides occurred among those 15–34 years of age.

Table 1. Number of Deaths by Selected Injury Cause by Age Group, Travis County, 2006 - 2014

Selected Injury Cause	Age Group (in years)									Total Number of Deaths
	<5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and older	
Suicide	0	9	120	226	192	239	193	65	56	1,100
Poisoning	2	1	111	177	215	291	167	38	13	1,015
Motor Vehicle	15	39	187	205	151	150	88	50	47	932
Fall	1	1	8	10	15	36	65	91	674	901
Homicide	14	6	72	78	52	40	22	5	6	295
Drowning	18	9	16	24	15	15	12	5	4	118

Source: Center for Health Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services



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Data on hospitalizations for Travis County residents for the years 2010 – 2014 were obtained and analyzed. For the five year period, there were 22,676 hospitalizations due to injuries.

Table 2. Injury Hospitalizations, Travis County, 2010 - 2014

		Number	Percent
<b>Total Count</b>		22,676	
<b>Age Group (in years)</b>	0-17	1,776	8%
	18-44	7,225	32%
	45-64	5,856	26%
	65-74	2,211	10%
	75 and older	5,608	25%
<b>Patient Status on Discharge</b>	To home or self-care (routine discharge)	12,447	56%
	To inpatient rehabilitation facility	2,793	13%
	To skilled nursing facility	2,750	12%
	To psychiatric hospital or psychiatric distinct part of a hospital	1,461	7%
	To home health service	1,400	6%
	Died	459	2%
	Other	995	4%
<b>Charges</b>	Total (for years 2010-2014)	\$1,455,666,484	
	Average	\$64,194	
<b>Average Length of Stay</b>		4.6 Days	
<b>Payment Sources</b>	Medicare	8,729	39%
	Uninsured	4,571	20%
	Private Health Insurance	4,052	18%
	Medicaid	2,016	9%
	Other	3,284	14%

Data source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data.  
Missing frequency: discharge status (371).

#### Prevention Resources:

- Austin Public Health: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/injury-prevention>
- Safe Kids Austin: <https://www.dellchildrens.net/services-and-programs/safety-and-injury-prevention/safe-kids-austin/>
- Austin-Travis EMS: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/fall-prevention-program>
- CDC Injury Center <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/index.html>