



Recreation-Related Head Injuries

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
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In 2008, an estimated 95,600 people were treated at U.S. hospital emergency rooms for head injuries related to recreational and leisure activities; a slight decrease of 1,900 injuries from 2007 statistics. Increases were noted in several categories, including bleachers which saw the highest increase, by 1,590 injuries. Thousands of additional head injuries are related to sports activities (not included here). Many injuries can be avoided by following proper safety precautions. Supervise younger children at all times and do not let them use playgrounds with hard surface grounds or products inappropriate for their age. Perform regular safety checks on playgrounds and toys. Follow all rules and warning signs at water parks, amusement parks, and campgrounds. Read and follow instructions on product packaging.

Top 15 Recreation/Leisure-Related Head Injuries by Product

Product Category	Estimated Injuries
1. Toys (all toy categories combined)	15,793
2. Swimming/Wading Pools, Pool Equipment	11,506
3. Swings or Swing Sets	11,471
4. Televisions	10,384
5. Monkey Bars or other Playground Climbing Equipment	7,815
6. Slides, Sliding Boards, See Saws, Teeter Boards	5,969
7. Playground Equipment (unspecified or other)	5,592
8. Bleachers	4,824
9. Recliners and Rocking Chairs	3,843
10. Radios, Stereo Equipment, Musical Instruments	3,694
11. Riding Toys (powered and unpowered)	3,182
12. Computers	2,504
13. Amusement Park Attractions	2,046
14. Wagons	1,991
15. Water Slides	1,632

Table source: American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Based on statistics provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Directorate for Epidemiology; National Injury Information Clearinghouse; National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Product Summary Report—Head Injuries Only—Calendar Year 2008.