

2014 Children's Camp Incident Summary Report

New York State Department of Health

Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

In 2014, local health departments (LHD) reported 2,510 regulated children's camps operated in New York State. Of these, 533 were overnight camps and 1,977 were day camps, including 283 municipal day camps and 34 traveling summer day camps. It is estimated that over 900,000 children attend NYS children's camps each year.

To assess the health and safety at camps, a children's camp incident surveillance system is maintained. Camp operators are required to report serious injuries, illnesses, potential rabies exposures, administrations of epinephrine, and allegations of camper abuse to LHDs. These incidents are investigated by LHDs and information is entered into the New York State Department of Health's Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System. A total of 1,064 incidents (1,700 victims) meeting Subpart 7-2 of the New York State Sanitary Code (SSC) criteria for reportable incidents were reported statewide in 2014 (Figure 1), indicating that less than two-tenths of 1% of campers experienced injury and illness while at camp. Statewide analysis of the data is used for injury prevention and control and has been used to amend the SSC and develop administrative guidance. The following summarizes the 2014 reportable incidents.

Injuries:

There were 797 injuries reported during the 2014 camp season. This represents a 4 percent decrease compared to 2013 and a 13 percent decrease compared to the 15-year average of reportable injuries occurring at children's camps (Figure 2). The 2014 children's camp charts and graphs provides details as to the types of injuries sustained and activities at the time of the injury (Figures 3 – 16).

Injuries reported are those that meet the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the SSC including:

- Camper injuries that result in:
 - death or require resuscitation;
 - admission to a hospital (treatment in the ER is not considered admission to a hospital);
 - eye, head, neck or spine injuries which require referral to a hospital or other facility for medical treatment;
 - bone fractures or dislocations;
 - lacerations that require sutures, staples or medical glue; or
 - second or third degree burns to 5 percent or more of the body.

- Staff injuries which result in death, require resuscitation, or admission to a hospital (treatment in the emergency room (ER) is not considered admission to a hospital).

Outbreaks:

There were 46 illness outbreaks reported during the 2014 camping season, as detailed in the table below.

Outbreak Type		Number of Outbreaks	Number Ill
Acute Illness	Coxsackie virus	9	58
	Fifth Disease	1	4
	Influenza-like Illness	1	4
	Staph Infection	1	2
Gastrointestinal	Campylobacteriosis	1	8
	Norovirus	1	6
	GI of Unknown Etiology	8	437
Mandated Reportable	Enterovirus/Viral Meningitis	2	22
	Influenza type b	1	2
Parasitic	Head Lice	10	86
Respiratory Infection	Strep Throat	7	20
Skin Infection	Impetigo	3	36
	Ringworm	1	2
TOTAL		46	687

2014 Epinephrine Administrations:

There were 18 incidents in which epinephrine was administered during the 2014 camping season (Figure 19). Of these, six administrations were necessary for insect stings or bites, seven administrations for food allergies, four administrations for an unknown allergen, and one administration for a latex allergy.

Epinephrine was administered in seven instances where the camp was identified as participating in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector program. There were 11 incidents requiring epinephrine administrations at camps not participating in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector program.

Of the total administrations, four epinephrine auto-injectors were identified as being from the camp's supply, ten were from the patient's supply, two were administered in the ambulance en route to the hospital, and one was administered at the hospital. One allergic reaction required four administrations of epinephrine from three different sources (patient's supply, school supply, and ambulance supply).

Approximately, 243 camps participated in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector Program in 2014.

Rabies Exposures:

There were ten reported bat-exposure incidents resulting in 25 potential camper and staff rabies exposures in the 2014 camping season (Figure 20). In all ten incidents, the bats were not captured for rabies testing, which resulted in all 25 individuals being recommended for rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Sixteen individuals received PEP treatment.

In addition to probable bat-exposures, there were potential rabies exposures from two dog bites, one horse bite, one goat bite, and contact with a raccoon. PEP treatment was given to the staff member who came into contact with the raccoon. PEP was not necessary in response to the dog, horse, and goat bites after determining that the animals were not infected with rabies.

Allegations of Physical and Sexual Abuse:

There were 15 allegations of physical and sexual abuse of campers reported during the 2014 camping season. Of these, seven victims were alleged to have suffered physical abuse, seven victims were alleged to have suffered sexual abuse, and one victim was alleged to have suffered both physical and sexual

abuse. The alleged perpetrator was the camp aquatic director in one incident, a counselor in eight incidents, a counselor in training in one incident, and another camper in six incidents.

An allegation of abuse is investigated by law enforcement when it may contain a violation of Penal Law. The LHD investigates all allegations to determine if the camp complied with supervision, staffing and other policies and procedures required by the Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code.

Fatalities:

There were two fatalities at children’s camps in 2014. One nine-year-old camper died as a result of a respiratory event that may have been caused by an unknown underlying medical condition. A 23-year-old developmentally-disabled adult camper died because of a medical event.

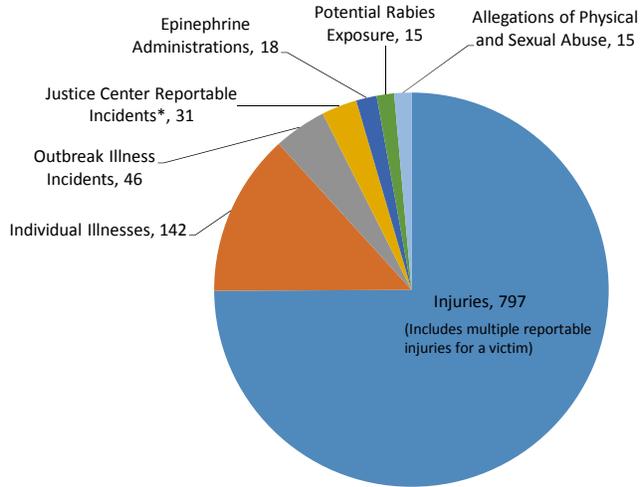
Justice Center Reportable Incidents:

In 2014, there were 31 incidents at Camps for Children with Developmental Disabilities (enrollment of 20% or more campers with developmental disabilities) reported to the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center). Of these, three incidents were classified as alleged abuse or neglect and investigated by the Justice Center. Two of the three incidents were substantiated. Abuse and neglect substantiations made by the Justice Center are categorized on a 1-4 scale with Category 1 being the most severe. Of the two substantiated allegations, one incident was categorized as Category 3 abuse and the other as Category 3 neglect.

Twenty-eight reports were classified as significant incidents and were investigated by LHDs for compliance with Subpart 7-2 of the SSC. Of these, eight incidents involved lack of proper supervision of campers, six incidents involved improper handling or care of a camper by a staff person, five incidents involved inappropriate camper-to-camper contact, four incidents resulted in minor injuries requiring more than first aid, three incidents were classified as “other”, and two incidents involved inappropriate use of restraint (Figure 21).

For the purpose of this summary report, Justice Center incidents may be reported in other categories, such as an injury, illness, or incident of alleged physical and sexual abuse if the incidents meet the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the SSC for a reportable incident.

Figure 1: Children's Camp Incidents - 2014



N=1064

*Justice Center Reportable Incidents may be reported in multiple categories

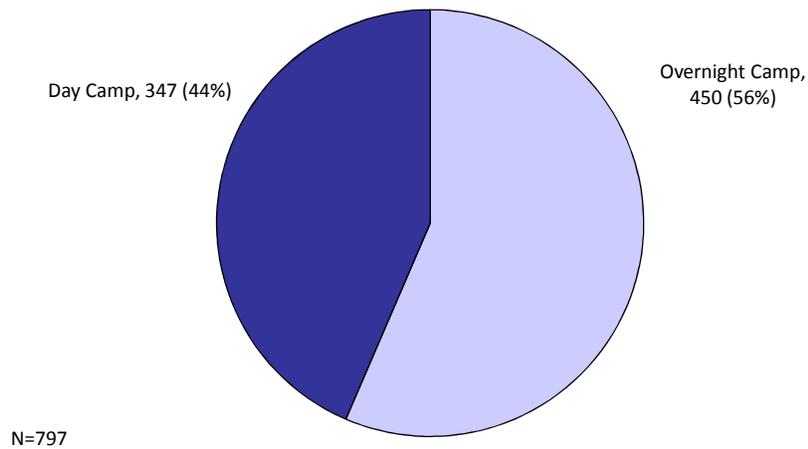
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 2: Camp Injuries by Year



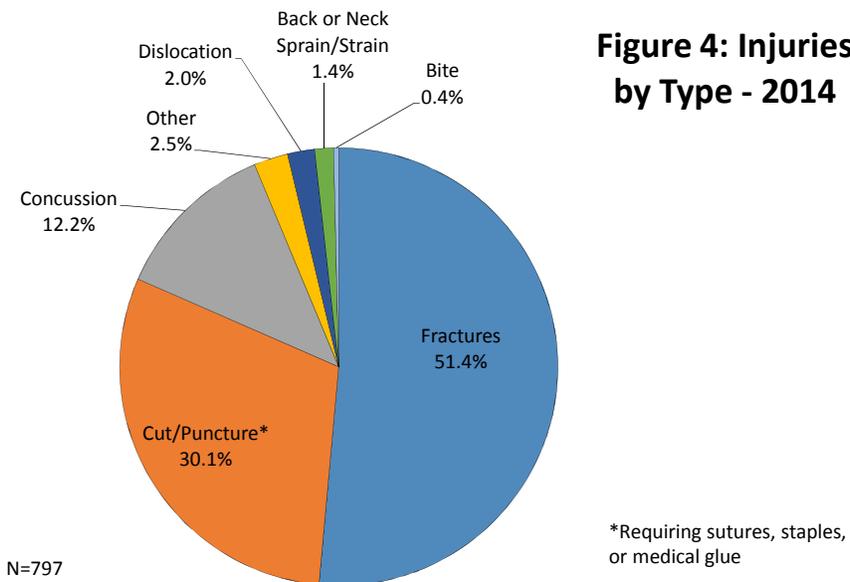
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 3: Injury Incidents by Camp Type - 2014



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 4: Injuries by Type - 2014



*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

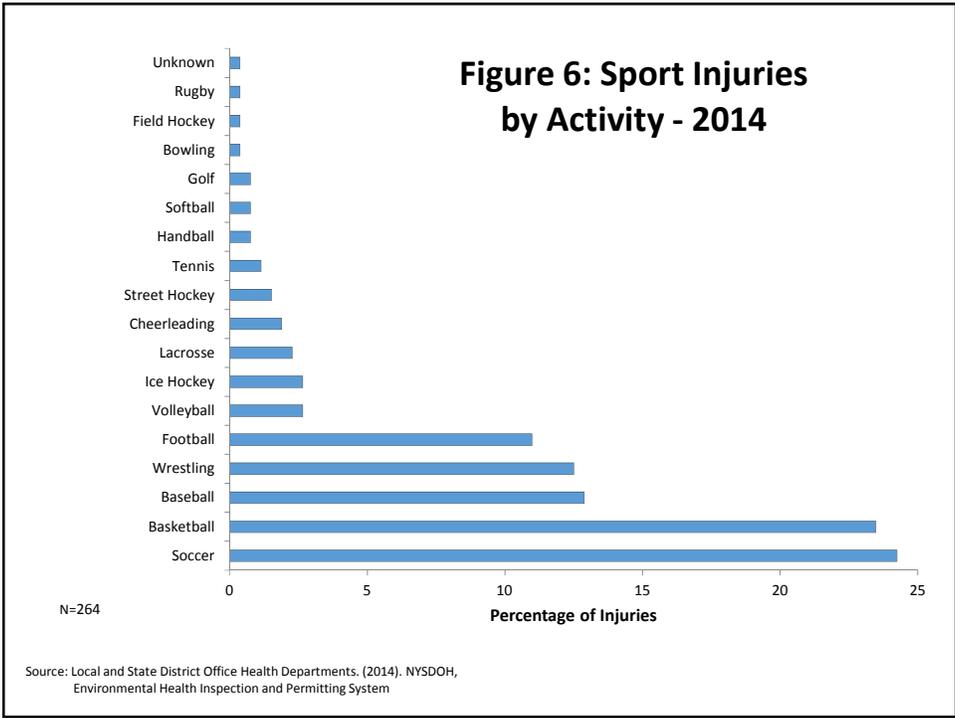
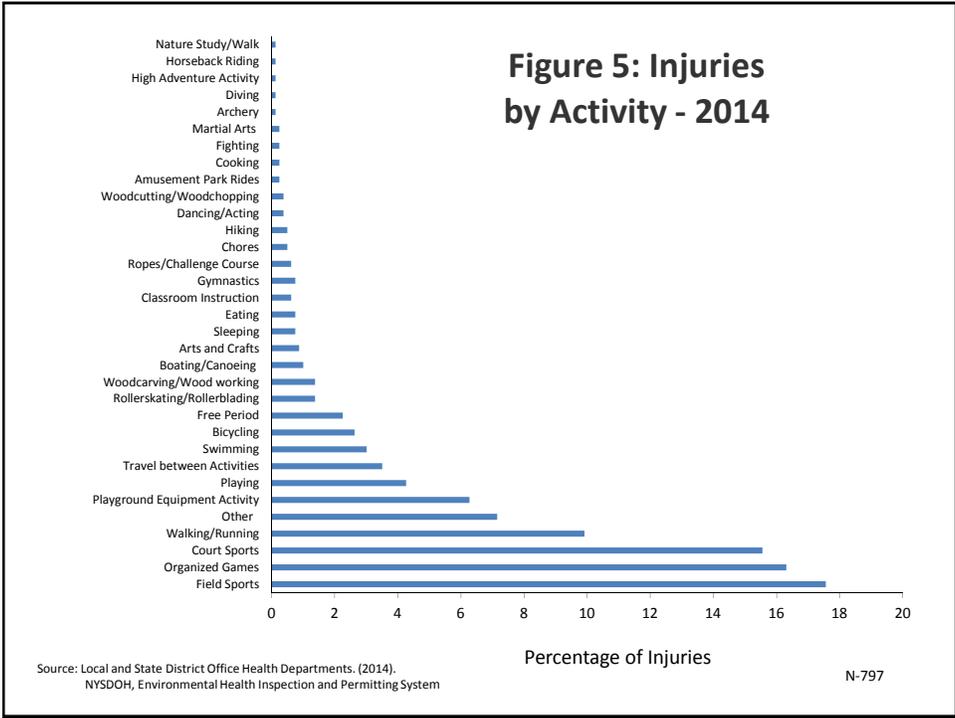
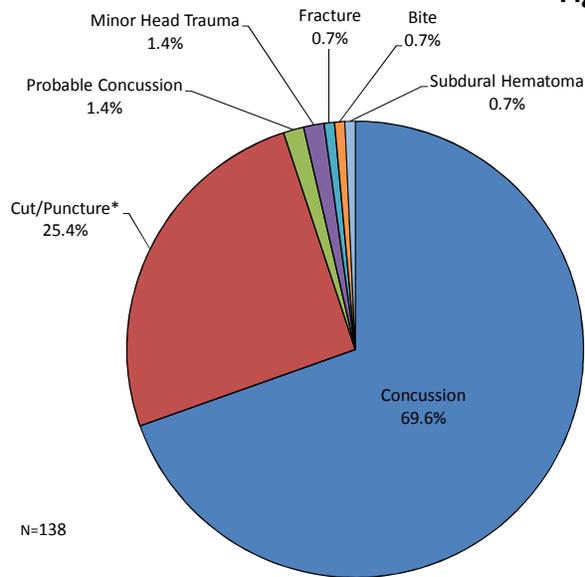


Figure 7: Head Injuries by Type - 2014

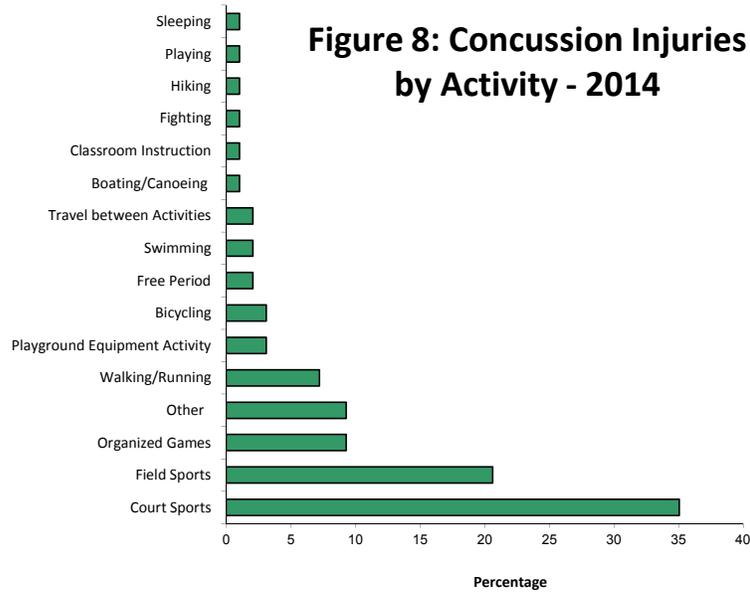


N=138

*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

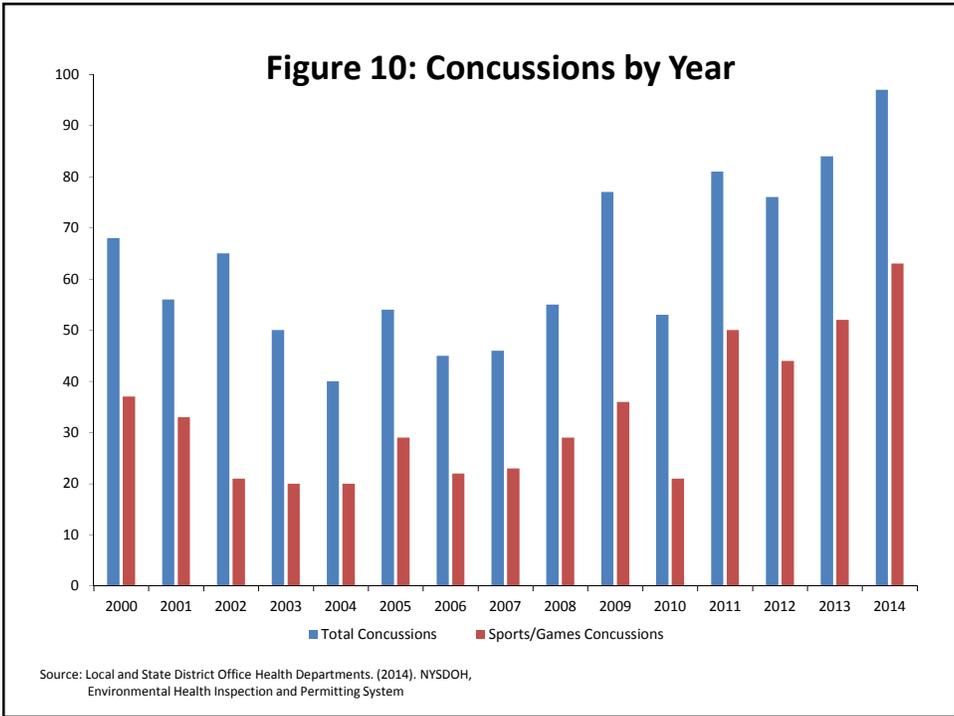
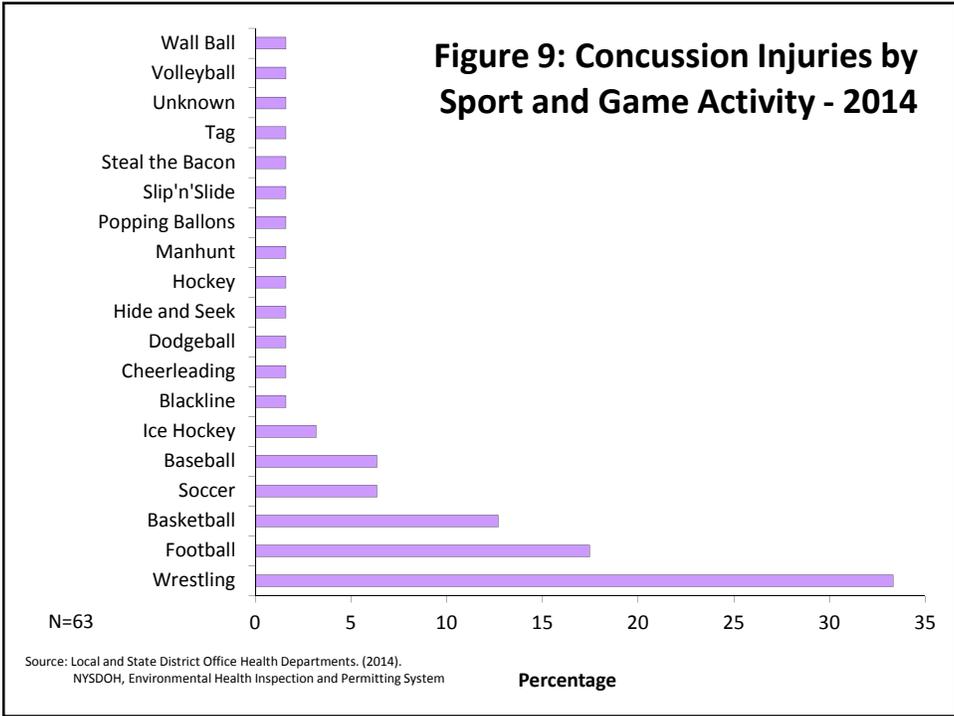
Figure 8: Concussion Injuries by Activity - 2014

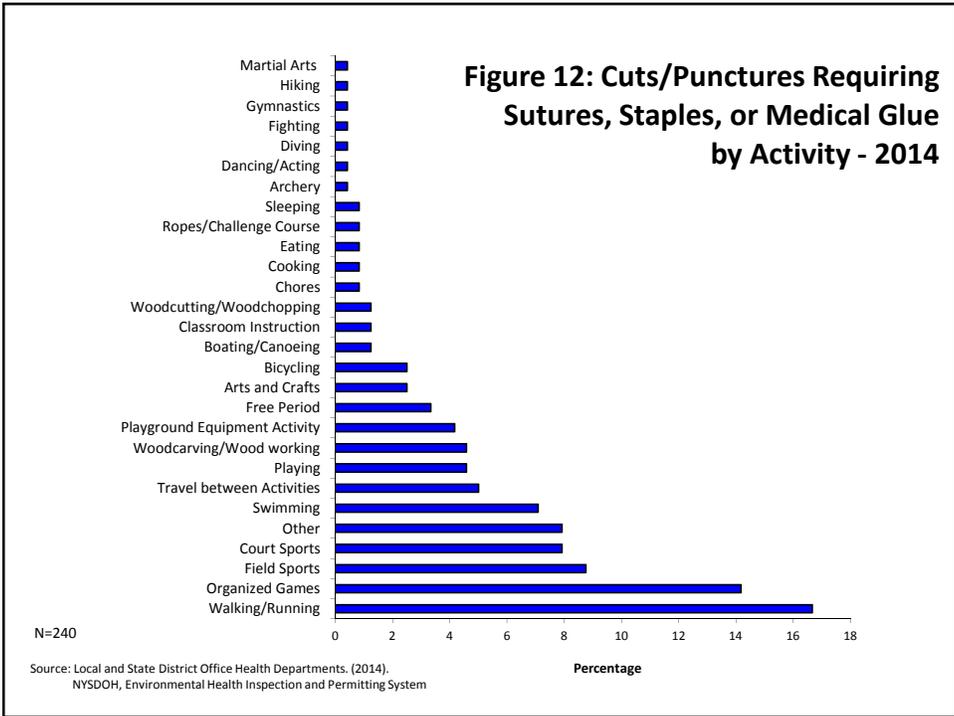
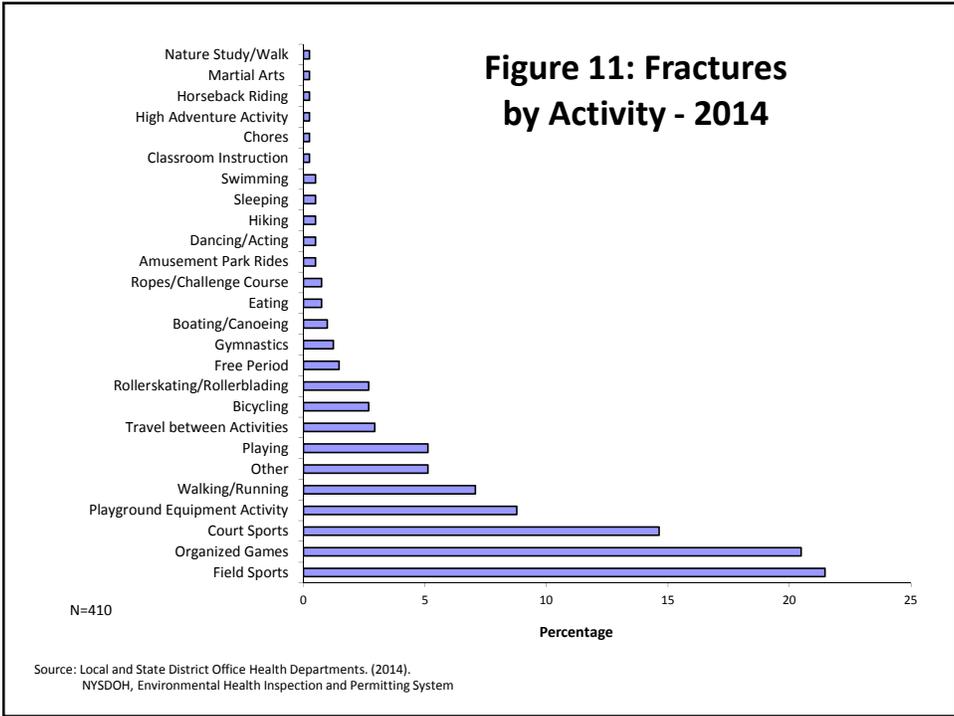


N=97

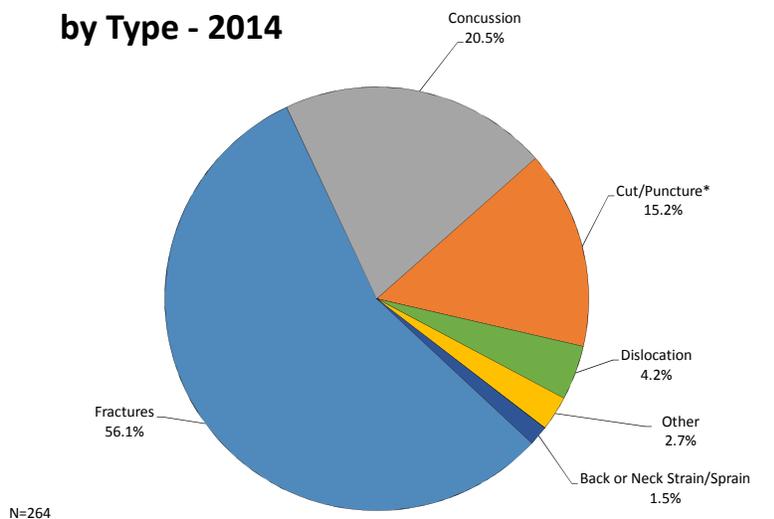
Percentage

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System





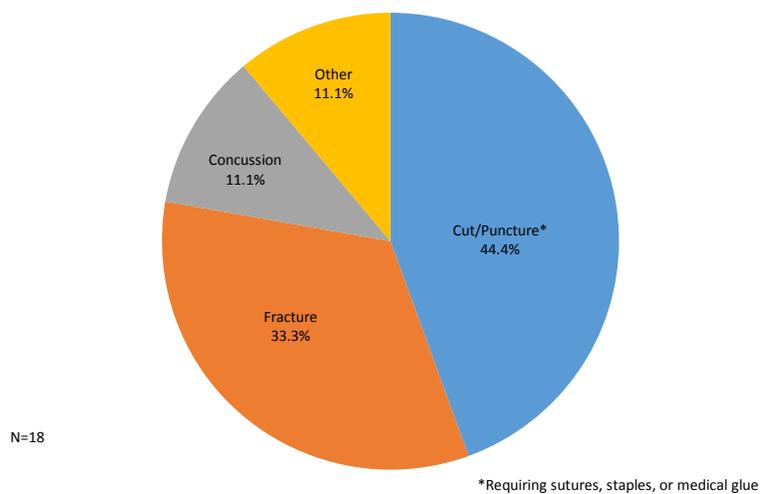
**Figure 13: Sports Injuries
by Type - 2014**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

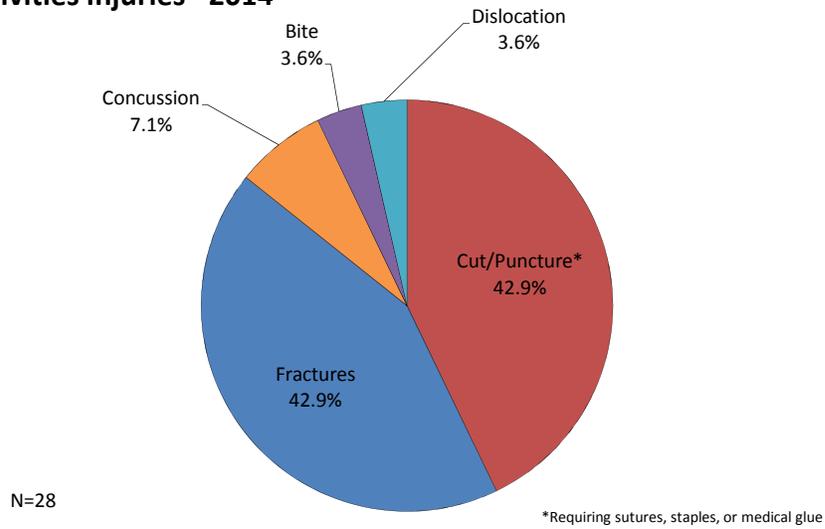
**Figure 14: Free Period Injuries
by Type - 2014**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

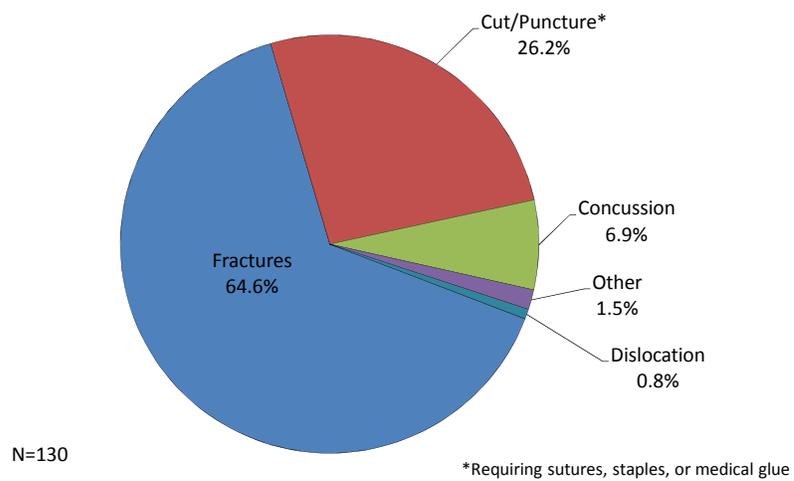
*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

Figure 15: Travel between Activities Injuries - 2014



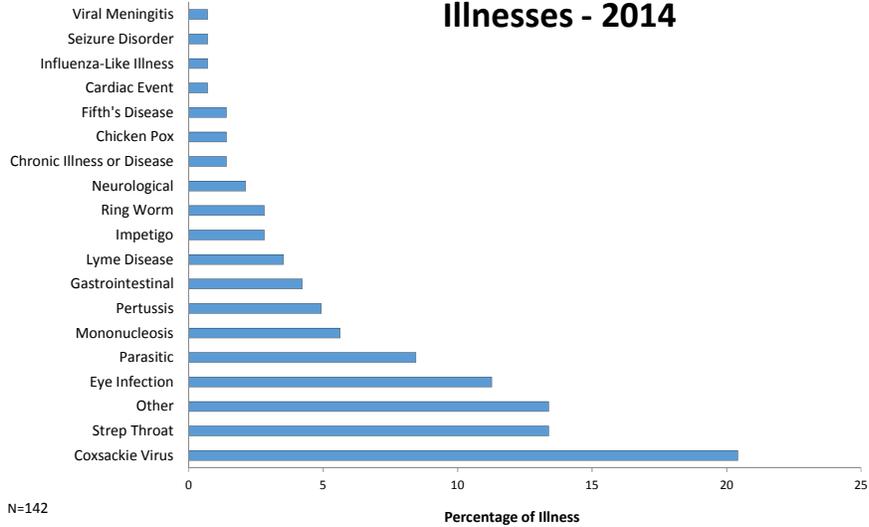
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 16: Organized Game Injuries - 2014



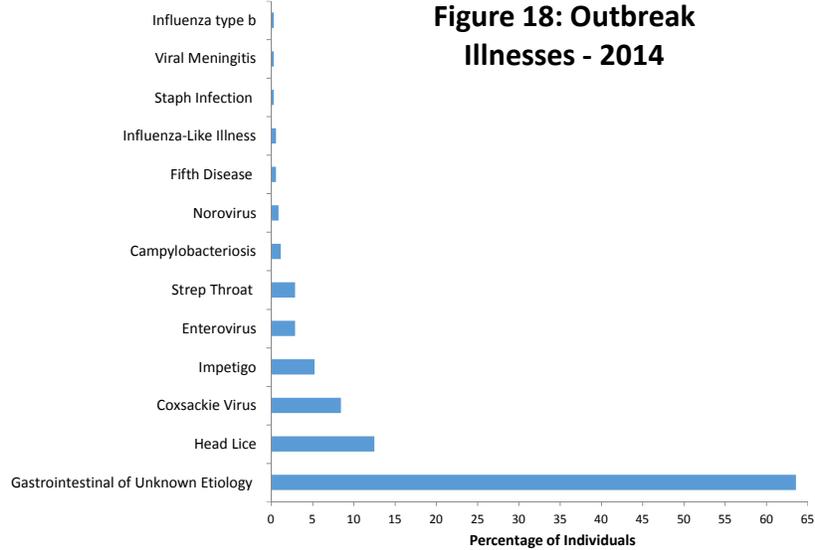
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 17: Individual Illnesses - 2014



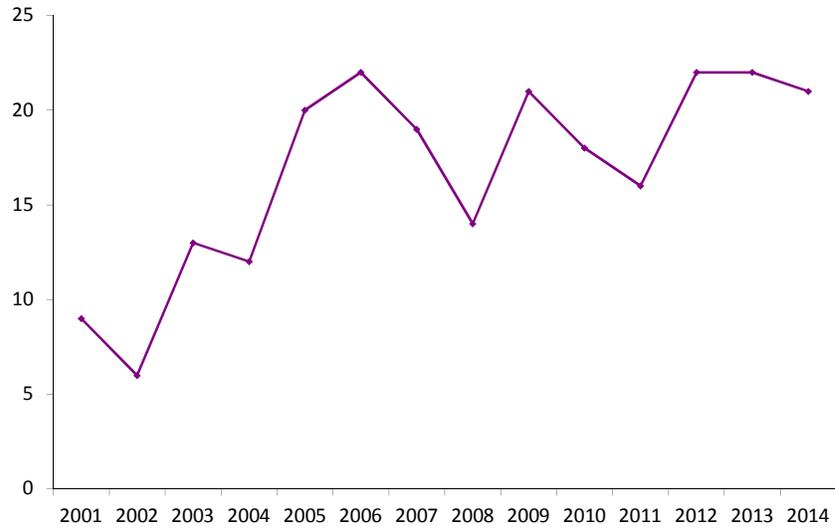
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 18: Outbreak Illnesses - 2014



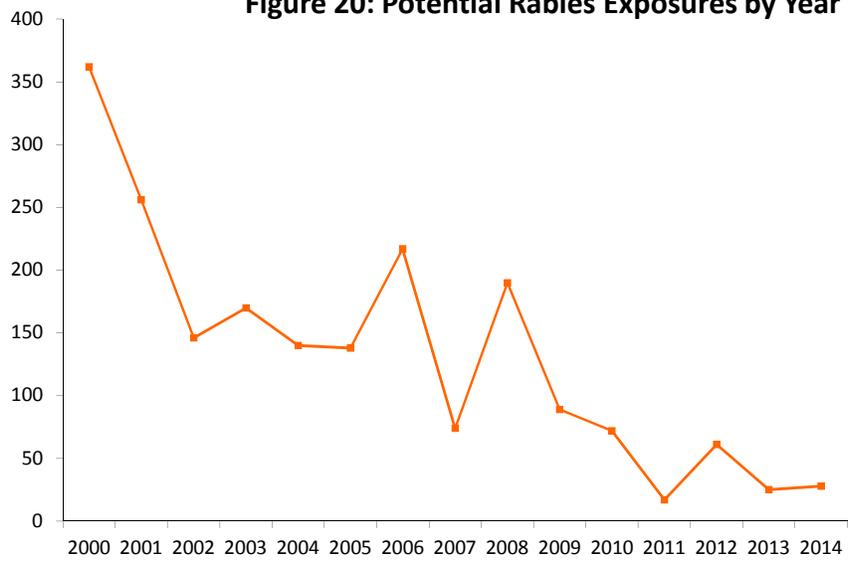
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 19: Epi-Pen Administrations by Year



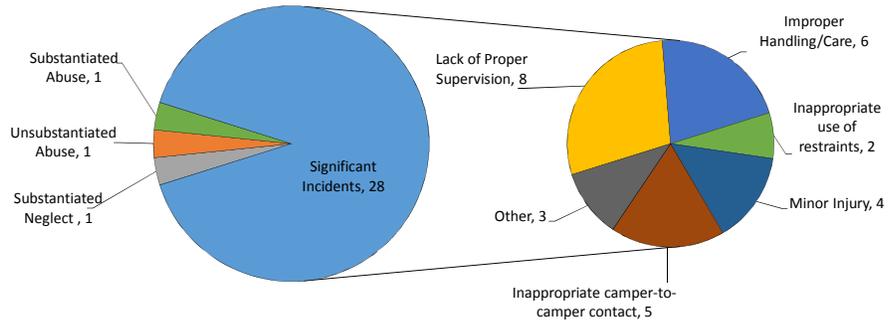
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 20: Potential Rabies Exposures by Year



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

Figure 21: Justice Center Reportable Incidents - 2014



N = 31

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2014).
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System