



Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries Are Frequent and Costly

No. CR-2015-8 September 2, 2015

Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the impact of motor vehicle crashes.

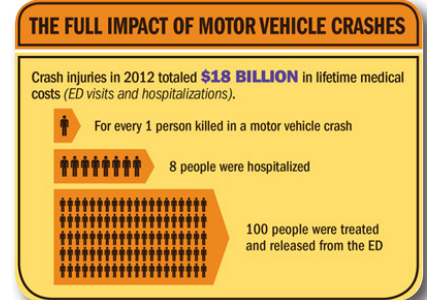
Americans spend more than 1 million days in the hospital each year from crash injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Vital Signs" report released in 2014.

Key findings from the report include:

- More than 2.5 million people went to the emergency department and nearly 200,000 of them were hospitalized because of motor vehicle crash injuries in 2012, the most current data available.
- On average, each crash-related emergency department visit costs about \$3,300, and each hospitalization costs about \$57,000 over a person's lifetime.
- More than 75 percent of costs occur during the first 18 months following the crash injury.
- Nearly 7,000 people went to the emergency department every day due to car crash injuries.
- Teens and young adults (15 to 29 years old) are at especially high risk for motor vehicle crash injuries, accounting for nearly 1 million crash injuries in 2012 (38 percent of all crash injuries that year).
- One-third of adults older than 80 who were injured in car crashes were hospitalized, the highest of any age group.

The good news is that there were almost 400,000 fewer emergency department visits and 5,700 fewer hospitalizations from motor vehicle crash injuries in 2012 compared to 2002. This equals \$1.7 billion in avoided lifetime medical costs and \$2.3 billion in avoided work loss costs. Preventing injuries saves money.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1007-crash-injuries.html>



Motor vehicle crashes have tremendous human and medical costs associated with them.

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