

# Statistics on hospitalisations due to injuries and poisonings in 2017

In 2017, 94,000 people were admitted to hospital as a result of an accident, which is 4,000 less than 2016. Approximately 7,600 people were admitted to hospital after a road accident. The decline in road accidents has occurred over the past ten years and is mostly found among young people. In 2017, 6,800 people received treatment due to self-harm and 1,600 due to violence.

## Fewer hospital admissions

In 2017, almost 142,000 people were admitted to hospital following injury events, which is slightly lower than in 2016 when approximately 147,000 people were hospitalised. A certain reduction has occurred in accidents, intentional self-harm, violence (assaults) and in complications of medical and surgical care. The clearest reduction has occurred for accidents. To a certain extent, fewer people that are hospitalised can depend on the ability to be treated by means of outpatient care. Concussion is a clear example of this, in 2001 the number of hospitalisations due to this condition was three times higher than in 2017.

## Two in three accidents are falls

As in previous years, falls are by far the most common cause of injury resulting in admissions to hospital. Falls comprise two-thirds of all accidents, which corresponds to approximately 67,000 people – 39,000 women (58 per cent) and 28,000 men (42 per cent).

**Figure 1. All accidents and fall accidents, 2001–2017, by sex**

Number of persons discharged from hospital



Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

In the case of accidents in total, the difference between women and men is smaller, 49,000 women (53 per cent) and 45,000 men (47 per cent). Falls are most common among the elderly and in 2017 about 7 in 10 fall patients were aged 65 years or above. This group accounted for 78 per cent among women and for 61 per cent among men. About 8 per cent of everyone aged 85 years or above were, at some point during 2017, admitted to hospital because of a fall.

## Femur fractures are most common

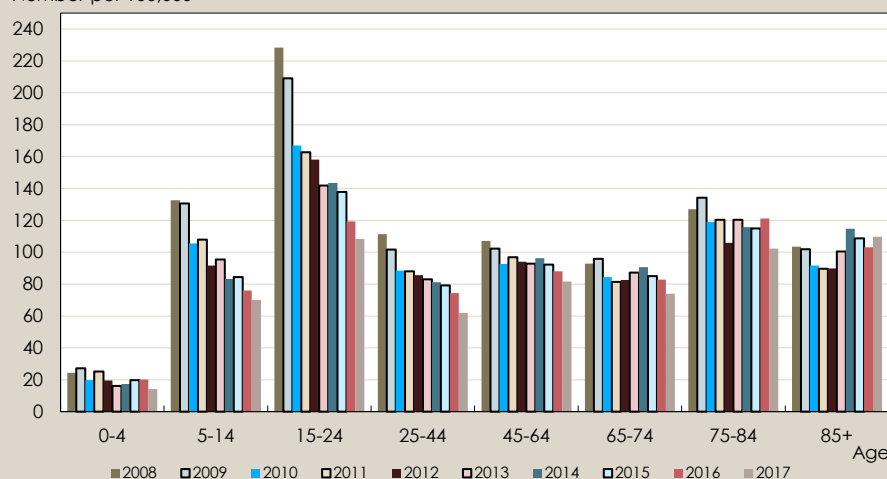
Of people admitted to hospital as a result of injury, femoral fracture is the most common main diagnosis. In 2017, nearly 18,000 people (11,600 women and 6,200 men) received hospital treatment for femoral fractures. Relative to the population, the number of men and women treated for femoral fractures has decreased during the 2000s. The greatest reduction has occurred among women.

## Reduction of road traffic accidents

In 2017, roughly 7,600 people were admitted to hospital as a result of road traffic accidents. This is a decline by 800 from 2016. Taking the increase in population into account, these accidents have decreased by more than 40 per cent since the beginning of the 2000s. The number of hospitalisations has decreased among all common road user groups. However, a very large part of this is due to a reduction in the number of persons treated as a result of car accidents – 5,200 in 2001 compared with 2,100 in 2017. Admissions caused by bicycle accidents show a significantly weaker decline, 3,600 in 2001 compared with 3,100 in 2017.

**Figure 2. Road traffic accident 2001–2017, by age**

Number of persons per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital  
Number per 100,000



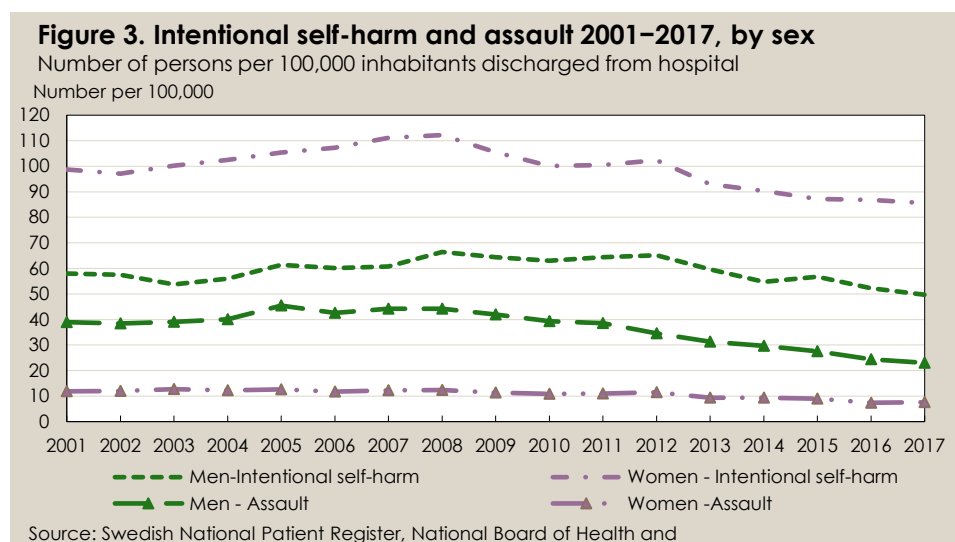
Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

## Reduction in road accidents among the young

Ten years ago, it was almost twice as common for 15–24 year olds to be hospitalised after road traffic accidents compared to those aged 75 and over. But in 2017, it was equally common among 75 year-olds and older as among 15–24 year-olds. The change is mainly due to the fact that fewer young people were hospitalised while the number of elderly hospitalised remained approximately the same.

## Fewer violence-related hospital admissions

In 2017, approximately 1,600 people were admitted to hospital as a result of assault. Taking the increase in population into account, the number of people hospitalised for violence-related injuries has almost halved over the past 10 years. Hospitalisation due to violence is most common for men aged 15–24, but it is also among them the biggest decrease has occurred.



In 2017, approximately 6,800 people received hospital treatment for intentional self-harm, and many of them were young women aged 15–24. Among men, it is also most common in the age of 15–24, but the difference is relatively small compared to those somewhat older. In recent years, there has been a slight reduction in both the number of women and men treated.

## Major regional differences

With regard to certain types of injuries, there are major regional differences. However, the differences do not necessarily mean that there are higher risks in some regions. In 2017, fall accidents leading to hospitalisation in Jämtland County, where about 1 per cent of the population were hospitalised, were almost

twice as common as in Uppsala County, where about 0.5 per cent of the population were hospitalised. The decision to admit a person may be due to organisational reasons but also practical reasons, such as the distance between the hospital and the home. Differences in the age structure of different counties may also affect the numbers.

Even in cases of intentional self-harm, regional differences are observed. In relation to population size, most hospitalisations in 2017 due to intentional self-harm were reported from the counties of Värmland and Jönköping. However, variations among counties may also depend on how healthcare works with intentional self-harm, which in turn affects the statistics.

## Complications arising from medical care or surgery

In 2017, nearly 38,000 people received hospital treatment for complications. This increased during the first decade of the 2000s (presumably due to an increased propensity to report instances), although a small decrease has been identified during recent years. Because it includes so-called 'expected' complications and adverse effects of pharmaceuticals, this group is not suitable as a metric for care-related injuries.

### More information

You can find more tables, diagrams and other information in the Excel file: [www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer/2018/2018-9-16](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/publikationer/2018/2018-9-16)

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):

<http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik/statistikdatabas/yttreorsakertillskadorochforgiftningar>

Find out more about patient safety and care-related injuries:

[The National Board of Health and Welfare – Patient Safety](#) (in Swedish)

[The Health and Social Care Inspectorate \(IVO\)](#)

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