



Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes

2022 Annual Report of Non-Fatal Child Passengers in Motor Vehicle Crashes in Washington State Emergency Departments

Summary

In 2022 there were 4,059 Emergency Department (ED) visits for child passengers in a motor vehicle crash in Washington. This represents a 7.8% increase from 2021, which saw 3,766 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, 2022 compared to 2021.

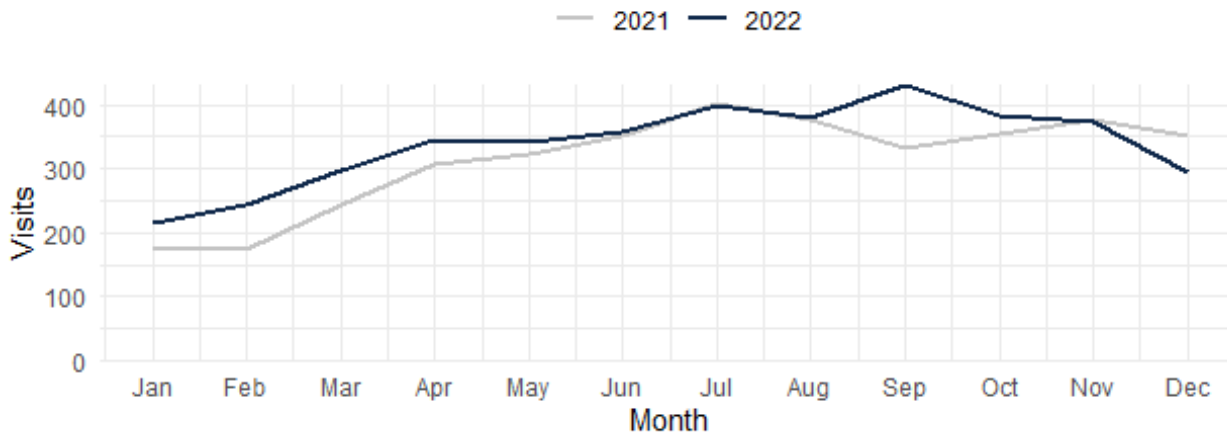


Figure 2. Monthly count of non-fatal ED visits for child passengers involved in a motor vehicle crash in Washington, by age groups.

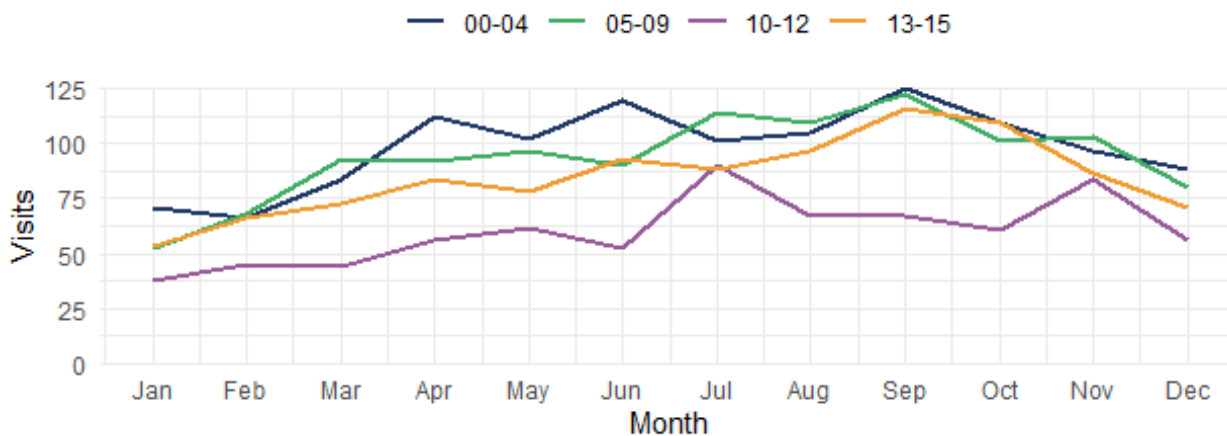


Table 1. Demographic percents of non-fatal child occupants involved in a motor vehicle crash, stratified by level of severity*.

	Severity ¹	
	Percent ED Only	Percent Admitted
Age Group		
00-04	29.5%	21%
05-09	27.9%	23.5%
10-12	18.1%	10.9%
13-15	24.5%	44.5%
Sex		
Female	53.1%	40.7%
Male	46.9%	59.3%
Race		
American Indian or Alaska Native	2.7%	² NA
Asian	4.3%	² NA
Black or African American	12.8%	9.6%
Multiracial	1%	² NA
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.7%	² NA
Other Race	29.3%	13.9%
White	48.2%	60%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	29%	25.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	71%	74.1%

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 younger age groups, 0-4 and 5-9, accounted for the greatest proportions of ED only visits, but 13-15 year olds represented nearly 45% of higher-severity visits resulting in admission.
- Females accounted for the majority of ED visits, but hospital admissions were nearly 60% male.
- Black or African American patients represented nearly 13% of ED only visits, but just under 10% of admissions.
- White patients accounted for 48% of ED only visits, but that increased to 60% for hospital admissions.
- Among higher severity hospital admission s visits, a small decrease in the proportion of children of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity was shown.