

# Statistics on hospitalisations due to injuries and poisonings in 2019

**In 2019, approximately 146,000 people were hospitalised as a result of injury. This represents almost 17 percent of all the people who were hospitalised. Of these 146,000 people, approximately 96,000 received treatment due to accidents, 41,000 due to complications of medical and surgical care, 6,800 due to self-harm and 1,500 due to violence.**

## Minor changes compared to 2018

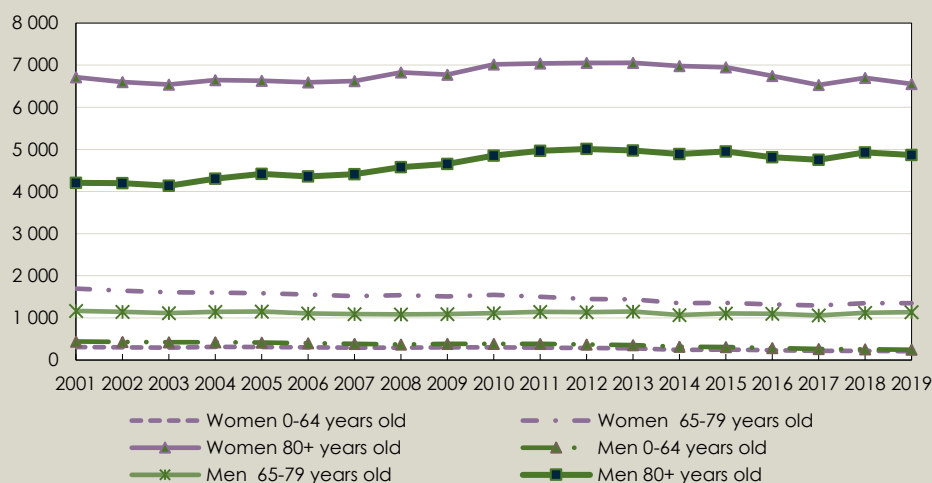
Approximately as many people were hospitalised for accidents, intentional self-harm and violence (assaults) in 2019 as the year before. However, there has been some increase in complications of medical and surgical care.

## Seven in ten accidents are falls

As in previous years, falls are by far the most common cause of injury resulting in hospitalisations. Falls comprise around 70 percent of all accidents, which corresponds to approximately 69,000 people – 40,000 women (58 per cent) and 29,000 men (42 per cent).

**Figure 1. Fall accidents, 2001–2019, by sex and age**

Number of persons per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital



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

When it comes to the total number of accidents resulting in hospitalisations, the difference between women and men is smaller, 51,000 women (53 per cent) and 45,000 men (47 per cent). Falls are most common among the elderly and in 2019 more than seven in ten fall patients were aged 65 years or above. This group accounted for 79 per cent among women and for 65 per cent among men.

About 6 per cent of everyone aged 80 years or above were, at some point during 2019, hospitalised because of a fall. In this age group, fall accidents accounted for more than 90 percent of all accidents. Fall accidents have decreased somewhat since the beginning of the 2000s, but among men 80 years or older, an increase has occurred.

## Femur fractures are most common

Of people hospitalised as a result of injury, femoral fracture is the most common main diagnosis. In 2019, 18,000 people, divided into 65 per cent women and 35 per cent men, received hospital treatment for femoral fractures. Some decline has occurred since the 2000s when about 20,000 people were cared for annually.

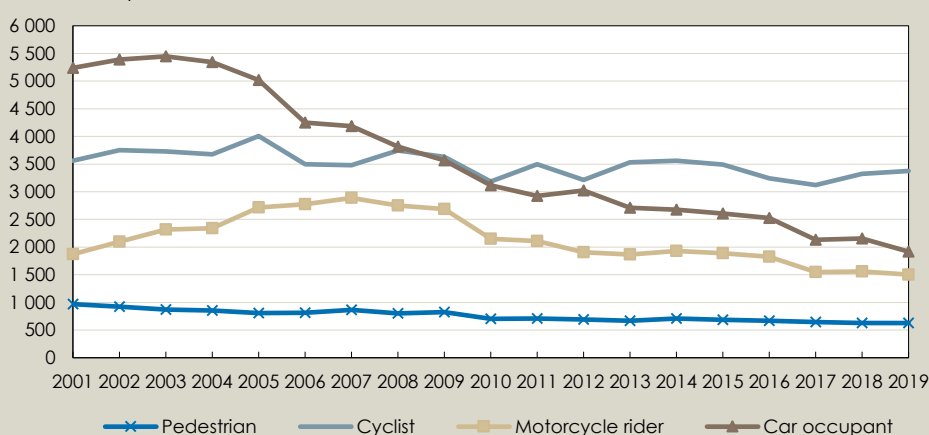
Femur fracture affects the elderly to a very large extent, while, for example, burn and corrosion injuries are by far the most common among the very youngest, 0–4 years. Poisoning is most common among younger people aged 15–24, but also common among the very oldest.

## Less than 2,000 persons hospitalised due to car accidents in 2019

In 2019, roughly 7,600 people were hospitalised as a result of road traffic accidents. The number has been at approximately the same level since 2017, but there has been a decrease of over 4,000 people since the beginning of the 2000s. A very large part of this is due to a reduction in the number of persons treated as a result of car accidents – 1,900 in 2019 compared with 5,200 in 2001. Discharges caused by bicycle accidents show a significantly weaker decline, and a small increase has taken place in the last two years. The number cared for in 2019 was 3,400 compared with 3,600 in 2001.

**Figure 2. Road traffic accidents among some road user groups, 2001–2019**

Number of persons



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

Ten years ago, it was by far most common for 15–24 year-olds to be hospitalised after road traffic accidents. However, in 2019, it was more common among 75 year-olds and older as among 15–24 year-olds. A decline has taken place among younger people while the number of elderly people being cared for is at the same level as before.

### Less road accidents among women than men

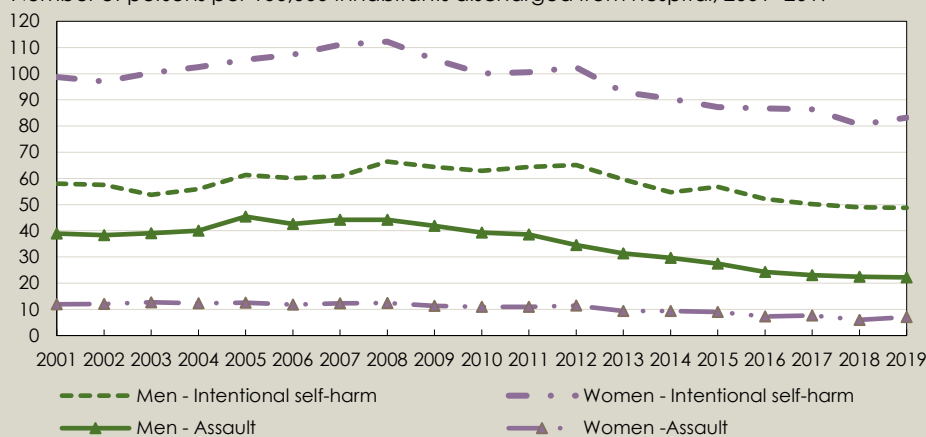
Almost twice as many men than women are hospitalised after a road traffic accident. The difference is mainly seen in the number of motorcycle accidents, which approximately 1,300 men and almost 200 women were cared for in 2019. A clear difference is also seen in the number of people cared for after a bicycle accident, almost 2,200 men compared to 1,200 women.

### More common among men than women to be hospitalised due to violence

In 2019, approximately 1,500 people were hospitalised as a result of assault. In the longer term, there has been a clear reduction, but since 2016, the changes in the number of cared for have been small. It is three times more common for men to be hospitalised as a result of violence compared to women. Hospitalisation due to violence is most common for men aged 15–24, but among women, it is as common in this age group, as among women 25–44 years old.

**Figure 3. Intentional self-harm and assault, by sex 2001–2019**

Number of persons per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital, 2001–2019



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

In 2019, approximately 6,800 people received hospital treatment for intentional self-harm. Since 2012, there has been a slight decrease in people who were cared for in hospital after intentional self-harm, but in 2019 almost 200 more were cared for than in 2018. It is more common that women than men are cared for 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. Nearly nine out of ten, 6,000 persons, have been hospitalised after intentional self-harm by intoxication, for example by pharmaceuticals.

Hospitalisations due to unintentional poisoning is not as common. In 2019, 2,100 persons, as many women as men were hospitalised due to an unintentional poisoning.

## Major regional differences

With regard to certain types of injuries, there are major regional differences. In 2019, fall accidents leading to hospitalisation among persons living on Gotland, 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. However, the differences do not necessarily mean that there are higher risks in some regions. For example, the differences in fall accidents between the counties are reduced when the age structure in the county is taken into account. 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.

Even in cases of intentional self-harm, regional differences are observed. In relation to population size, most hospitalisations in 2019 due to intentional self-harm were reported from the county of 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 2019, approximately 41,000 people received hospital treatment for complications. This increased during the first decade of the 2000s (presumably due to an increased propensity to report instances). A certain increase has been noticed the last two years but before that, a small decrease had been identified. 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/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/)

If you want to use our statistical database (in Swedish):  
<https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/ifska/val.aspx>

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 \(IVO\)](#)

### Contact:

Pernilla Fagerström, questions regarding statistics  
Telephone: +46 (0)75-247 30 00  
E-mail: [patientregistret@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:patientregistret@socialstyrelsen.se)