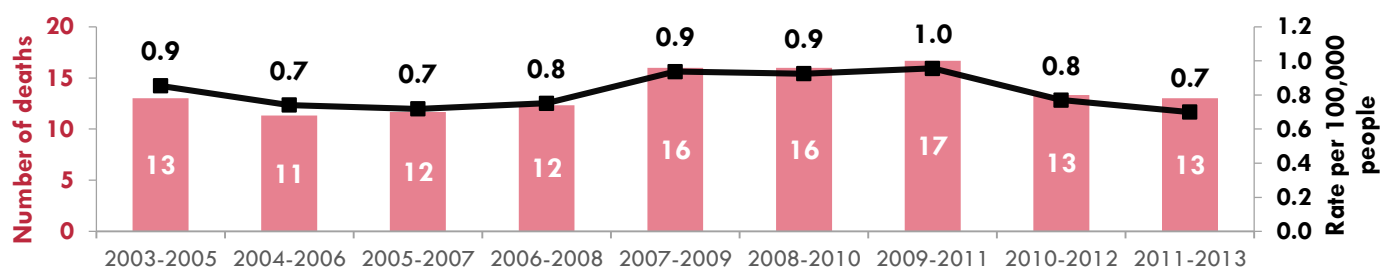


# Santa Clara County: Unintentional suffocation

## Key findings

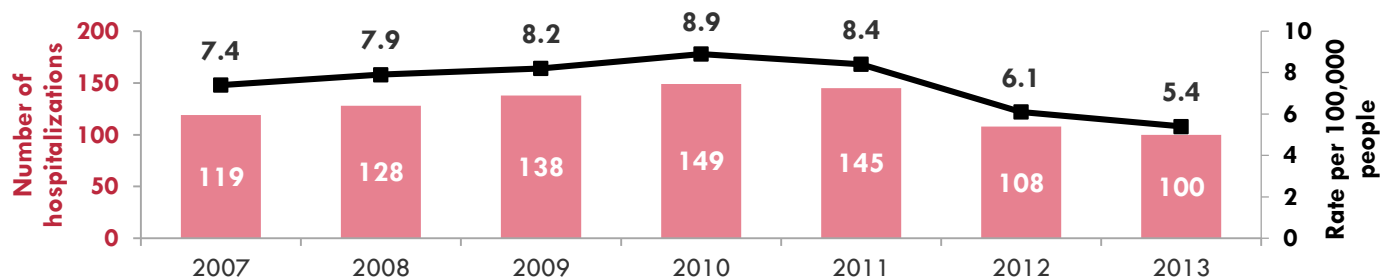
- In 2013, unintentional suffocation was the 8th leading cause of injury deaths and accounted for 2% of injury deaths.
- The number and rate of deaths from suffocation has been relatively stable since 2003.
- The number and rate of hospitalizations for suffocation increased from 2007, but decreased beginning in 2011. The number and rate of emergency department (ED) visits has decreased.
- The death rate and rate of hospitalizations and ED visits for suffocation are highest among adults ages 65 and older.
- African Americans have the highest rate of hospitalizations for suffocation.
- The death rate and rate of hospitalizations for suffocation are higher for males but the rate of ED visits is higher for females.

### Number and age-adjusted rate of deaths from suffocation, 2003-2013 (3-year moving average)



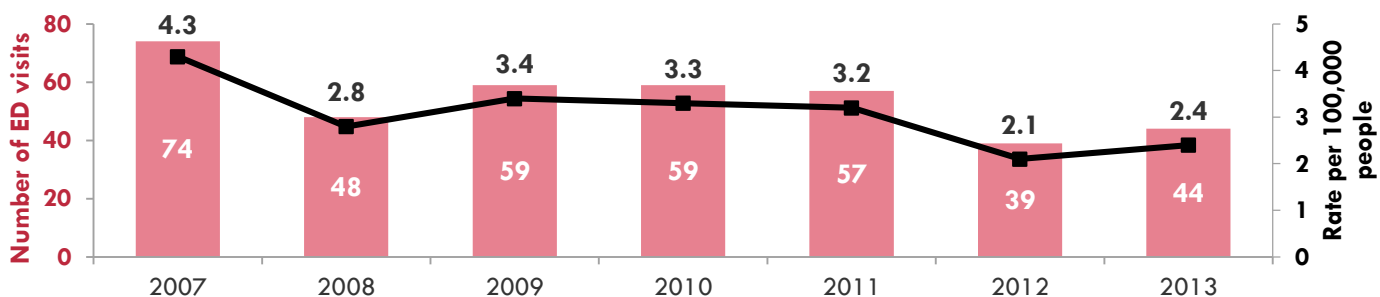
Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2003-2013 Death Statistical Master File<sup>1</sup>

### Number and age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations from suffocation, 2007-2013



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2007-2013 Patient Discharge Data<sup>1</sup>

### Number and age-adjusted rate of emergency department visits from suffocation, 2007-2013



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2007-2013 Emergency Department Data<sup>1</sup>

Note: In each graph above, the colored bars represent the number and the black line represents the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 people.

# Santa Clara County: Unintentional suffocation

Number, percentage, and age-adjusted/age-specific rates of deaths from suffocation by demographic characteristics, 2004-2013

		Deaths		
		Average annual number of deaths <sup>±</sup>	% of deaths from suffocation*	Rate per 100,000 people <sup>+</sup>
<b>Santa Clara County</b>		14	N/A	0.8
<b>Gender</b>	Male	7	54	0.9
	Female	6	46	0.7
<b>Age group</b>	<18	3	21	0.7
	18-44	2	11	0.3
	45-64	3	20	0.6
	65+	6	47	2.9
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	African American	1	4	--
	Asian/Pacific Islander	2	17	0.6
	Latino	3	22	1.0
	White	8	56	1.0

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2004-2013 Death Statistical Master File<sup>1</sup>

Number, percentage, and age-adjusted/age-specific rates of hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits for poisoning by demographic characteristics, 2009-2013

		Hospitalizations			ED visits		
		Average annual number of visits <sup>±</sup>	% of hospitalizations for suffocation*	Rate per 100,000 people <sup>+</sup>	Average annual number of visits <sup>±</sup>	% of visits for suffocation*	Rate per 100,000 people <sup>+</sup>
<b>Santa Clara County</b>		128	N/A	7.4	52	N/A	2.9
<b>Gender</b>	Male	71	55	9.1	24	47	2.7
	Female	57	45	6.1	27	53	3.1
<b>Age group</b>	<18	18	14	4.2	23	45	5.3
	18-44	8	6	1.1	7	14	1.0
	45-64	29	23	6.3	9	18	1.9
	65+	73	57	35.8	12	23	5.9
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	African American	4	3	10.5	--	--	--
	Asian/Pacific Islander	22	18	4.8	8	16	1.6
	Latino	24	19	7.1	15	30	3.1
	White	72	57	8.8	23	45	3.7

Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2009-2013 Emergency Department Data and 2009-2013 Patient Discharge Data<sup>1</sup>

Note: <sup>±</sup>Represents the average annual number of deaths, hospitalizations, or ED visits in each category over a 5-year period. If the average is reported, the sum of hospitalizations or ED visits for each 5-year period is  $\geq 15$  cases. \*Represents the percentage of deaths, hospitalizations, or ED visits in each category, e.g., the percentage of deaths or visits for suffocation that were male or female. <sup>+</sup>Rates for age groups are reported as age-specific rates per 100,000 people. All other rates are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 people. Numbers and percentages may not sum to county totals or 100% because some categories are not presented (race/ethnicity), due to missing data, or due to rounding. N/A indicates fields where data are not applicable. (--) indicates not reportable due to small number of deaths, hospitalizations, or ED visits.

# Santa Clara County: Unintentional suffocation

## Annual economic cost of suffocation

Costs	Deaths (N=13)	Hospitalizations (N=87)	ED visits (N=41)
Medical	\$264,000	\$6,551,000	\$68,000
Work loss	\$9,298,000	\$2,728,000	\$57,000
Combined	\$9,562,000	\$9,278,000	\$125,000

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 Death Statistical Master File; Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2013 Emergency Department Data and 2013 Patient Discharge Data; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2014

Note: For annual economic costs, data are for non-fatal hospitalizations and non-fatal treat and release ED visits only and so may not match numbers reported in other tables and graphs. Costs are indexed to 2013 U.S. prices for hospitalizations and ED visits and 2013 California prices for deaths.

## Technical notes

Suffocation is defined as the inhalation, aspiration, or ingestion of food or other object that blocks the airway or causes suffocation; intentional or accidental mechanical suffocation due to hanging, strangulation, lack of air in a closed place, plastic bag or falling earth. This category does not include injury resulting from a foreign body that does not block the airway.<sup>2</sup> This fact sheet includes data only on unintentional suffocation; intentional suffocation is not included.

### Injury data are presented as counts and rates:

- Counts represent the total number of events (e.g., deaths, hospitalizations) that occur in a defined period of time, such as one year.
- Rates consist of the count divided by the number of people in the population at risk (e.g., Latinos in Santa Clara County), multiplied by a standard number (e.g., 100,000). When comparing data over time or between different populations, rates are often used instead of counts to make it possible to compare outcomes between populations that differ in size.
- Rates are “age-adjusted” to account for differences in the age profiles in populations over time or between different populations, in this case using weights corresponding to the 2000 U.S. population.
- Age-specific rates are similar to overall rates. Age-specific rates represent the number of cases in a specific age group, divided by the number of people in Santa Clara County in that age group and multiplied by a standard number (e.g., 100,000) to enable comparison between age groups that differ in size.
- Trends are generally presented as single-year estimates over time. However, in some Quick Facts, a “moving average” is presented, which consists of combining data for overlapping three-year periods. Moving averages stabilize fluctuations that can be misleading when counts from a specific type of injury are low from year to year.