



Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes

2024 Annual Report of Non-Fatal Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes in Washington State Emergency Departments

Summary

In 2024 there were 4,373 Emergency Department (ED) visits for child passengers in a motor vehicle crash in Washington. This represents a 5% decrease from 2023, which saw 4,604 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, 2024 compared to 2023.

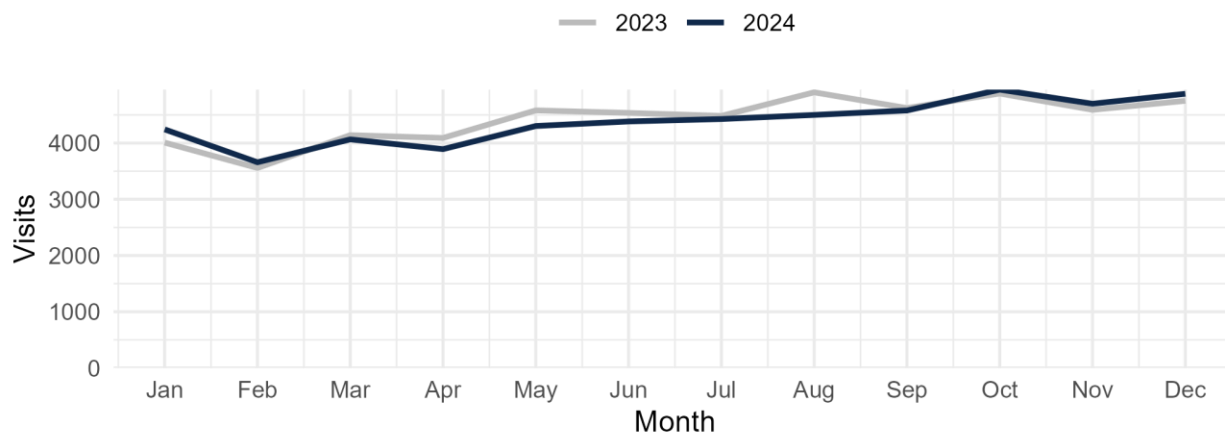


Figure 2. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for child passengers involved in a motor vehicle crash in Washington, by age groups.

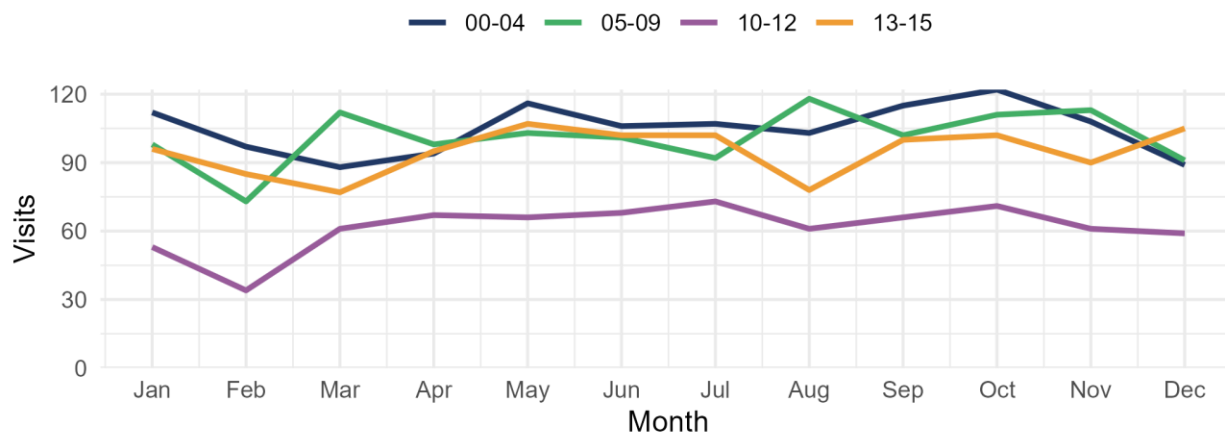


Table 1. Severity* of non-fatal child occupants involved in a motor vehicle crash, stratified by demographic grouping, 2024

		Severity ¹	
	N	Percent ED Only	Percent Admitted
Age Group			
00-04	1257	98.6%	1.4%
05-09	1212	97.9%	2.1%
10-12	740	97.6%	2.4%
13-15	1139	95.7%	4.3%
Sex			
Female	2254	97.9%	2.1%
Male	2105	96.8%	3.2%
Race			
American Indian or Alaska Native	102	NA ²	NA ²
Asian	182	NA ²	NA ²
Black or African American	546	NA ²	NA ²
Multiracial	45	NA ²	NA ²
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	79	NA ²	NA ²
Other Race	1097	98.5%	1.5%
White	2035	96.6%	3.4%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic or Latino	1247	98%	2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	2876	97.1%	2.9%

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

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 about 50% greater than that of females (3.2% vs. 2.1%).
- Patients of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity accounted for 28.5% of non-fatal child passenger motor vehicle crash injury visits.

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.