

The Following is from the Canadian Institute for Health Information: August 2006
 Head Injuries in Canada: A Decade of Change (1994.1995 to 2003.2004)

Profile of Head Injury Hospitalizations in 2003.2004

There were 16,811 hospital admissions for traumatic head injury in 2003.2004, representing 9% of all trauma admissions for this year. These admission numbers equate to 46 admissions every day in Canada for a traumatic head injury. Of these, 91% were diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury, usually the most severe form of the injury. When examined by age group, the age category representing children and youth (0-19) was the most highly represented in the admissions (30%), followed by the elderly, defined here as those aged 60 and older (29%). It is important to note that the number of traumatic head injury admissions in the elderly is disproportionately high when one considers that this age group represents only 12% of the Canadian population overall, yet represent 29% of traumatic head injury admissions.

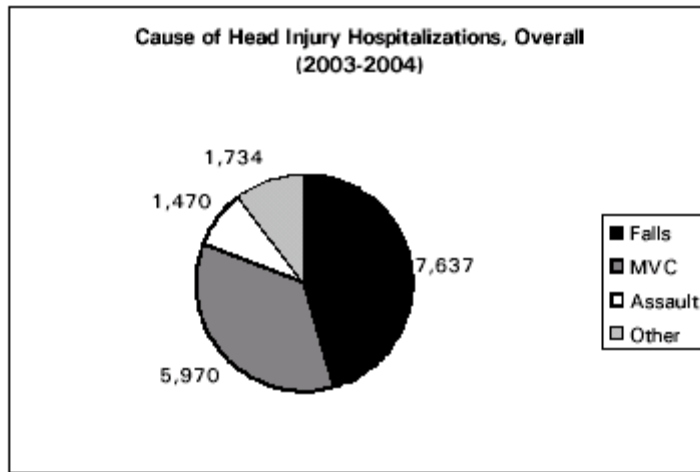
There were 1,368 head injury related deaths, which represents 8% of the traumatic head injury admissions, twice as high as the 4% death rate for all traumatic injury hospitalizations in Canada for 2003.2004. Deaths in hospital following traumatic head injury represented 20% of all trauma deaths in this year. The number of deaths varied significantly between age groups, the majority of which occurred in the elderly (59%). The following table gives an overview of the head injury admission population in Canada for 2003.2004.

Table 1. Head Injury Admissions, by Age Group in Canada, 2003-2004

	0-19 years	20-39 years	40-59 years	60+ years	Overall
Number admitted	4,966	3,637	3,306	4,902	16,811
Male	3,318 (67%)	2,870 (79%)	2,403 (73%)	2,772 (57%)	11,363 (68%)
Average age (years)	10	29	49	76	41
Average LOS in hospital (days)	5	11	13	15	11
Deaths in hospital	120 (9%)*	217 (16%)	222 (16%)	809 (59%)	1,368

The overall leading causes of traumatic injury for all ages are falls, motor vehicle collisions, and intentional injury (assault). However, it is important to understand that the leading causes of traumatic injury requiring hospitalization differ by age group.

Figure 1. Cause of Head Injury Hospitalizations, NTR MDS, 2003–2004



(These do not include deaths before hospitalization)