

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY INJURY MORTALITY REPORT 2010 – SPA 7

### SPA 7: East

1998 Population: 1,265,983  
1998 % of LA County Total: 13.5%

2007 Population: 1,379,712  
2007 % of LA County Total: 13.4%

#### Leading Causes of Injury Death and Age Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, SPA 7, 1998-2007

Leading Cause	Number	Rate
1. Firearms	1,316	9.6
2. Motor Vehicle Traffic	1,016	8.0
3. Poisoning	798	6.6
4. Falls	384	3.6
5. Suffocation <sup>1</sup>	309	2.5

### Overview

Between 1998 and 2007, there were 4,486 injury deaths among SPA 7 residents. These deaths accounted for 11.3% of all injury deaths countywide. 85% of the deaths were attributed to one of the five leading causes of injury death. For each of the leading causes of death, the mortality rate in SPA 7 was lower than the mortality rate for all of LA County. For more comparisons between SPA 7 and LA County, see the SPA Comparison Table.

#### ***SPA 7 Injury Mortality Facts in Brief***

- SPA 7 has injury mortality rates lower than LA County overall.
- Overall injury mortality rates decreased in SPA 7 between 1998 and 2007.
- In 2007, for the first time in ten years, MVT deaths exceeded firearm deaths.
- Suicide rates decreased almost 40% between 1998 and 2007.
- Latino males accounted for 71% of homicides, but just 34% of SPA 7's population

### Figure 1. Trends

- Between 1998 and 2007, the East SPA population increased by 9.0%, while the population of LA County overall increased by 10.1%.
- Overall rates of injury mortality in SPA 7 decreased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (33.3 per 100,000) was 13% less than the 1998 rate (38.0 per 100,000).
- Mortality due to motor vehicle traffic (MVT) injuries increased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (9.0 per 100,000) was an increase of 24% over the 1998 rate (7.3 per 100,000). In 2007, for the first time during the ten-year period, there were more MVT deaths than firearm deaths.
- The largest decreases in mortality rates were reported among firearm injuries and other injury causes (not one of the 5 leading causes). Mortality for these injuries decreased by more than one third between 1998 and 2007.

<sup>1</sup> The suffocation category also includes hanging and strangulation deaths and deaths from the inhalation of food or other objects that block breathing.

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### Table 1. Intent

- Between 1998 and 2007, 55% of injury deaths in SPA 7 were unintentional, 16% were suicides, and 26% were homicides.
- Nearly all fall and MVT deaths and over four-fifths of poisoning deaths were unintentional.
- Firearms were the leading cause of intentional injury mortality, accounting for 45% of suicides and 79% of homicides.
- Between 1998 and 2007, unintentional injury rates fluctuated between 18.5 and 23.5 deaths per 100,000, with no strong increasing or decreasing trends.
- Homicide rates were higher than 8.0 deaths per 100,000 only for the years 1998, 2002, and 2005-2006. In all other years, rates were between 7 and 8 per 100,000.
- Suicide mortality decreased during the ten-year period. The 2007 rate (5.0 per 100,000) was 38% less than the 1998 rate of (8.0 per 100,000).

### Table 2. Gender

- Males accounted for 78% of injury deaths in SPA 7, but for only 49% of East SPA's population.
- Firearms (N=1,201) were the leading cause of injury death among males, followed by MVT (N=724).
- MVT (N=292) was the leading cause of injury death among females, followed by poisoning (N=197).
- Males accounted for over four-fifths of homicides (87%) and suicides (83%), and nearly three-quarters of unintentional injury deaths (72%).
- Male mortality rates were over three times as high as female mortality during each year, and during 1999 the male mortality rate was four times the female mortality rate.

### Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity

- Between 1998 and 2007, the population of East SPA was 69% Latino, 19% White, 9% Asian/Other, and 3% Black.

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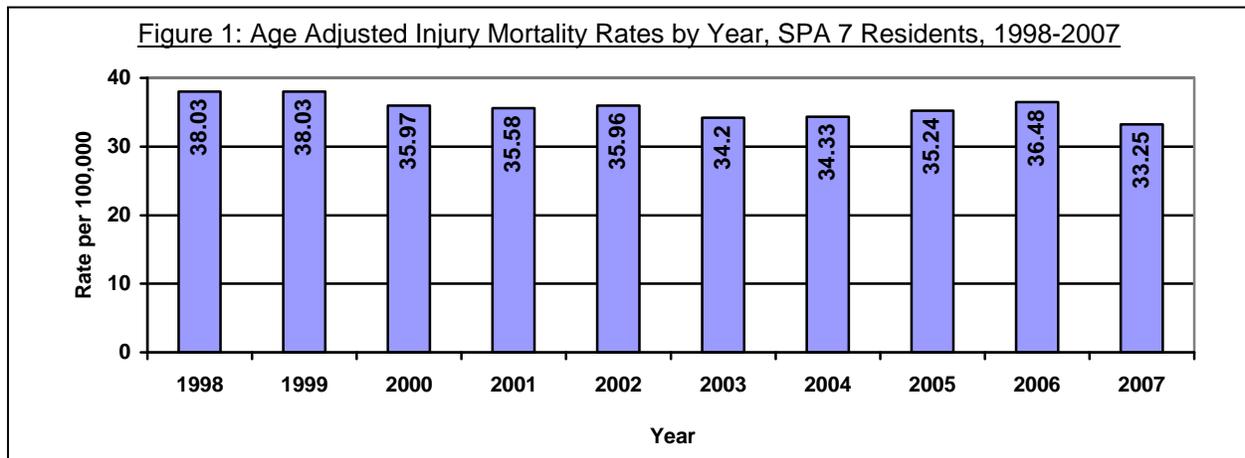
- During the same period, East SPA residents who died from injuries were 62% Latino, 28% White, 6% Asian/Other, and 4% Black.
- There was variation in the racial/ethnic distribution by intent.
  - Unintentional: 58% Latino, 32% White, 7% Asian/Other, 3% Black
  - Suicide: 47% Latino, 42% White, 9% Asian/Other, 2% Black
  - Homicide: 80% Latino, 10% White, 3% Asian/Other, 7% Black
- Racial/ethnic distribution also varied for different types of injuries.
  - Whites accounted for 44% of falls, but just 19% of firearm deaths.
  - Blacks accounted for 6% of firearm deaths, but just 2% of suffocation deaths.
  - Latinos accounted for 72% of firearm deaths, but just 44% of falls.
  - Asian/Others accounted for 15% of suffocation deaths, but just 2% of poisonings.
- Males accounted for 70% of deaths among Whites, 79% among Blacks, 68% among Asian/Others, and 82% among Latinos.
- Mortality rates were highest among Whites during 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003. In all other years, the highest mortality rates were found among Blacks.

### Figure 3. Age

- During the ten-year period, the number of injury deaths in SPA 7 peaked among 21 year olds.
- The leading cause of death varied by age group:
  - Among infants (<1 year olds), suffocation and other (non-leading) causes of injury were the most common cause of injury death.
  - Among 1-4 year olds, other causes of injury were the leading cause of injury death.
  - Among 5-14 year olds, MVT injuries were the leading cause of injury death.
  - Among 15-34 year olds, firearms were the leading cause of injury death.
  - Among 35-64 year olds, poisoning was the leading cause of injury death.
  - Among 65+ year olds, falls were the leading cause of injury death.
- Homicide was the leading intent of injury death among infants (<1 year old); among all other age groups, unintentional injuries were the most common.
- Mortality rates from unintentional injuries (57.9 per 100,000) and suicides (24.3 per 100,000) peaked among 65+ year olds. Mortality rates from homicide peaked among 20-24 year olds (20.8 per 100,000).
- Among 15-34 year olds, male mortality rates were over five times greater than female mortality rates. Among 20-24 year olds, male mortality was over eight times that of females.

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- Among Whites and Asian/Others mortality peaked among 65+ year olds, among Blacks rates peaked among 30-34 year olds, and Latino rates peaked among 20-24 year olds.
- The average age of victims of injury deaths was 41.1 years.
  - Victims of falls had the oldest average age at death (68.1 years).
  - Homicide victims (28.1 years) had the youngest average age at death.
  - Males (39.1 years) were on average younger than females (48.2 years) at death.



**Table 1: Number and Percent of Injury Deaths Attributed to Each Intent, by Leading Cause, SPA 7 Residents, 1998-2007**

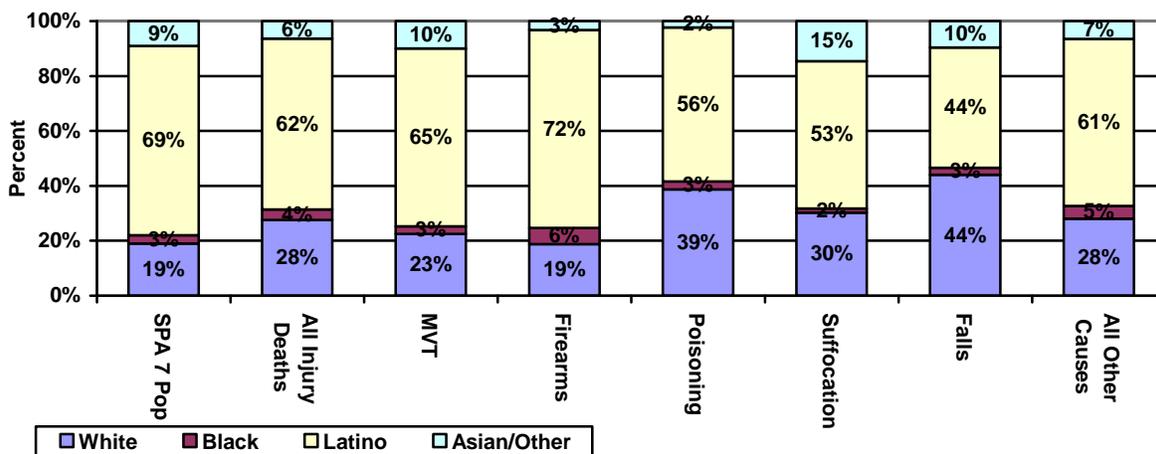
Leading Cause	Intent								Total
	Unintentional		Suicide		Homicide		Other		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Falls	356	93%	24	6%	2	1%	2	1%	384
Firearms	21	2%	327	25%	937	71%	31	2%	1316
MVT	1009	99%	2	0%	5	0%	0	0%	1016
Poisoning	664	83%	104	13%	5	1%	25	3%	798
Suffocation	61	20%	221	72%	23	7%	4	1%	309
Other Causes	378	57%	43	6%	210	32%	32	5%	663
<b>All Injury Deaths</b>	<b>2489</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4486</b>

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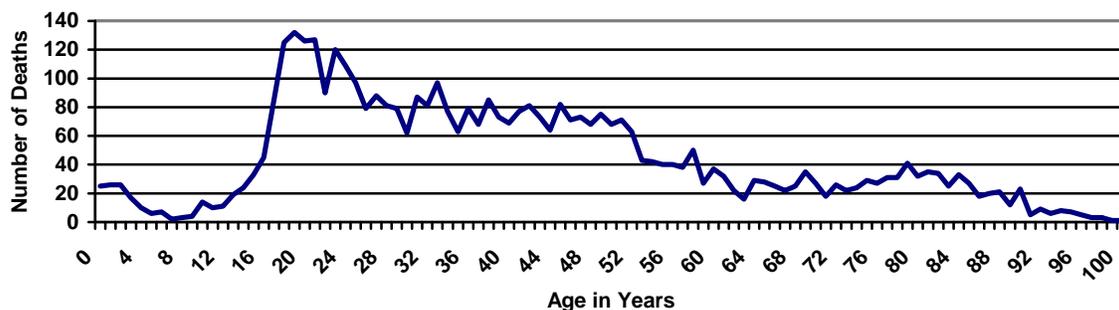
**Table 2: Number of Deaths and Age Adjusted Mortality Rate by Gender and Leading Cause, and Gender Distribution for Each Cause, SPA 7 Residents, 1998-2007**

Mechanism	Males			Females		
	Num	Rate	%	Num	Rate	%
Falls	243	5.1	63.3%	141	2.4	36.7%
Firearms	1201	17.9	91.3%	115	1.7	8.7%
MVT	724	11.8	71.3%	292	4.6	28.7%
Poisoning	601	10.1	75.3%	197	3.2	24.7%
Suffocation	227	3.7	73.5%	82	1.3	26.5%
Other Causes	486	8.1	73.3%	177	2.8	26.7%
All Injury Deaths	3482	56.6	77.6%	1004	16.0	22.4%

**Figure 2: Racial/Ethnic Distribution of SPA 7 Population and Leading Causes of Injury Death, SPA 7 Residents, 1998-2007**



**Figure 3: Age Distribution of Injury Deaths Among SPA 7 Residents, 1998-2007**



The small number of deaths among 100+ year olds are not shown.

Sources: Death Statistical Master File, California Dept of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics; PEPS population data, Los Angeles County Office of Urban Research

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