

Illinois Violent Injury Reporting

2023-2024

Illinois Department of Public Health

Division of Emergency Medical
Services and Highway Safety

Illinois Violent Injury Registry

The Department shall, using only data from which the identity of an individual cannot be ascertained, reconstructed, or verified and to which the identity of an individual cannot be linked by a recipient of the data, report its findings on the impact of violent acts on children to the General Assembly.

- 20 ILCS 2310/2310-415

History

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) established a registry specific to victims of violent injuries on March 10, 1998. A monitoring system was established at that time and IDPH began data collection from Illinois reporting facilities. Facilities were mandated to report victims diagnosed with an injury allegedly caused by an external cause found in Title 77: Public Health, Chapter I: Department of Public Health, Subchapter g: Emergency Services and Highway Safety, Part 560 Violent Injury Code.

Purpose

The registry was established with the intention of providing accurate data specific to injuries resulting from violence to those involved with injury prevention programs, academics, health care providers, regional emergency medical system councils, injury prevention groups, governmental planners, special interest groups, and others involved in needs assessment of individuals within the target population. Violent injury reports are collected regardless of the patients' age. However, this report is limited to children as specified in the statute. For the purpose of this report, the definition of "children" is 0 to 16 years of age. This is consistent with the pediatric patient definition in the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program and the Illinois Trauma System Program.

Reporting Facilities

"Reporting facility" refers to any of the following: hospitals in Illinois licensed under the Hospital Licensing Act or the University of Illinois Act [110 ILCS 330], ambulatory surgical treatment centers licensed under the Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Licensing Act [210 ILCS 5], and freestanding emergency centers licensed under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act [210 ILCS 50]. Physician and dental offices are excluded.

Reporting Requirements

Each reporting facility must report electronically the required information as specified by the Division of Emergency Medical Service. The Department shall provide access to internet-based data collection software for submission of required information.

All hospitals with emergency departments shall submit data quarterly on each patient with an injury that is *allegedly caused by a violent act* – and;

- 1) Admitted to the hospital as an in-patient admission, including observation admissions; patients that are admitted to the emergency department and die before in-patient admission; or
- 2) Transferred to another acute care hospital for definitive treatment of the violent injury.

Coding Victims of Violent Injuries

To identify victims of violent injury for inclusion in the registry, IDPH utilizes the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM).

Reporting Compliance

There are approximately 220 licensed facilities with emergency departments that are mandated to report victims of violent injuries to IDPH.

Data Usage

The IDPH Division of Emergency Medical Systems and Highway Safety routinely receives data requests from agencies outside of state government. Prior to the release of data, these requests undergo extensive review by the IDPH Data Release Committee to assure confidentiality of the data is maintained.

Data Results

- From January - December 2023, 1,048 violent injury cases were reported. The most frequent age group reported for violent injuries to these children was 10-14, representing 297 of 1,048 cases (28%).

Table 1. Children with Violent Injuries 2023

| Age Group (Years) | Number of Children | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Less than 1 | 116 | 11 |
| 1-4 | 243 | 24 |
| 5-9 | 252 | 24 |
| 10-14 | 297 | 28 |
| 15 | 140 | 13 |
| Total | 1048 | 100 |

- During 2024, there were 1115 violent injuries to children reported with age group 1-4 years as the most frequently reported (30%).

Table 2. Children with Violent Injuries 2024

| Age Group (Years) | Number of Children | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Less than 1 | 115 | 10 |
| 1-4 | 329 | 30 |
| 5-9 | 248 | 22 |
| 10-14 | 283 | 25 |
| 15 | 140 | 13 |
| Total | 1115 | 100 |

- Males were reported to have a higher incidence of violent injuries than females in 2023 with 662 (63%) and 365 (35%) cases respectively. In 2024, cases of males reported with violent injuries were 653 (59%) while females with violent injuries were reported at 432 (39%) cases. This shows a four-percentage decrease in violent injuries reported among males and four-percentage increase in violent injuries among females.

Table 3. Children with Violent Injuries by Gender 2023

| Gender | Number of Children | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Male | 662 | 63 |
| Female | 365 | 35 |
| Non-Binary | 0 | 0 |
| Blank/NA/Unknown | 21 | 2 |
| Total | 1048 | 100 |

Table 4. Children with Violent Injuries by Gender 2024

| Gender | Number of Children | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Male | 653 | 59 |
| Female | 432 | 39 |
| Non-Binary | 0 | 0 |
| Blank/NA/Unknown | 30 | 2 |
| Total | 1115 | 100 |

- White children were reported to have sustained violent injuries more often than any other race in both years. The percentage of White children with violent injuries remains almost unchanged in 2023 and 2024. Black children with reported violent injuries decreased from 32% to 29% from 2023-2024. The total number of races among children with violent injuries is higher than the number of children with violent injuries due to children being reported with multiple races.

Table 5. Children with Violent Injuries by Race 2023

| Race | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------|------------|
| White | 527 | 48 |
| Black | 348 | 32 |
| Other | 128 | 12 |
| Unknown | 92 | 9 |
| Total | 1095 | 100 |

Table 6. Children with Violent Injuries by Race 2024

| Race | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------|------------|
| White | 550 | 47 |
| Black | 335 | 29 |
| Other | 178 | 15 |
| Unknown | 102 | 9 |
| Total | 1165 | 100 |

- The combined number of injured children in 2023 and 2024 is 2162. In those two years, blunt injuries accounted for 1064 cases (49%); penetrating injuries were reported in 431 cases (20%); burns accounted for 630 cases (29%) and others/unknown in 38 cases (2%).

Table 7. Mechanism of Violent Injuries on Children 2023

| Mechanism of Injury | Number of Children | Percentage |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Blunt | 560 | 53 |
| Penetrating | 217 | 21 |
| Other (Burn) | 255 | 24 |
| Not Applicable/Unknown | 16 | 2 |
| Total | 1048 | 100 |

Table 8. Mechanism of Violent Injuries on Children 2024

| Mechanism of Injury | Number of Children | Percentage |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Blunt | 504 | 45 |
| Penetrating | 214 | 19 |
| Other (Burn) | 375 | 34 |
| Not Applicable/Unknown | 22 | 2 |
| Total | 1115 | 100 |

- In 2023, out of the 1,048 reported children with violent injuries, there were 462 children who went to either an intensive care unit (ICU), hospital bed/ floor, or operating room (OR) after being seen in the emergency department (ED). Of those 462 children, 131 (28%) went to ICU, 209 (45%) were moved to the hospital bed/floor, and 122 (27%) ended up in an OR. In 2024, there were 514 cases of children with violent injuries who went to either ICU, hospital bed/floor, or OR after being seen in the ED. Those who went to ICU showed an 11-percentage increase from 131 (28%) cases to 198 (39%) cases. Children who went to the hospital bed/floor after being seen in the ED showed no significant change from 209 (45%) cases to 221 (43%). Children who went to the OR after being seen in the ED decreased from 122 cases (27%) to 95 (18%) cases.

Table 9. Children with Violent Injuries ED Disposition 2023

| Location | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Intensive Care Unit (ICU) | 131 | 28 |
| Floor or Hospital Unit | 209 | 45 |
| Operating Room (OR) | 122 | 27 |
| Total | 462 | 100 |

Table 10. Children with Violent Injuries ED Disposition 2024

| Location | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Intensive Care Unit (ICU) | 198 | 39 |
| Floor or Hospital Unit | 221 | 43 |
| Operating Room (OR) | 95 | 18 |
| Total | 514 | 100 |

- For both years, a significant number of children reported to have violent injuries who were admitted to the hospital were discharged to home either with or without services as represented by 94% (747cases) and 96% (744 cases) respectively. This was followed by those who were transferred to another facility at 4% (33 cases) in 2023 and 2% (19 cases) in 2024. Death occurrence remained at 2% of the cases for both 2023 and 2024.

Table 11. Children with Violent Injuries Hospital Disposition 2023

| Hospital Disposition | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Home | 747 | 94 |
| Transferred to Other Hospital or Facilities | 33 | 4 |
| Expired | 18 | 2 |
| Total | 798 | 100 |

Table 12. Children with Violent Injuries Hospital Disposition 2024

| Hospital Disposition | Number of Children | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Home | 744 | 96 |
| Transferred to Other Hospital or Facilities | 19 | 2 |
| Expired | 12 | 2 |
| Total | 775 | 100 |