Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries Rensselaer County Residents 2005-2007

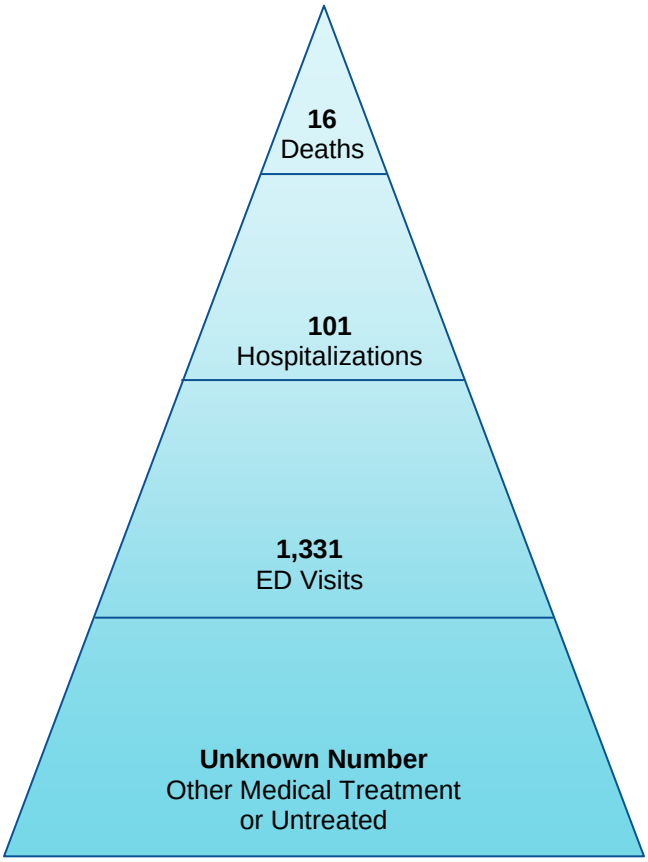
The Concern

Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries are the leading cause of injury related death in Rensselaer County. Crash related injuries are the 3rd leading cause of injury related hospitalization and a leading cause of injury related emergency department (ED) visits in Rensselaer County.

Crash-related injuries are not accidents! They are not random, uncontrollable acts of fate, but occur in predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors and among identifiable populations. A crash-related injury is a predictable and preventable event!

Magnitude of the Crash Problem

- Every **month**, because of a traffic-related crash, an average of:
  - → 1 Rensselaer County resident died
  - → 8 Rensselaer County residents were hospitalized
  - → 111 Rensselaer County residents were treated in an ED
- Annually, traffic crashes resulted in an average of:
  - → $ 4.0 million in hospitalization charges
    - **Approximately $ 426 thousand was charged to publicly programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA health care, and corrections.**
  - → $ 1.3 million in ED charges
- 15% of hospitalized crash victims are released to another hospital, rehabilitation center or long term care, **incurring additional costs**



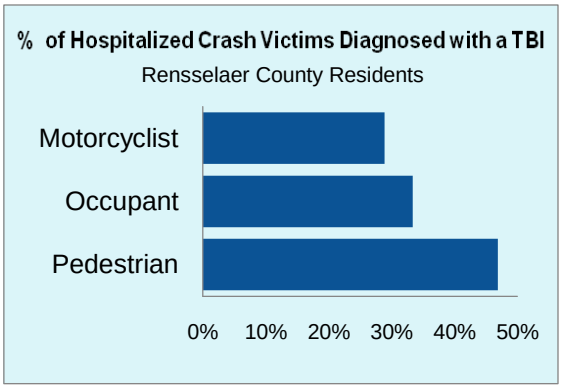
Yearly Average Number
Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash-Related Injuries
Rensselaer County Residents, 2005-2007

Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) can result from traffic related crashes and may result in the loss of independent function, requiring long-term care, and increased life-long expenses.

⇒ Among Rensselaer County Residents that were hospitalized following a traffic crash **33.8% were diagnosed with a TBI, with almost half of pedestrians sustaining a TBI.**

⇒ The risk of TBI can be reduced by wearing your seat belt!

⇒ Bicyclists and Motorcyclists who wear helmets reduce their risk of a TBI!



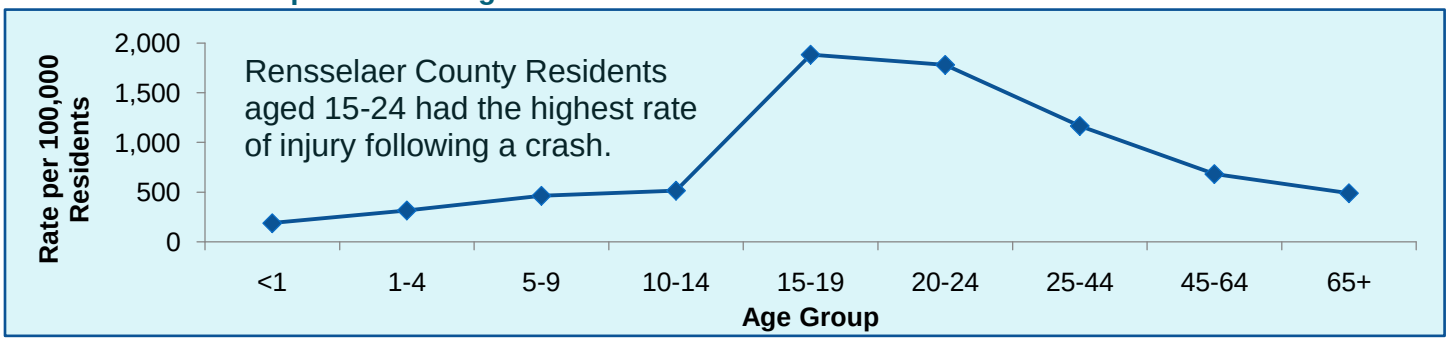
Who is at Risk for Crash-Related Injuries?

- Although most crash victims in New York State were vehicle occupants, **a higher percentage of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists** were injured severely enough to require hospitalization.

In Rensselaer County:

- Although females have a higher rate of outpatient ED visits, males are more likely to have died or been hospitalized from a traffic crash.
- Traffic-related crash injuries occur in all age groups.

Treatment at a Hospital Following a Crash



For more detailed information on motor vehicle traffic crashes in New York State:

Please see the detailed county tables provided at www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/injury_prevention/traffic

Or visit the Governors Traffic Safety Committee website at www.safeny.com.

For additional questions or customized data requests, you may also contact the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Injury Prevention at (518) 473-1143, injury@health.state.ny.us.

Motor vehicle crash injuries are the leading cause of injury related deaths for Rensselaer County Residents – and they can be prevented!

Source: NYSDOH, Bureau of Injury Prevention
SPARCS GEN06MTH 2009
Vital Statistics Death File April 2009