

# Injuries and Violence Among School-Aged Children

Virginia 2010

## Unintentional Injuries and Violence

- Injuries include unintentional injuries, such as those caused by motor vehicle crashes, drowning, falls, and fires, and intentional injuries, such as suicide and violence.
- An injury is defined as “unintentional or intentional damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to thermal, mechanical, electrical or chemical energy, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen (CDC).”
- Violence is further defined as the “threatened or actual use of physical force or power against another person, against oneself, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, or deprivation (CDC).”
- Injuries are preventable by changing the environment, individual behavior, products, social norms, legislation and governmental and institutional policies (CDC).

## Injury in Virginia

- Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for people aged 1 to 44 years in Virginia.
- During 2009, school aged children and adolescents in Virginia (ages 5-19) experienced a total of 3,460 hospitalizations due to injuries.
- These hospitalizations resulted in charges of more than \$87 million, and a median charge of \$13,613 per episode of care.

## Leading Causes of Injury Mortality Among Children and Adolescents

- For children and adolescents aged 5-19 years, there were a total of 198 deaths that resulted from injury-related causes: 38% from motor vehicle injuries (occupants and pedestrians combined), 18% from all other unintentional injuries, 19% from homicide, and 22% from suicide.
- Among children and adolescents aged 5-19 years, 68% of unintentional injury deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes.
- Firearms are the cause of injury in approximately 52% of suicides and 82% of homicides among children and adolescents aged 5-19 years.

Rank	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19
1	MV traffic (N=6)	Firearm (N=8)	MV traffic (N=63)
2	Fire/Flame (N=2)	MV traffic (N=6)	Firearm (N=51)
3		Suffocation (N=5)	Suffocation (N=17)
4		Drowning (N=4)	Poisoning (N=12)
5			Other Land Transport (N=4)

Rank	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19
1	Fall (N=146)	Fall (N=156)	MV traffic (N=586)
2	MV traffic (N=62)	Cut/Pierce (N=105)	Poisoning (N=565)
3	Striking (N=36)	Poisoning (N=91)	Fall (N=185)
4	Bites/Sting (N=33)	Striking (N=72)	Cuts/pierce (N=183)
5	Poisoning (N=32)	MV traffic (N=57)	Striking (N=167)

Rank	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19
1	Unintentional (N=11)	Unintentional (N=18)	Unintentional (N=82)
2	Homicide (N=2)	Homicide (N=5)	Suicide (N=41)
3	Undetermined (N=1)	Suicide (N=3)	Homicide (N=31)
4		Undetermined (N=2)	Undetermined (N=2)