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# Statistics on hospitalisations due to injuries and poisonings in 2023

**In 2023, approximately 145,000 people were hospitalised due to injury. This accounts for almost 18 per cent of all the people who were hospitalised. More than 94,000 patients received treatment due to accidents, 43,000 due to complications from medical and surgical care, 6,200 due to self-harm and 1,200 due to violence.**

## As many admissions as in 2022

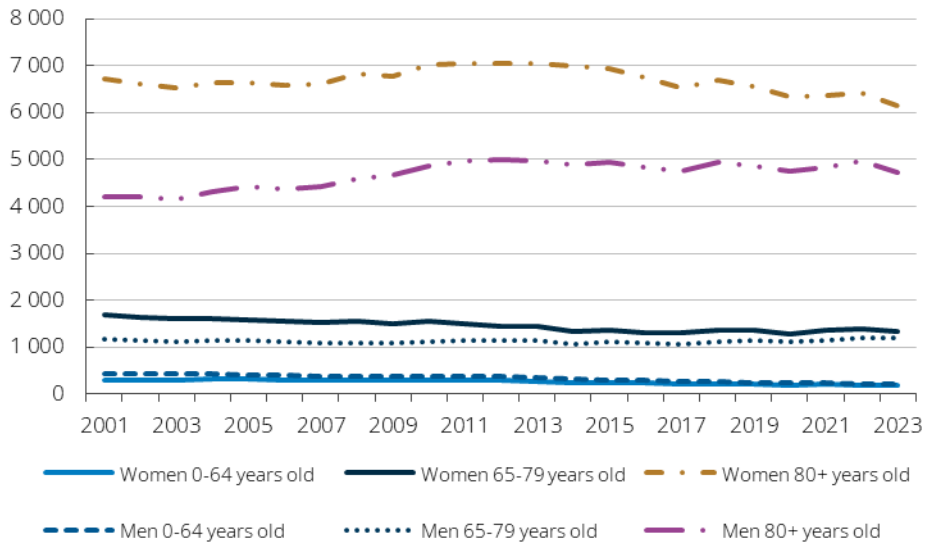
The same number of people, about 145,000, were hospitalised as a result of an injury in 2023 as in 2022. Around 74,000 of these were women (51 per cent) and 71,000 (49 per cent) were men. Treatment as a result of accidents was the most common cause, affecting almost 94,000 people. This means that 65 per cent of all people hospitalised in 2023 due to an injury were admitted because of accidents. Roughly 43,000 were treated due to complications of medical and surgical care. Almost 6,200 were treated due to self-harm and 1,200 due to violence. Over a ten-year period, the number of people hospitalised as a result of injury has decreased by 5 per cent, with declines seen in injuries caused by accidents, self-harm and violence.

## Three of four accidents are falls

As in previous years, falls remain by far the most common cause of injury resulting in hospitalisations. Falls account for around 75 per cent of all accidents, which corresponds to just over 70,000 people, divided into almost 40,000 women (57 per cent) and 30,000 men (43 per cent). The proportion of women treated compared to men is slightly higher for falls than for accidents in general. Falls are most common among the elderly, and in 2023, about 77 per cent of the fall patients were aged 65 years or above. This age-group accounted for 82 per cent among women and for 71 per cent among men. In the age group 80 years and above, fall accidents made up 92 per cent of all accidents.

**Figure 1. Fall accidents, by sex and age, 2001-2023**

Number of patients per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital



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

## Femur fractures are most common

Among people hospitalised as a result of injury, femoral fracture is the most common primary diagnosis. In 2023, around 19,000 people were hospitalised for femur fracture, with 64 per cent being women and 36 per cent men. The number of people hospitalised for femur fracture was almost the same as in 2022. Over a ten-year period, the number of patients has remained relatively constant. However, when adjustments for changes in the age structure are taken into account, there has been a decrease.

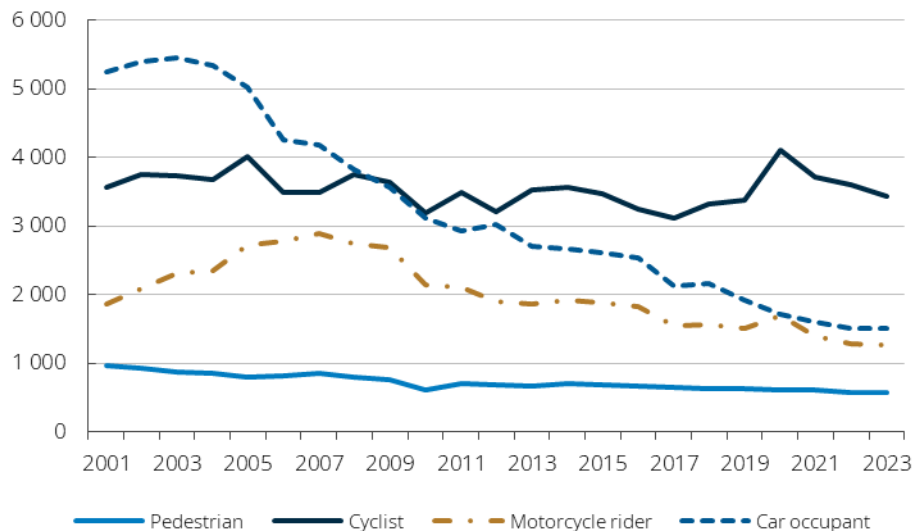
## Fewer road traffic accidents

In 2023, roughly 7,000 people were hospitalised as a result of road traffic accidents, which is the lowest number during 2001–2023. Since the early 2000s, the number of people hospitalised due to road traffic accidents has decreased by approximately 5,000. A significant portion of this reduction is due to the decline in the number of people treated as a result of car accidents – 1,500 in 2023 compared with 5,200 in 2001. In 2023, around 3,400 people were hospitalised following bicycle accidents; this number has remained relatively stable throughout the 2000s. Electric scooters and similar vehicles are classified as bicycles. Ten years ago, 15–24-year-olds were by far most common age group to be hospitalised after road traffic accidents. However, accidents in this age group have decreased substantially. This is not the case for the 80 years and older age group. In terms of number of patients per 100,000 inhabitants, this age group was the most frequently hospitalised

after road traffic accidents in 2023. Nearly twice as many men as women were hospitalised after a road traffic accident.

**Figure 2. Road traffic accidents among some road user groups, 2001-2023**

Number of patients discharged from hospital



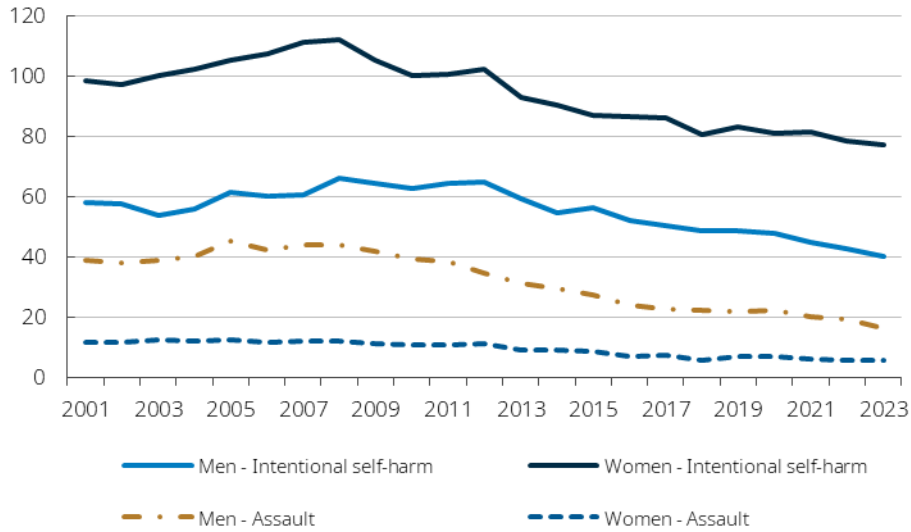
Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

## Slightly fewer hospitalised due to assault

In 2023, almost 6,200 people were hospitalised after intentional self-harm. Since 2012, the number of patients hospitalised after intentional self-harm has decreased. Since the number of patients was 200 fewer than in 2022, this trend continued in 2023. For both men and women, hospitalisation after intentional self-harm is most common in the age group 15-24. Nearly nine out of ten, corresponding to, 5,400 people, were hospitalised after intentional self-harm by intoxication, for example, through pharmaceuticals. In 2023, around 1,200 people (74 per cent men and 26 per cent women) were hospitalised as a result of assaults, which is the lowest figure in the period 2001–2023. Although there has been a marked decrease in the number of hospitalisations due to violence since the early 2000s, there has been an increase in the number of hospitalisations due to assaults with firearms.

**Figure 3. Intentional self-harm and assault, by sex, 2001-2023**

Number of patients per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital

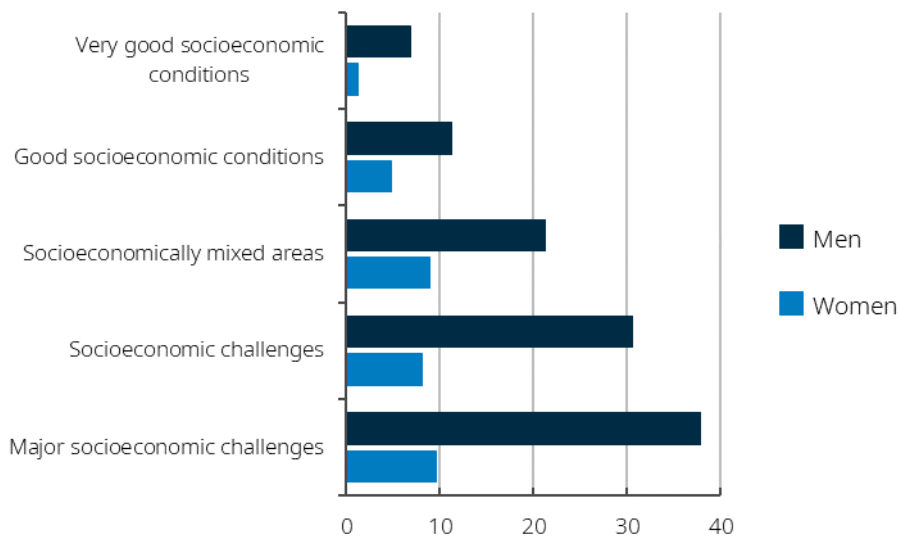


Source: Swedish National Patient Register, National Board of Health and Welfare

It is more common for people living in areas with major socioeconomic challenges to be hospitalised due to assault than for those living in other types of areas. This applies to both women and men. People residing in areas with very good socioeconomic conditions are the least likely to be hospitalised due to assault. The differences between area types are more pronounced for men than women.

**Figure 4. Assault by different area types and sex, 2023**

Number of patients per 100,000 inhabitants discharged from hospital, age-standardized



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

### **Regional statistical areas and area type**

Area type is a measure of socioeconomic conditions. The measure is based on an index that contains the proportion of people with a low economic standard, the proportion of people with pre-secondary education and the proportion with financial assistance and/or the long-term unemployed. In total, there are five area types that range from areas with very large socio-economic challenges (1) to areas with very good socio-economic conditions (5). The area types are categorized based on regional statistical areas, RegSo. RegSo divides Sweden into 3,363 areas that follow the county and municipal borders, and this information is updated annually based on the population as of 31 December.

## **Major regional differences**

Regarding certain types of injuries, there are major regional differences. However, these differences do not necessarily indicate that there are higher risks in some regions. For example, the disparities in fall accidents among the counties are reduced when the age structure in the county is considered. 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. Variations among counties may also depend on how healthcare operates, for example, record keeping and coding in specific areas, which in turn affects the statistics.

### **More information**

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (select Tillhörande dokument och bilagor): [www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikammen/skador-och-forgiftningar](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikammen/skador-och-forgiftningar) (in Swedish, but with English list of terms).

If you want to use our statistical database:

[www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikdatabasen](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/statistikdatabasen)

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