



FACT SHEET: VIOLENCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system provides 9-1-1 response to incidents involving trauma with transport to a trauma center when injuries are thought to be severe enough to result in disability or death.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- ❖ In 2004, the 13 LA County trauma centers treated 4,574 patients with assaultive injuries. The charges for treating these patients were more than \$210 million, with an average charge of \$45,930 per visit.
- ❖ 42% (1,918) of the patients with assaultive injuries and 40% (1,004) of the patients with firearm injuries did not have any insurance.
Note: there is considerable overlap between these two groups.
- ❖ In 2004, 90% of patients with assaultive injuries treated at Los Angeles County trauma centers were male. There were 431 assaults against women of such severity that treatment at a trauma center was required.
- ❖ During 2004, the victims of assaultive injuries treated at LA County trauma centers were: 51% Hispanic, 32% African-American, 11% White, and 6% Asian/Other.
Note: Person may have identified with more than one race/ethnicity.
- ❖ In 2004, the median age of victims of gunshot wounds treated at Los Angeles County trauma centers was 26 years.
- ❖ At Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Trauma Center (LAC/USC), 28% of the patients admitted to the trauma center during 2004 had injuries resulting from assaults.
- ❖ Between 2000 and 2004 there were more than 4,000 visits per year to the LAC/USC Trauma Center (In 2004, 77% blunt trauma, 23% penetrating trauma).
- ❖ On average, there were 66,897 hospitalizations due to injuries in Los Angeles County per year during 2000-2006; and 8% were the result of assaults.

Note: Violence here refers to assaults, gunshot wounds, and stabbings.

Los Angeles County trauma center data provided by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency, Trauma and Emergency Medicine Information System and only reflects persons in this database and does not represent all statistics on injuries due to violence in LA County. Compiled by LAC-DPH-IVPP.

For full citations or more information, please contact Billie Weiss, MPH at bpweiss@ucla.edu.

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