

Statistics on hospitalisations due to injuries and poisonings in 2020

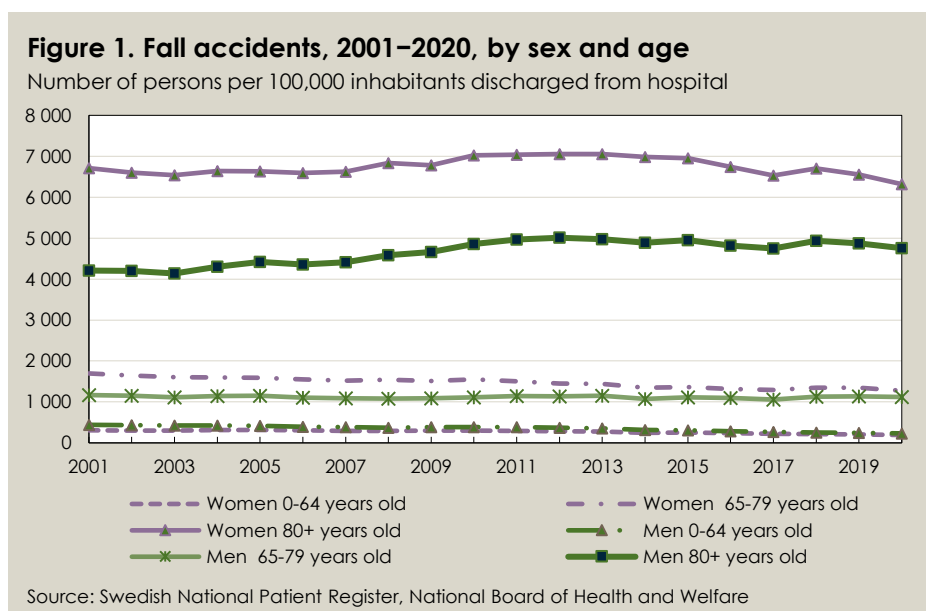
In 2020, approximately 141,000 people were hospitalised as a result of injury. This represents almost 17 percent of all the people who were hospitalised. Of these 140,000 people, approximately 94,000 received treatment due to accidents, 38,000 due to complications of medical and surgical care, 6,700 due to self-harm and 1,500 due to violence.

Minor changes compared to 2019

In 2020, 141,000 people were hospitalised as a result of an injury, compared with 2019 when 146,000 people were hospitalised as a result of an injury. Fewer people were hospitalised for accidents, intentional self-harm and complications of medical and surgical care during 2020. The number of people that were hospitalised for assault (violence) has remained unchanged compared to 2019.

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 67,000 people – 38,000 women (57 per cent) and 29,000 men (43 per cent).



When it comes to the total number of accidents resulting in hospitalisations, the difference between women and men is smaller, 49,000 women (52 per cent) and 45,000 men (48 per cent). Falls are most common among the elderly and in 2020

more than 70 per cent of the fall patients were aged 65 years or above. This group accounted for 80 per cent among women and for 66 per cent among men.

About 6 per cent of everyone aged 80 years or above were, at some point during 2020, hospitalised because of a fall. In this age group, fall accidents accounted for more than 90 per cent 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

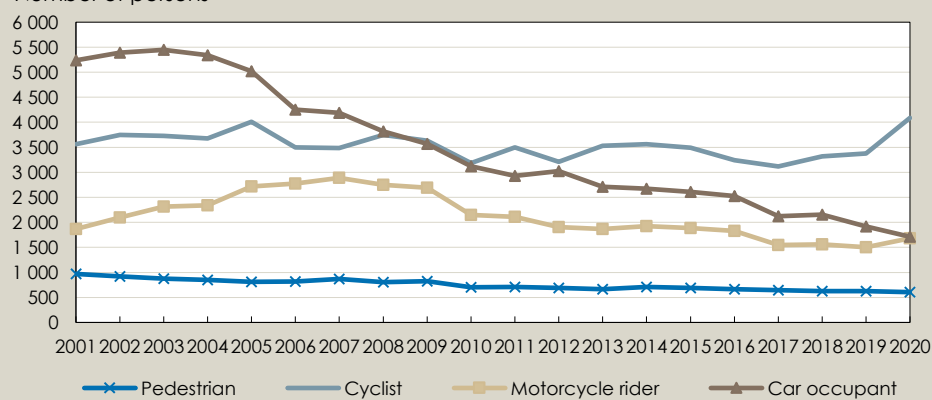
Of people hospitalised as a result of injury, femoral fracture is the most common main diagnosis. In 2020, 17,000 people, divided into 65 per cent women and 35 per cent men, received hospital treatment for femoral fractures. Some decline has occurred since the 2000s when about 20,000 people were cared for annually.

More than 4,000 persons hospitalised due to bicycle accidents

In 2020, roughly 8,200 people were hospitalised as a result of road traffic accidents. Compared to 2019, this is an increase with about 600 persons; a large part of the increase is due to bicycle accidents. Since the beginning of the 2000s the number of people that has been hospitalised due to road traffic accidents has decreased with over 3700 persons. A very large part of this is due to a reduction in the number of persons treated as a result of car accidents – 1,700 in 2020 compared with 5,200 in 2001. Discharges caused by bicycle accidents show an increase the last three years. In 2020, almost 4,100 people were hospitalised for bicycle accidents, which is the highest number since 2005 when 4,000 people were hospitalized as a result of bicycle accidents. Electric scooters and similar vehicles are classified as bicycles.

Figure 2. Road traffic accidents among some road user groups, 2001–2020

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 2020, it was as common among 15–24 year-olds and 75 year-olds and older. 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 1,500 men and about 200 women were cared for in 2020. A clear difference is also seen in the number of people cared for after a bicycle accident, almost 2,700 men compared to 1,400 women.

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

In 2020, approximately 1,500 people were hospitalised as a result of assault, the number is unchanged compared to 2019. 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, among women; it is about as common in the age groups 15-24 years old and 25-44 years old.



In 2020, approximately 6,700 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, during 2020 this trend continued when 100 fewer were hospitalised compared to 2019. 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. Nearly nine out of ten,

5,900 persons, have been hospitalised after intentional self-harm by intoxication, for example by pharmaceuticals.

Fewer instances among welleducated

It is more common for people with only a lower secondary education to be admitted to hospital as a result of an injury. This is particularly the case regarding intentional injuries –i.e. those resulting from violence or self-harm. For the age group 30–79, it is approximately four times more common that those with only a lower secondary education to be hospitalised because of self-harm than those with a post-secondary education. In the case of being assaulted, it is approximately seven times more common. In the case of road traffic accidents, women with different levels of education broadly have the same amount of accidents. Among men, it is more common for those with only a lower secondary education to be treated after a road traffic accident. For fall accidents, it is more common for people with only a lower secondary education to be admitted to hospital compared with people who have a post secondary education.

Complications arising from medical care or surgery

In 2020, approximately 38,000 people received hospital treatment for complications, which is a decrease compared to 2019. This increased during the first decade of the 2000s (presumably due to an increased propensity to report instances). 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/

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

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