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Canadian Institute
for Health Information
Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

Public Summary

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

Self-harm includes purposely self-inflicted poisoning, injury and suicide (attempted and completed).

Additional Resources

The following companion products are available on **CIHI's website**:

- Information sheets
- Data tables

Talk to Us

For data-specific information:
cad@cihi.ca

For media inquiries:
media@cihi.ca

Self-harm and assault: A closer look at children and youth

*Intentional injuries among children and youth in Canada**

In 2013–2014, approximately 17,500 hospitalizations among children and youth in Canada were for injuries. Approximately 3,000 of these hospitalizations were for an intentional injury—self-inflicted or caused by others.

New data from the **Canadian Institute for Health Information** (CIHI) focuses on children and youth who are hospitalized for self-harm or assault, revealing who is injured and how.

Key findings

Self-harm

Almost 2,500 youth (age 10 to 17) are hospitalized every year due to self-harm injuries.

- Girls account for more than 80% of these hospitalizations.
 - The number of girls hospitalized for self-harm by sharp objects, such as by “cutting” (making small cuts to the body, usually on the arms or legs) has increased 90% in the last 5 years.

Assault

More than 500 youth (younger than 18) are hospitalized every year because of an assault.

- While two-thirds of assault hospitalizations are for boys, the rate has decreased in the last 5 years. The rate for girls has increased.
 - Bodily force and other maltreatment such as abuse make up the majority of assault hospitalizations.

* Quebec data has been excluded from this analysis.