



## Information Sheet

Facilities across Canada submit hospital inpatient, day surgery, emergency and ambulatory care data to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The data is used in a wide variety of CIHI reports and data requests, which support management decision-making at the hospital, regional and provincial/territorial levels.

### What is intentional assault?

Injuries inflicted and homicide by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means.

### The big picture

Every year, hundreds of thousands of children and youth younger than 18 are injured in Canada while at home, at school and at play. Between 2009–2010 and 2013–2014, there was an annual average of 17,900 injury hospitalizations among those younger than 18 across Canada.

# Intentional Assault Among Children and Youth in Canada<sup>i</sup>

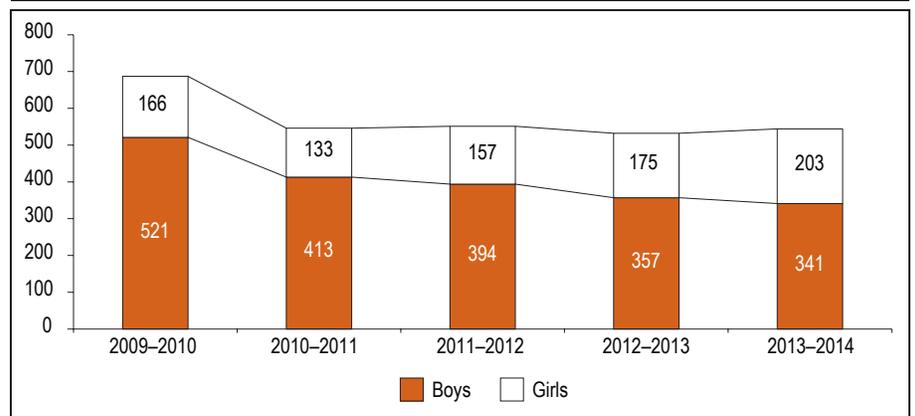
According to 2011 data from Statistics Canada,<sup>ii</sup> intentional assault caused 45 deaths among boys younger than age 20 and 30 deaths among girls the same age. Approximately 11% of these deaths were related to firearms.

A considerably higher number of assault cases each year do not end in death but do involve a hospital visit.

## Who is getting hurt?

Between 2009–2010 and 2013–2014, an average of 570 intentional assault cases required hospitalization among those younger than 18. Intentional assault is of particular concern for older adolescents (age 14 to 17), accounting for nearly 6% of injury hospitalizations for this group. In 2013–2014, approximately 2 out of 3 intentional assault injury hospitalizations were for boys, the majority 14 to 17 years old (Figure 1). The number of boys hospitalized for intentional assault has decreased by more than 34% since 2009–2010, while the number of girls hospitalized for the same reason has increased by 22%.

Figure 1: Number of Hospitalizations Among Children and Youth for Intentional Assault in Canada,\* by Sex, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014



**Note**

\* Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.

**Source**

Discharge Abstract Database, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

i. Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.

ii. Statistics Canada. Canadian Vital Statistics—Death Database. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada; 2014.



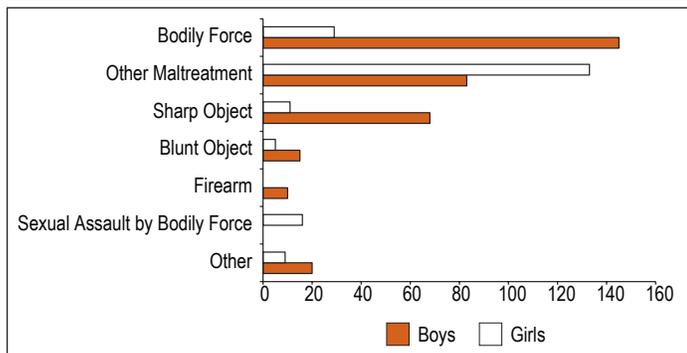
## How are they being hurt?

In 2013–2014, bodily force and other maltreatment (e.g., mental cruelty or abuse) accounted for 32% and 40% of intentional assault hospitalizations, respectively. Firearms were involved in 2% of intentional assault hospitalizations.

With the exception of sexual assault by bodily force, boys consistently outnumbered girls as victims of intentional assault. In 2013–2014, boys were the victims in 83% of all bodily force assault cases, whereas all of the victims of sexual assault by bodily force were girls (Figure 2). This finding has been consistent over the last 5 years.

In 2013–2014, 41% of the victims of other maltreatment (including abuse) were adolescents (14 to 17), followed by children younger than 5 at 38% (Figure 3). Older adolescents (14 to 17) made up the highest proportion (65%) for all other causes of intentional assault.

Figure 2: Number of Child and Youth Hospitalizations for Intentional Assault in Canada,\* by Sex and Cause, 2013–2014



**Note**  
\* Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.

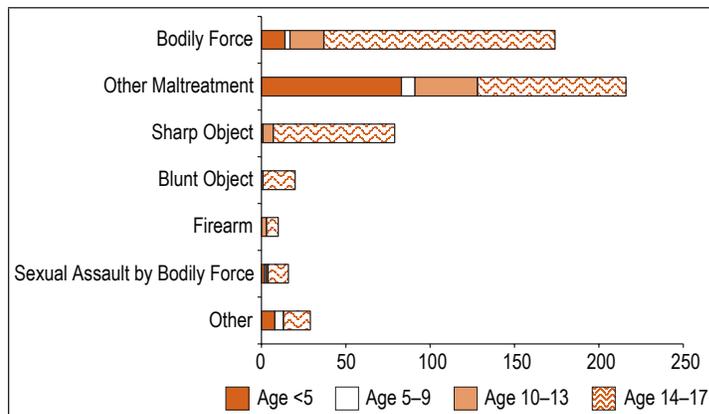
**Source**  
Discharge Abstract Database, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

### More information

Data in this information sheet comes from the **Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)** and the **National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS)**. Data tables can also be accessed via **Quick Stats**.

Feedback and questions are welcome at [cad@cihi.ca](mailto:cad@cihi.ca).

Figure 3: Number of Child and Youth Hospitalizations for Intentional Assault in Canada,\* by Age Group and Cause, 2013–2014



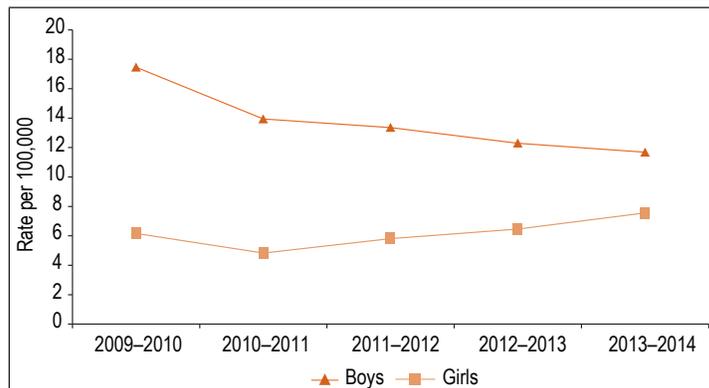
**Note**  
\* Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.

**Source**  
Discharge Abstract Database, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Over the past 5 years, the rate of intentional assault-related hospitalizations in girls fluctuated between 5 and 8 per 100,000, while the rate for boys decreased from 17 to 12 per 100,000 (Figure 4).

The number of children and youth visiting emergency departments (EDs) for intentional assaults was higher than the number hospitalized. In Ontario, there were 3,399 ED visits for intentional assaults to children and youth in 2013–2014. Among youth age 14 to 17, intentional assaults accounted for 3% of all injury-related ED visits.

Figure 4: Age-Standardized Rate of Hospitalization Among Children and Youth for Intentional Assault in Canada,\* by Sex, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014



**Note**  
\* Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.

**Sources**  
Discharge Abstract Database, 2009–2010 to 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information; population estimates, Statistics Canada.