



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury
Prevention and Control

Dear Colleague:

Today CDC released new research on the cost of injury in the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#). According to the research, the total estimated lifetime medical and work loss costs associated with fatal and non-fatal injuries in the United States were \$671 billion in 2013. The costs associated with fatal injuries were \$214 billion while nonfatal injuries accounted for over \$457 billion, more than twice as much as the costs associated with fatal injuries.

The cost data presented in this report represent an important update of previously used cost of injury data and document significant increases in the cost of both fatal and nonfatal injury. The increases reflect changes in: 1) methodology, including the use of current dollars (cost of medical care and worker earnings) and changes in population, and 2) injury trends, including increases in poisoning, suicide, and falls.

Other key findings of the research:

- Over half of the total medical and work loss costs of injury deaths were attributable to unintentional injuries (\$129.7 billion), followed by suicide (\$50.8 billion) and homicide (\$26.4 billion).
- Drug poisonings accounted for the largest share of fatal injury costs (27%), followed by transportation (23%) and firearm-related injuries (22%).
- The total estimated lifetime medical and work loss costs for hospitalized injuries were \$289.7 billion in 2013 while the costs for injuries that were treated and released in hospital and emergency departments were \$167.1 billion.
- Falls (37%) and transportation-related injuries (21%) accounted for a majority of the medical and work loss costs associated with emergency department treated nonfatal injuries.
- Males accounted for the majority (78%) of fatal injury costs (\$166.7 billion) and nonfatal injury costs (63%; \$287.5 billion).

These MMWRs highlight the significant economic consequences of injury. The magnitude of costs associated with injury underscores the need for effective prevention. It is crucial that communities, governments, and families increase efforts to implement evidence-based programs and policies to prevent injuries and violence to reduce not only the pain and suffering of people but also the considerable costs to society.

We encourage you to use the attached cost of injury fact sheet and Partner Tool Kit to help share this important information with your colleagues and partners. The tool kit includes the following tools:

- Press Release Template
- Social Media Messages
- Infographics
- Slides

Thank you for your support and commitment to preventing injuries and violence.

Debra Houry, MD, MPH
Director
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Rod McClure, MBBS, PhD, FAFPHM, FAICD
Director
Division of Analysis, Research, and Practice Integration
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention