

Top Ten Leading Causes of Death in Georgia, 1999-2001

Rank	Age Group											Total (n=189,466)
	<1 (n=3,308)	1-4 (n=538)	5-14 (n=752)	15-24 (n=3,167)	25-34 (n=4,446)	35-44 (n=9,262)	45-54 (n=16,092)	55-64 (n=23,169)	65-74 (n=36,308)	75-84 (n=50,021)	85+ (n=42,410)	
1	Congenital abnormalities 631	Unintentional injury 202	Unintentional injury 345	Unintentional injury 1,407	Unintentional injury 1,190	Cancer 1,588	Cancer 4,408	Cancer 7,733	Cancer 11,266	Heart diseases 15,628	Heart diseases 15,425	Heart diseases 53,781
2	Short gestation/LBW 571	Homicides 56	Cancer 82	Homicides 509	Homicides 497	Heart diseases 1,563	Heart diseases 3,842	Heart diseases 6,443	Heart diseases 10,229	Cancer 10,520	Cancer 4,350	Cancers 40,512
3	SIDS 333	Congenital abnormalities 42	Homicides 50	Suicides 391	Suicides 487	Unintentional injury 1,396	Unintentional injury 1,258	Chronic lung 1,131	Chronic lung 2,665	Stroke 4,233	Stroke 4,326	Stroke 13,096
4	Maternal complication 125	Cancer 32	Congenital abnormalities 41	Cancer 141	HIV 445	HIV 926	Stroke 770	Stroke 1,117	Stroke 2,186	Chronic lung 3,290	Alzheimers 2,007	Unintentional injury 9,440
5	RDS 123	Heart diseases 31	Heart diseases 40	Heart diseases 121	Heart diseases 392	Suicides 556	HIV 556	Unintentional injury 779	Diabetes mellitus 1,010	Alzheimers 1,485	Flu/ pneumonia 1,746	Chronic lung 9,119
6	Unintentional injury 110	Septicemia 11	Suicides 21	HIV 50	Cancer 389	Homicides 410	Chronic liver 530	Diabetes mellitus 730	Chronic kidney 788	Diabetes mellitus 1,264	Chronic lung 1,575	Diabetes 4,425
7	Bacterial sepsis 85	Chronic lung 10	Benign tumor 10	Congenital abnormalities 46	Stroke 73	Stroke 338	Suicides 451	Chronic liver disease 461	Unintentional injury 764	Flu/ pneumonia 1,206	Chronic kidney 999	Pneumonia & Influenza 4,041
8	Diseases of circulatory system 85	Benign tumor 9	Chronic lung 10	Pregnancy/childbirth 26	Diabetes mellitus 64	Chronic liver 231	Diabetes mellitus 387	Chronic kidney 426	Septicemia 673	Chronic kidney 1,161	Septicemia 902	Alzheimers 3,825
9	Placenta, Cord, Membrane 75	Anemia 9	Anemias 8	Stroke 24	Septicemia 49	Diabetes mellitus 192	Chronic lung 299	Septicemia 397	Flu/ pneumonia 517	Unintentional injury 1,117	Unintentional injury 871	Chronic Kidney 3,798
10	Necrotizing enterocolitis 64	Perinatal condition 8	Septicemia stroke 7	Septicemia 17	Pregnancy/childbirth 43	Septicemia 116	Septicemia 262	Suicides 283	Chronic liver disease 402	Septicemia 1,054	Diabetes mellitus 762	Septicemia 3,542

# OVERVIEW OF ALL INJURIES

## Deaths

Injuries in Georgia caused an average of 4,753 deaths per year from 1999 to 2001 (Table 1). Unintentional injuries accounted for an average of 3,147 deaths per year and were the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Georgia. For Georgians from 1 to 34 years of age, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death, accounting for 44% of deaths in that age group. Among intentional injuries, suicides and homicides were responsible for an average of 873 and 645 injury deaths per year, respectively, and ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> leading causes of death in Georgia. The top three causes of death for Georgians between the ages of 15 and 34 years were unintentional injuries, homicides and suicides. Combined, unintentional (49%) and intentional (31%) injuries accounted for 80% of all deaths among persons aged 15-24 years. Georgia's death rates for unintentional injury, suicide, and homicide were all higher than the United States death rates by 19%, 4%, and 26% respectively (Table 1). From 1999 to 2001, if the injury death rate in Georgia had been equal to the injury death rate in the U.S., an estimated 695 Georgians per year would not have died.



**Table 1. Injury Deaths, Injury Death Rates, and Excess Injury Deaths, Georgia 1999-2001**

Type of Injury	1999-2001 Number of Deaths	Average per Year	Age-Adjusted Death Rate, GA†	Age-Adjusted Death Rate, US*	Excess Deaths per Year, GA
Unintentional Injuries	9440	3147	42.4	35.5	554
<i>Motor Vehicle</i>	4077	1359	17.2	15.7	124
<i>Falls</i>	1166	389	6.2	4.8	115
<i>Poisoning</i>	995	332	4.1	4.6	-42
<i>Fire/Burn</i>	375	125	1.7	1.2	42
<i>Drowning</i>	351	117	1.4	1.3	10
<i>Other Unintentional</i>	2476	825	11.7	7.8	314
Suicide	2620	873	11.1	10.7	35
Homicide	1936	645	7.7	6.1	130
Legal Intervention	27	9	0.1	0.1	1
Other and Undetermined	237	79	1.0	1.4	-33
All Injuries	14260	4753	62.3	53.7	695

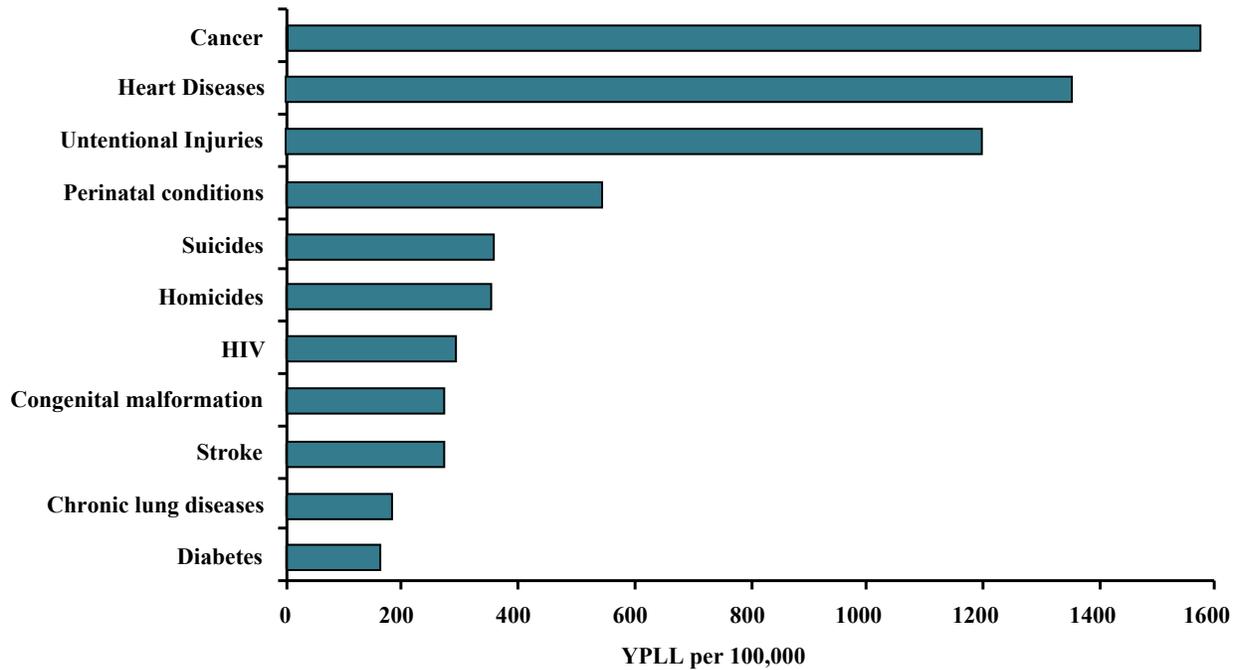
\* US rate is year 2000 only

† Average annual age-adjusted death rate, 1999-2001

## Profile of Injuries in Georgia

Injuries are the major cause of premature deaths in the United States. In Georgia, unintentional injuries, suicide and homicide were the third, fifth and sixth leading causes of years of potential life lost (YPLL) respectively (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Leading Causes of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)\*, Georgia, 2001**

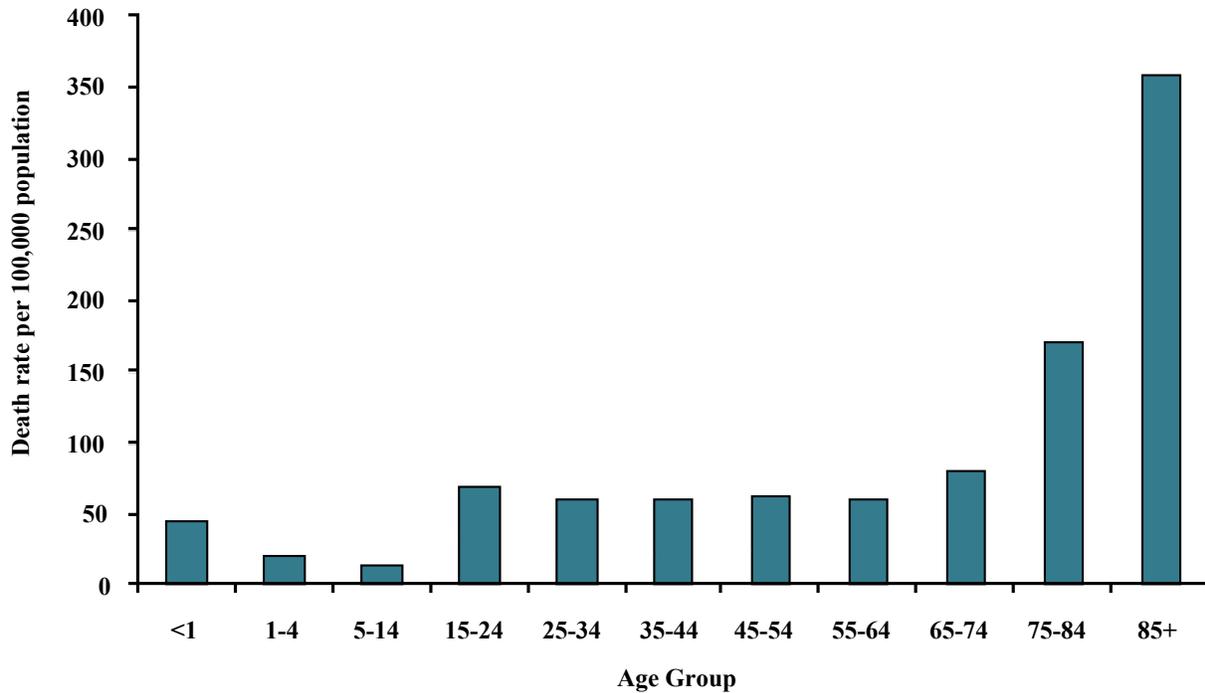


Although one third of all injury deaths occurred among persons aged 25 to 44 years (Table 2), the death rate for injuries increased sharply after the age of 75 years (Figure 2). Persons 85 and older had the highest rate of injury death among all age groups, largely due to the increased risk for death from falls among the elderly. Children ages 1 to 14 years old had the lowest overall injury death rates (Figure 2.)

**Table 2. Number of Deaths by Age, Race and Sex: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**

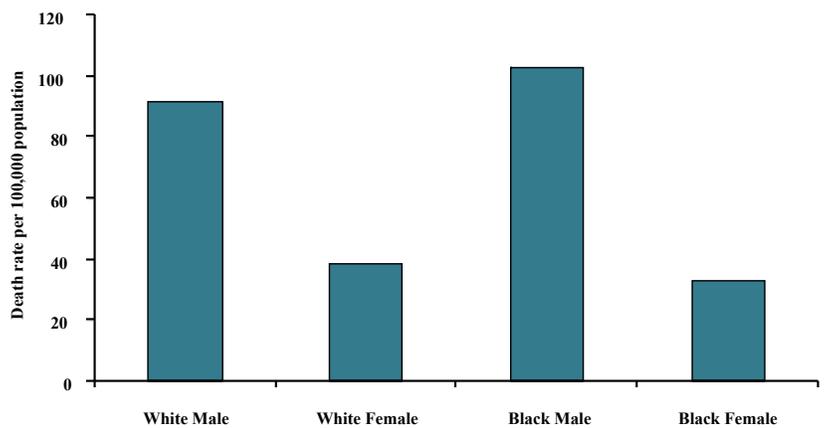
Age Group	White		Black		Other		Total	Average per year
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Under 5	132	93	98	87	5	5	420	140
5-14	147	94	118	58	3	3	423	141
15-24	1145	342	677	146	27	7	2344	781
25-44	2229	836	1124	378	61	19	4647	1549
45-64	1628	674	612	187	28	13	3142	1047
65+	1459	1254	298	258	6	9	3284	1095
Total	6740	3293	2927	1114	130	56	14260	4753

**Figure 2. Age-Specific Death Rates: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**



**Figure 3: Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Race and Sex: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**

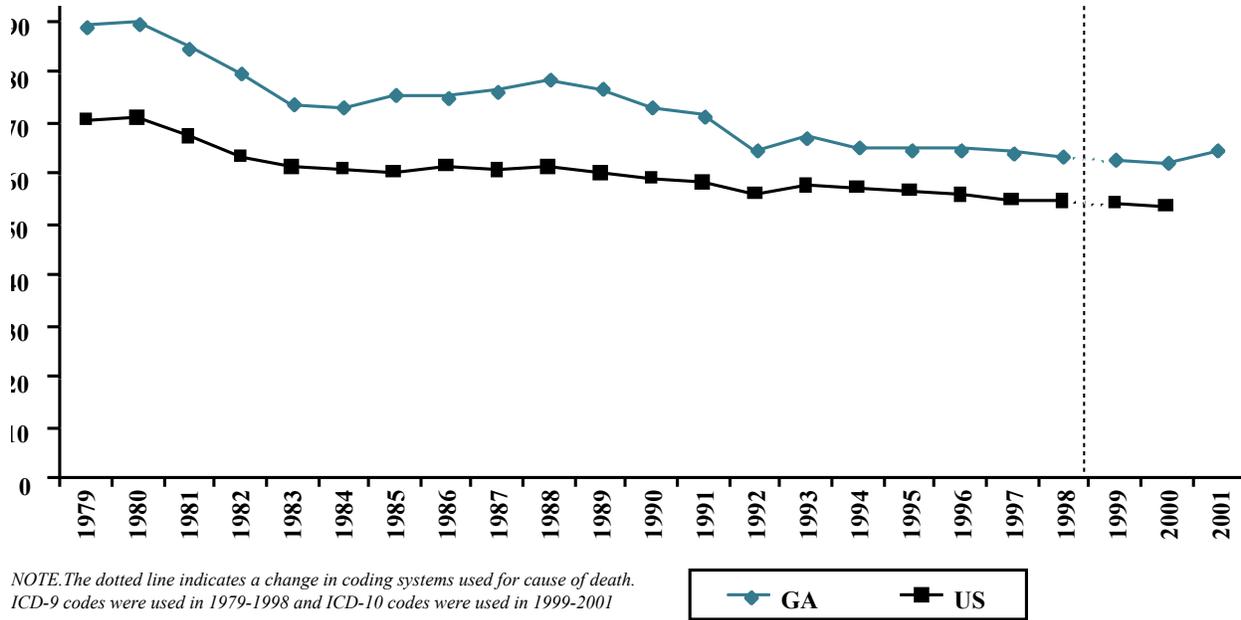
Males had a higher rate of dying from an injury (92.0 per 100,000 population) than females (36.7 per 100,000 population). Whites and blacks had the same rate of dying from an injury (64.0 per 100,000 population for both). Black males had the highest death rate from injuries (102.7 per 100,000 population) among all race/sex groups (Figure 3).



## Profile of Injuries in Georgia

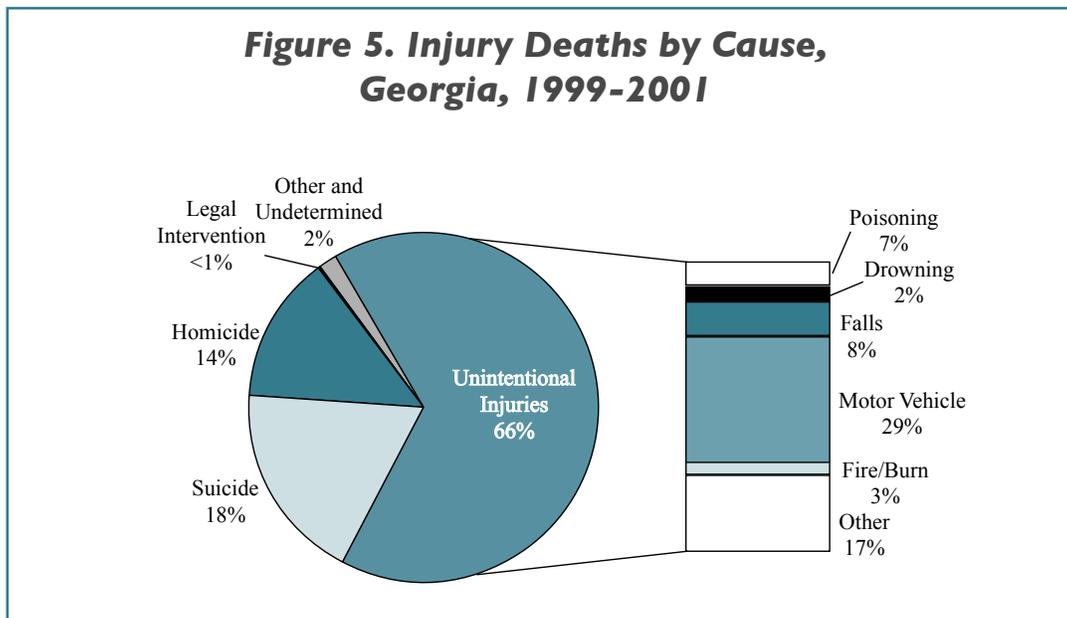
Both Georgia's and the U.S. injury death rates decreased from 1979 to 1993, and have remained relatively unchanged since 1994. Compared to the U.S. rate, the death rate from injuries in Georgia has been consistently higher during the past two decades (Figure 4). From 1999 to 2001, if the injury death rate in Georgia had been equal to the injury death rate in the U.S., an estimated 695 Georgians per year would not have died.

**Figure 4. Age-Adjusted Death Rates:  
All Injuries, Georgia and US, 1979-2001**



About 66% of all injury deaths in Georgia were unintentional in nature, with motor vehicle-related deaths accounting for almost half (44%) of the unintentional injury deaths. Together, homicides and suicides accounted for 32% of injury deaths. Legal intervention and unknown causes accounted for 2% of injury deaths (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Injury Deaths by Cause,  
Georgia, 1999-2001**



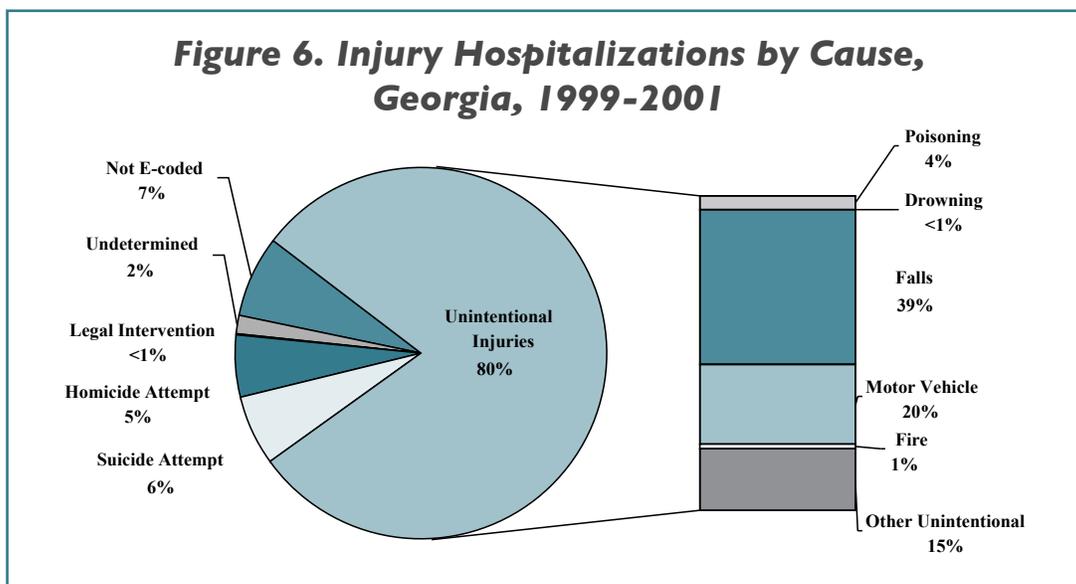


## Hospitalizations

Deaths represent only part of the public health burden from injuries. Data from the Georgia hospital inpatient discharge data system indicate that from 1999 through 2001, more than 110,000 injury-related hospitalizations occurred (an average of 36,674 hospitalizations per year) resulting in an average of 201,300 days in hospital stay and nearly \$668 million in hospital charges per year (Table 4). Among all injury-related hospitalizations, almost 80% were unintentional in nature with 39% of them resulting from falls and 20% resulting from motor vehicle related injuries. Unintentional injuries accounted for 80% of total hospitalization days and 80% of total hospital charges for injuries. Assault and suicide attempts together contributed 11% of total injury hospitalizations (Figure 6).

**Table 4. Injury Hospitalization, Hospitalization Rates, Length of Stay and Total Charges, Georgia, 1999-2001**

Type of Injury	Number	Average per Year	Hospitalization Rate, GA	Average Inpatient Days per Year	Average Charges per Year
Unintentional Injuries	87,754	29,251	408.9	160,424	\$ 528,508,094
Motor Vehicle	22,404	7,468	93.0	49,958	\$ 196,010,944
Falls	43,024	14,341	220.8	77,258	\$ 214,436,130
Poisoning	3,987	1,329	17.3	4,431	\$ 11,485,697
Fire/Burn	1,171	390	5.0	3,840	\$ 23,928,726
Drowning	188	63	0.8	401	\$ 1,319,966
Other Unintentional	16,980	5,660	72.1	24,536	\$ 81,326,630
Suicide Attempt	6,692	2,231	26.7	6,427	\$ 19,654,545
Assault	5,972	1,991	23.8	11,663	\$ 36,478,011
Legal Intervention	76	25	0.3	170	\$ 522,508
Other and Undetermined	1,734	578	7.1	2,574	\$ 8,854,317
Not E-coded	7,793	2,598	37.0	20,042	\$ 74,476,812
All Injuries	110,021	36,674	503.8	201,301	\$ 668,494,286



Males and females each accounted for half of the total injury hospitalizations. Of those hospitalized for injuries, 72% were non-Hispanic whites. Nearly 26% of the hospitalizations were among persons 24-44 years of age (Table 5).

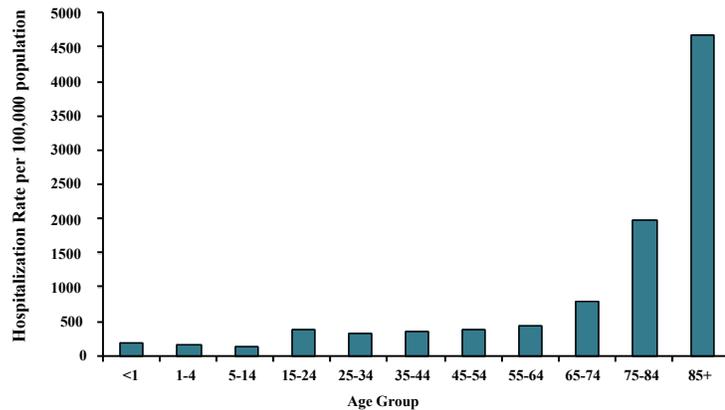
**Table 5. Number of Hospitalizations by Age Group, Race and Sex: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**

Age Group	White		Black		Hispanic		Total*	Average per Year
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Under 5	819	547	724	500	77	123	3,021	1,007
5-14	2,078	1,160	1,181	625	70	124	5,468	1,823
15-24	5,106	2,691	3,048	1,215	201	1,039	13,819	4,606
25-44	10,292	5,999	6,491	3,021	267	1,447	28,474	9,491
45-64	7,665	6,669	3,561	2,069	145	290	21,005	7,002
65+	8,324	24,100	1,503	3,020	340	131	38,125	12,708
Total	34,284	41,166	16,508	10,450	1,100	3,154	110,021	36,674

\*Total includes all other races/ethnicity.

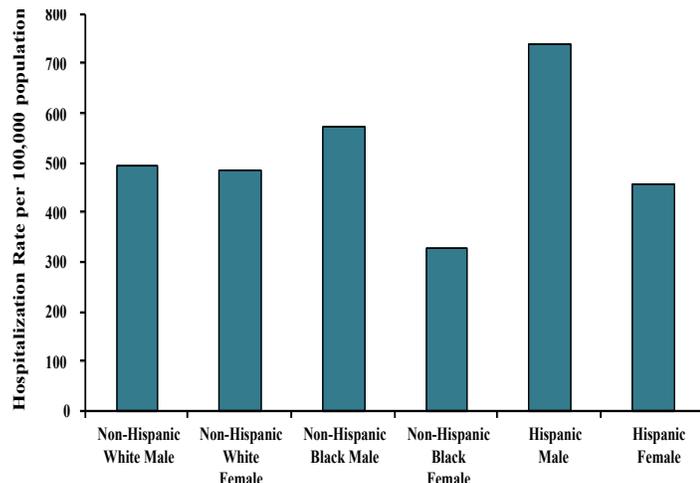
The risk for injury hospitalization increased with age. Persons 75 years of age and older had a much higher rate of injury-related hospitalization than younger people, with the highest rate being among those 85 years and older (4,600 per 100,000 population). Children had the lowest injury hospitalization rate among all age groups (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Age-Specific Hospitalization Rates: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**



When comparing race/sex categories, males had a higher rate of hospitalization from injury (528 per 100,000 population) than females (454 per 100,000 population). Hispanics had a higher rate (603 per 100,000 population) than non-Hispanic blacks (446 per 100,000 population) and non-Hispanic whites (508 per 100,000 population). Hispanic males had the highest rate of injury hospitalization (739 per 100,000 population), while non-Hispanic black females (329 per 100,000 population) had the lowest hospitalization rate among all the sex/race/ethnic groups (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Age-adjusted Hospitalization Rates by Race and Sex: All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**



**Map 2. Age-adjusted Hospitalization Rate by County of Residence:  
All Injuries, Georgia, 1999-2001**

