



Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes

2023 Annual Report of Non-Fatal Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes in Washington State Emergency Departments

Summary

In 2023 there were 4,598 Emergency Department (ED) visits for child passengers in a motor vehicle crash in Washington. This represents a 12.9% increase from 2022, which saw 4,072 ED visits. Visits were identified by searching ED visit information for indications that the patient was an occupant but not the driver of a passenger vehicle (car, SUV, pick-up truck, or van) on a public roadway. Results were limited to children younger than 16 years old.

Figure 1. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for child passengers involved in a motor vehicle crash in Washington, 2023 compared to 2022.

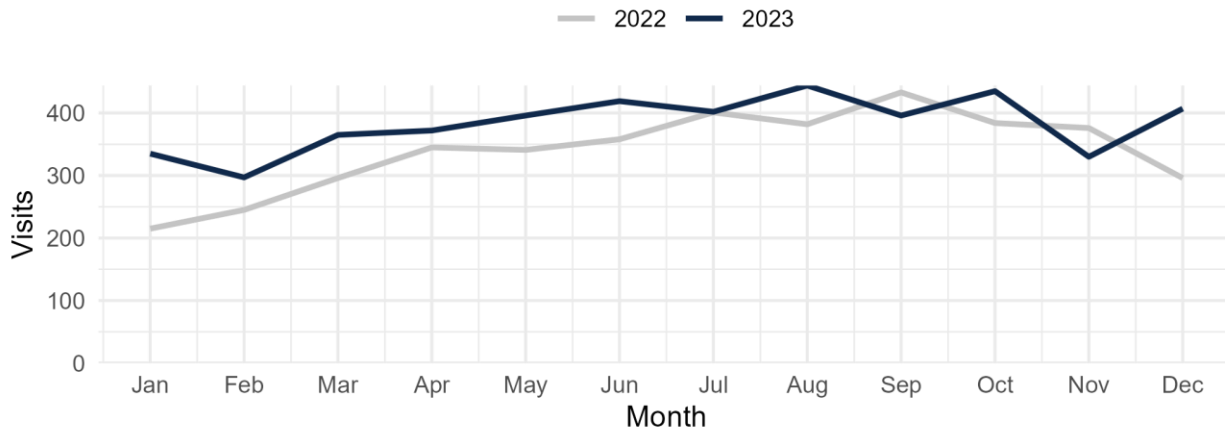


Figure 2. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for child passengers involved in a motor vehicle crash in Washington, by age groups.

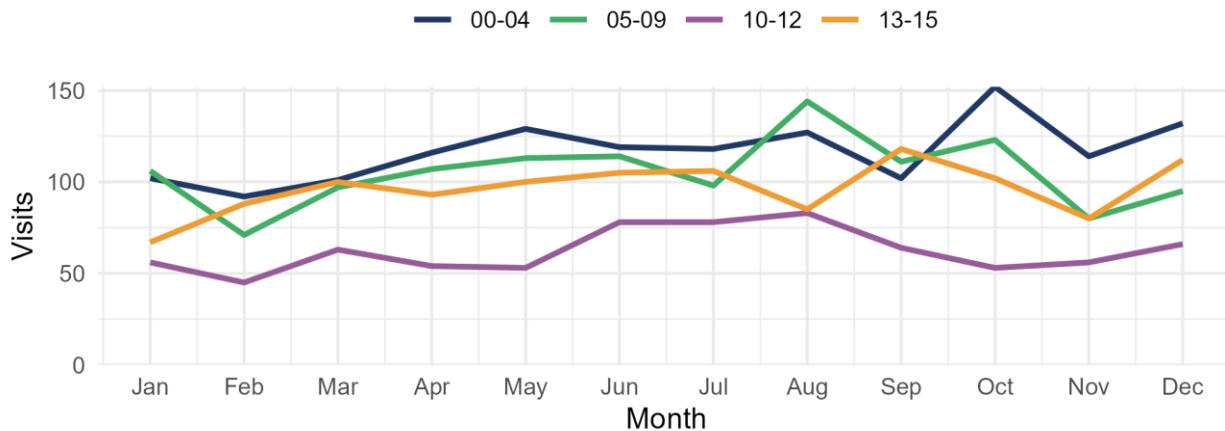


Table 1. Severity* of non-fatal child occupants involved in a motor vehicle crash, stratified by demographic grouping, 2023.

	N	Severity ¹	
		Percent ED Only	Percent Admitted
Age Group			
00-04	1404	98.1%	1.9%
05-09	1259	96.9%	3.1%
10-12	749	98.3%	1.7%
13-15	1156	94.7%	5.3%
Sex			
Female	2383	97.8%	2.2%
Male	2202	95.8%	4.2%
Race			
American Indian or Alaska Native	72	² NA	² NA
Asian	197	93.4%	6.6%
Black or African American	585	97.4%	2.6%
Multiracial	54	74.1%	25.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	82	² NA	² NA
Other Race	1119	97.9%	2.1%
White	2132	96.8%	3.2%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic or Latino	1199	97.4%	2.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	3047	96.7%	3.3%

¹Severity is determined by whether the patient was discharged from the emergency department (ED Only) or hospitalized (Admitted).

²Data hidden due to visit counts less than 10.

Data Notes

The Washington State Department of Health’s Rapid Health Information NetWOrk (RHINO) program collects near real-time health encounter data from participating hospitals and clinics throughout Washington. Washington state law requires emergency departments (EDs) to report each health care visit to the RHINO program in a timely fashion, usually within 24 hours. As of May 2020, 100% of non-federal EDs are reporting data to RHINO. Data include categorical data such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, coded diagnoses, and free-text information such as chief complaint narratives. Data from RHINO does not contain information about the location of traffic-related incidents. For additional information please reach out to RHINO@doh.wa.gov.

The RHINO program is supported by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to provide information to the public on traffic-related emergency department visits in the state of Washington.

Key Takeaways

- The 13-15 year old age group had the highest proportion of visits resulting in admission, suggesting they were more likely to have severe injuries than the younger age groups.
- The proportion of visits by males that resulted in admission was nearly twice that of visits resulting in admission by females (4.2% vs. 2.2%).
- Multiracial patients had the highest percentage of visits resulting in admission.
- Patients of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity accounted for 28.2% of non-fatal child passenger motor vehicle crash injury visits.