

# Accessing Injury Data


Injury is a major contributor to premature deaths and preventable hospitalisation in New Zealand. Injury is the leading cause of death between 1-34 years and the second leading cause of hospitalisations.

## Did you know?

 **Injury information is important because it can identify:**

- **Incidence of injuries:** how often they occur and to whom;
- **Impact of injuries:** both social and economic; and
- **Injury trends:** how injuries and injury rates can change over time.



 **Injury information can help organisations to:**

- Plan preventative measures;
- Identify and target high risk areas;
- Develop regulations and procedures;
- Develop more effective injury prevention mechanisms;
- Monitor and assess high risk groups in different segments of the population;
- Identify & act on groups that have a high probability of injury &/or are exposed to risks;
- Measure improvement or deterioration in safety and warn of emerging risk areas; &
- Measure the effectiveness or otherwise of injury prevention activities and therefore enable effective targeting.



## Injury Data Classification:

- **Fatal (Mortality)** injury data: deaths occurring from injuries.
- **Non-fatal (Morbidity)** injury data: hospitalisation for 24 hours or more as a result of an injury.

The nature or type of injury can be identified (e.g. head injury or fracture) from hospital records, but not the cause, or how the injury occurred. E Codes are a classification system for the external cause of injury, recording how and where the injury occurred, (e.g. fall down stairs or driveway run over). Without E codes it is impossible to accurately assess a community's injury problem. Information provided by E codes is used in the New Zealand Health Information Service data.



Data is usually available three to four years in arrears, the delay being due to the coronial process and the need to go through a period of peer review before being finalised.

Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ)

Hurstmere House, Suite 5A, 128 Hurstmere Road, Takapuna, PO Box 331399, Takapuna, North Shore 0740, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 9 488 7601 Fax: +64 9 488 7602 Email: [contact@scfnz.org](mailto:contact@scfnz.org) Web: [www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz)

SCFNZ is a: Certifying Centre and

Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion;  
Accrediting Centre for Safe School International Designation Programme.

# Where to access injury data?

## Factsheet # 34

Agencies vary in their data management practices (e.g. time period for, or unit of, collection) which can make comparisons difficult. There are two main population based sources of all-cause injury information available in New Zealand:

- 1) **New Zealand Health Information Service (NZHIS)** [www.nzhis.govt.nz/index.html](http://www.nzhis.govt.nz/index.html) is a group within the Ministry of Health responsible for the collection and dissemination of health-related data.

The simplest way to access NZHIS data is through the **National Injury Queries System (NIQS)** provided by the Injury Prevention Research Unit (IPRU- Otago University) <http://www.otago.ac.nz/ipru/Statistics/Statistics.html> as it provides selected injury statistics in a user friendly manner.

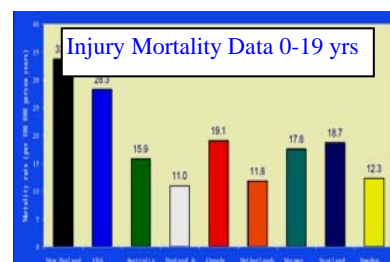
**The Fatal Mortality Query** enables you to determine the number of injury deaths in NZ based on your selection of years, mechanism/cause, manner/intent, age group. <http://ipru3.otago.ac.nz/niqs/Fatality.php>

**The Non-Fatal Injury Query** enables you to determine the number of injuries that result in admission to public hospitals in NZ based on your selection of years, mechanism/cause, age group manner/intent. <http://ipru3.otago.ac.nz/niqs/Morbidity.php>

- 2) **Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)** claims database. This database contains details for all persons who have minor and entitlement ACC claims <http://www.acc.co.nz/injury-prevention/acc-injury-statistics> Minor claims are those where ACC pays a health professional for medical treatment but no payment is made to the claimant. Entitlement claims are those which involve more than payment for medical expenses (e.g. income maintenance).

*Other agencies currently involved with the national collection or receipt of injury information are:*

- **Statistics New Zealand:** a government department and New Zealand's national statistical office. The injury statistics section combines all the available injury information, from other organisations. [www.stats.govt.nz/additional-information/injury-statistics/default.htm](http://www.stats.govt.nz/additional-information/injury-statistics/default.htm)
- **Land Transport New Zealand (Land Transport NZ)** Land Transport NZ [www.ltsa.govt.nz/research/index.html](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/research/index.html) contains statistics on road crashes including a summary of where, when and how road crashes happen and road users involved. Land Transport NZ also has annual regional road safety reports on reported crash data and trends that highlight key road safety issues for each Territorial Local Authority and Transit region. [www.landtransport.govt.nz/regions/2005/index.html](http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/regions/2005/index.html).
- **Ministry of Transport:** the research section of the MoT website <http://www.transport.govt.nz/research-index/> contains monthly and annual statistics of road crashes at national level. The site also includes national crash statistics on specific subjects such as young drivers, fatigue, motorcycles, speed and alcohol.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Service (OSH):** produces statistics on workplace fatalities, prosecutions, notifiable occupational disease [www.osh.govt.nz/resources/stats/index.shtml](http://www.osh.govt.nz/resources/stats/index.shtml)
- **New Zealand Police:** produce yearly reports detailing crime statistics by region. [www.police.govt.nz/service/statistics/](http://www.police.govt.nz/service/statistics/)
- **Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ)** has statistics on drowning. [www.watersafety.org.nz/drowning/stats.asp](http://www.watersafety.org.nz/drowning/stats.asp)
- **New Zealand Fire Service:** produce yearly reports detailing fire statistics by region. [www.fire.org.nz/facts\\_stats/quick\\_facts.htm](http://www.fire.org.nz/facts_stats/quick_facts.htm).
- **Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ):** provides, on request, data factsheets for communities which present all-age data on injury deaths and injury hospitalisations by numbers, rates, the three leading causes, gender and ethnicity. [www.safecommunities.org.nz](http://www.safecommunities.org.nz).



There are also other agencies that collect injury information but it is not collated into national datasets; for example hospital outpatients, emergency departments, general practitioners, physiotherapists, schools, community groups, and injury prevention organisations.