



## Introduction

The National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center offers this data sheet to summarize the causes of injury for persons admitted to the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems of Care between September 2005 and March 2015. Total number (N) of persons admitted = 6,766.

*Vehicular accidents accounted for 2,644 (39.08%) of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in causes of spinal cord injury.*

### Vehicular Accidents

26.91%	N=1,821	Auto (includes cars, jeeps, trucks, dune buggies, and buses)
6.80%	N=460	Motorcycle (includes 2-wheeled, motorized vehicles)
2.78%	N=188	Bicycles (includes bicycles, tricycles and unicycles)
1.37%	N=93	All-Terrain (includes both 3-wheeled and 4-wheeled)
0.25%	N=17	Aircraft (includes fixed-wing and rotating-wing)
0.18%	N=13	Snowmobile
0.09%	N=6	Boat
0.68%	N=46	Other vehicular, unclassified (includes tractor, bulldozer, go-cart, steamroller, train, road grader and forklift)

*Falls accounted for 1,999 (29.54%) of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in causes of spinal cord injury.*

### Falls

5.73%	N=388	Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling
4.55%	N=308	Fall from, out of, or through building or structure
4.48%	N=303	Fall on and from stairs and steps
2.47%	N=167	Fall on and from ladder
2.10%	N=142	Other slipping, tripping, stumbling and falls (includes fall from or off toilet, fall in or into shower or empty bathtub, and fall on same level due to stepping on an object)
1.55%	N=106	Fall from one level to another
1.37%	N=93	Fall from tree
0.75%	N=51	Fall from bed
0.71%	N=48	Fall on and from scaffolding
0.56%	N=38	Fall due to ice and snow
0.56%	N=38	Non-Recreational fall, jump or diving into water
0.38%	N=26	Fall from chair
0.32%	N=22	Intentional self-harm by jumping from a high place
0.31%	N=21	Fall from furniture other than chair or bed
0.32%	N=22	Other (includes fall from cliff, fall on and from playground equipment, fall on same level due to collision with another person, fall from non-moving wheelchair, and fall while being carried/supported by other person)
0.27%	N=18	Unknown type of falls
3.07%	N=208	Unspecified falls

*Acts of violence accounted for 975 (14.41%) of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in causes of spinal cord injury.*

### Violence

13.01%	N=880	Gunshot wounds
0.96%	N=65	Person-to-Person (includes assault with a blunt object and falls as a result of being pushed)
0.43%	N=30	Other penetrating wounds (includes explosion, stabbing and impalement)

*Sports & recreational activities accounted for 568 (8.39%) of spinal cord injuries, which ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in causes of spinal cord injury.*

### Sports and Recreation

3.44%	N=233	Diving
0.83%	N=56	Winter sports (includes sled, snow tube, toboggan, ice hockey, and snow-boarding)
0.71%	N=48	Surfing (includes body surfing)
0.64%	N=43	Snow skiing
0.50%	N=34	Horseback riding
0.28%	N=19	Football
0.27%	N=18	Air sports (includes parachuting, hang gliding and para-sailing)
0.18%	N=12	Trampoline
0.25%	N=10	Wrestling
0.10%	N=7	Gymnastics (includes all gymnastic activities other than trampoline)
0.09%	N=6	Rodeo (includes bronco/bull riding)
0.07%	N=5	Baseball/Softball
0.07%	N=5	Field sports (includes field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and rugby)
0.07%	N=5	Water skiing
0.06%	N=4	Basketball and Volleyball
0.04%	N=3	Skateboarding
0.01%	N=1	Track and field (includes pole vault, high jump, etc.)
0.87%	N=59	Unclassified (includes auto racing, glider kite, slide, swimming, bungee jumping, scuba diving, rollerblading, jet-skiing, cheerleading, etc.)

*580 (8.57%) of spinal cord injuries were a result of other causes.*

### Other

4.70%	N=318	Medical/ Surgical complication
1.74%	N=118	Hit by falling/ flying object
1.26%	N=85	Pedestrian
0.87%	N=59	Other unclassified (includes lightning, kicked by an animal, machinery accidents)

## About the National Spinal Cord Injury Database

The National Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Database has been in existence since 1973 and captures data from an estimated 13% of new SCI cases in the US. As of March 2015, the database contained information on 30,892 persons who sustained traumatic spinal cord injuries. To assure comparability of data acquired by personnel in various centers, rigid scientific criteria have been established for the collection, management and analysis of information entered into the database. Additional quality control procedures are also in place to further enhance the reliability and validity of the database.

Since its inception, 28 federally funded SCI Model Systems have contributed data to the National SCI Database. There are currently 14 SCI Model Systems contributing data, with an additional 5 subcontract Centers collecting Form II (follow-up) data. For a complete list, go to [www.msctc.org/sci/model-system-centers](http://www.msctc.org/sci/model-system-centers).

## About the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center

The National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center (NSCISC) is located at the UAB Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The NSCISC supports and directs the collection, management and analysis of the National SCI Database, which is the world's largest and longest SCI research database.

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