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State-Level Lifetime Medical and Work-Loss Costs of Fatal Injuries - United States, 2014

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); [MMWR \(Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report\)](#); January 13, 2017

Summary of Findings

This report by CDC documents a study on the state-level economic burdens of injuries. Numbers and rates of fatal injuries, lifetime costs (medical and work-loss), and lifetime costs per capita were calculated for all injury intents (unintentional injuries, suicide, and homicide).

In 2014, unintentional injury, suicide, and homicide (the 4th, 10th, and 17th leading causes of death, respectively) accounted for 194,635 deaths in the United States (U.S.). In 2014, a total of 199,756 fatal injuries occurred in the U.S., and the associated lifetime medical and work-loss costs were \$227 billion. Other societal costs, such as criminal justice costs and the pain and suffering of family members, were not considered. During 2005–2014, the number of unintentional fatal injuries increased 15 percent, from 117,809 to 136,053 and unintentional injury moved from the 5th to the 4th leading cause of death; the number of suicides rose 31 percent, from 32,637 to 42,773 and suicide moved from the 11th to the 10th leading cause of death.

For all intents, California had the highest lifetime fatal injury costs (\$20.9 billion) and the highest number of injury deaths (18,152) in the country. California also had the highest lifetime costs for fatal unintentional injuries (\$12.2 billion) and number of unintentional injury deaths (11,804); the highest lifetime costs of suicides (\$4.9 billion) and the highest number of suicides (4,214); and, the highest lifetime homicide-related costs (\$3.1 billion) and the highest number of homicides (1,813).

Although the numbers and lifetime costs of injuries remains high throughout the country and for our state, California ranked among the lowest in the country in terms of rate of fatalities and cost per capita. California had the third lowest rate of all injury intents (44.9 per 100,000) and cost per capita (\$538); New York and New Jersey had the lowest rate (40.2 per 100,000) and cost per capita (\$491). For more information about the primary prevention programs that implements to reduce injuries in California, visit the Department of Public Health, [Safe and Active Communities Branch](#).

