

# **2015 Children’s Camp Incident Summary Report**

## **New York State Department of Health**

### **Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection**

In 2015, local health departments (LHD) reported 2,529 regulated children's camps operated in New York State (NYS). Of these, 535 were overnight camps and 1,994 were day camps, including 247 municipal day camps and 28 traveling summer day camps. It is estimated that over 900,000 children attend NYS children's camps each year.

To assess the health and safety at camps, a children's camp incident surveillance system is maintained. Camp operators are required to report serious injuries, illnesses, potential rabies exposures, administrations of epinephrine, and allegations of camper abuse to LHDs. These incidents are investigated by LHDs and information is entered into the New York State Department of Health’s Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System. A total of 1,090 incidents (1,414 victims), meeting Subpart 7-2 of the New York State Sanitary Code (SSC) criteria for reportable incidents, were reported statewide in 2015 (Figure 1), indicating that less than two-tenths of 1% of camper’s experienced injury and illness while at camp. Statewide analysis of the data is used for injury prevention and control and has been used to amend the SSC and develop administrative guidance. The following summarizes the 2015 reportable incidents.

#### **Injuries:**

There were 860 injuries reported during the 2015 camp season. This represents an eight percent increase compared to 2014 and a five percent decrease compared to the 15-year average of reportable injuries occurring at children’s camps (Figure 2). Figures 3 through 16 provide details as to the types of injuries sustained and activities at the time of the injury during the 2015 camp season. Injuries reported are those that meet the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the SSC including:

- Camper injuries that result in:
  - death or require resuscitation;
  - admission to a hospital (treatment in the emergency room (ER) is not considered admission to a hospital);
  - eye, head, neck or spine injuries which require referral to a hospital or other facility for medical treatment;
  - bone fractures or dislocations;
  - lacerations that require sutures, staples or medical glue; or
  - second or third degree burns to 5 percent or more of the body.
  
- Staff injuries which result in death, require resuscitation, or admission to a hospital (treatment in the ER is not considered admission to a hospital).

There was one nonfatal drowning reported involving a camper with developmental disabilities. At the time of the incident, the camper was swimming in water approximately 3.5 feet deep. He was a non-swimmer, using a “pool noodle” as a flotation aid and had a counselor in the water assigned to provide one to one supervision. The camper’s assigned counselor left his side to aid another camper. Upon the counselor’s return, which was reported to be brief, he spotted the camper on the bottom of the pool. The counselor pulled the camper to the surface and called the lifeguards for help. Lifeguards removed the camper from the water. He was cyanotic, unconscious, and not breathing, but had a pulse.

Lifeguards performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency medical services (EMS) were called. The camper was revived at the scene and transported by helicopter to a hospital, where he made a full recovery. The lack of supervision by the camper’s assigned counselor was identified as a contributing factor for this incident.

**Illnesses and Illness Outbreaks:**

The table below details the camper and staff illnesses suspected of being water-, food-, or air-borne, or spread by contact. There was a total of 356 individual illnesses and 33 illness outbreaks reported during the 2015 camping season (Figures 17 – 18). Illness outbreaks are detailed in the table below.

Outbreak Type		Number of Outbreaks	Number Ill
Acute Illness	Viral Meningitis	1	2
Eye Infection	Conjunctivitis	5	32
Gastrointestinal	E. coli 0157:H7	1	6
	Norovirus	3	53
	GI of Unknown Etiology	6	140
Parasitic	Head Lice	7	47
Respiratory Infection	Strep Throat	8	58
	Respiratory of Unknown Etiology	2	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>356</b>

**2015 Epinephrine Administrations:**

There were 22 incidents in which epinephrine was administered during the 2015 camping season (Figure 19). Of these, sixteen administrations were for food allergies, five administrations were necessary for bee stings, and one administration for an unknown allergen.

Epinephrine was administered in 13 instances where the camp was identified as participating in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector program. There were nine incidents requiring epinephrine administrations at camps not participating in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector program.

Of the total administrations, 11 epinephrine auto-injectors were from the camp’s supply, nine from the patient’s supply, one from EMS, and one from a hospital.

Approximately, 245 camps participated in the Epinephrine Auto-Injector Program in 2015.

**Rabies Exposures:**

There were nine reported bat-exposure incidents resulting in 31 potential camper and staff rabies exposures in the 2015 camping season (Figure 20). In six of these incidents, the bats were not captured, which resulted in 26 individuals being recommended for rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Eighteen individuals received PEP treatment and eight refused treatment. In the remaining three incidents, the bat was captured and tested negative for rabies, which resulted in PEP treatment being avoided for 5 individuals.

In addition to probable bat-exposures, there were 2 separate potential rabies exposures from a dog and a horse bite. PEP was not necessary in these incidents after 10 day observations of the animals ruled out rabies.

### **Allegations of Physical and Sexual Abuse:**

There were 11 allegations of physical and sexual abuse of campers reported during the 2015 camping season. Of these, five incidents were alleged physical abuse and six incidents were alleged sexual abuse. The alleged perpetrator was the maintenance worker in one incident, cleaning staff in one incident, another camper in three incidents, and a counselor in six incidents.

An allegation of abuse is investigated by law enforcement when it may contain a violation of the Penal Law. The LHD investigates all allegations to determine if the camp complied with supervision, staffing and other policies and procedures required by the Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code.

### **Justice Center Reportable Incidents:**

In 2015, there were 17 incidents at Camps for Children with Developmental Disabilities (enrollment of 20% or more campers with developmental disabilities) reported to the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center). Of these, nine incidents were classified as alleged abuse or neglect and investigated by the Justice Center. Five of the nine incidents were substantiated (1 abuse and 4 neglect).

Eight reports were classified as significant incidents and were investigated by LHDs for compliance with Subpart 7-2 of the SSC. Of these, three incidents resulted in minor injuries requiring more than first aid, two involved improper medical care of a camper, one involved lack of proper supervision, one involved inappropriate camper-to-camper contact, and one involved inappropriate use of restraint (Figure 21).

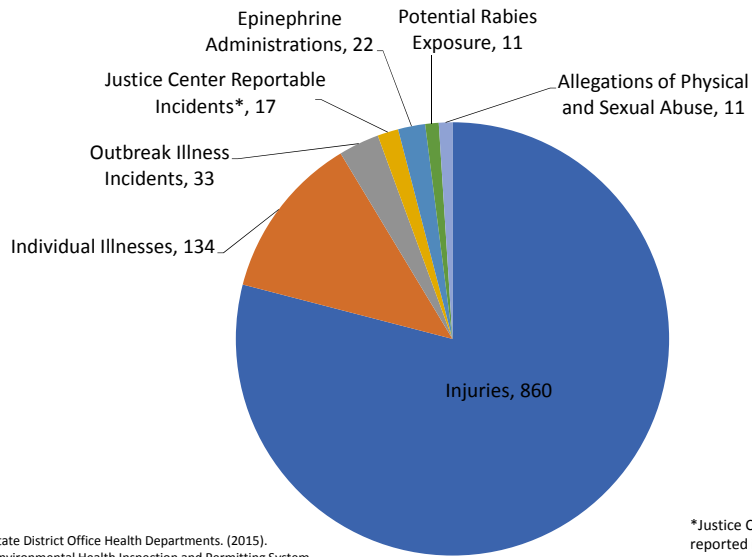
For the purpose of this summary report, Justice Center incidents may be reported in other categories, such as an injury, illness, or incident of alleged physical and sexual abuse if the incidents meet the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the SSC for a reportable incident.

### **Fatalities:**

There was one camper fatality reported at regulated children's camps during the 2015 season.

A 10-year old female camper died as a result of a medical event at a day camp. The incident occurred on the camper's first day at the camp while playing soccer. The camper informed camp staff that she was not feeling well and collapsed. The camper became unresponsive. Camp staff administered CPR and called 911. The camper was transported to an area hospital by EMS where she later died. The camper had no known pre-existing medical conditions.

**Figure 1: Children's Camp Incidents - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

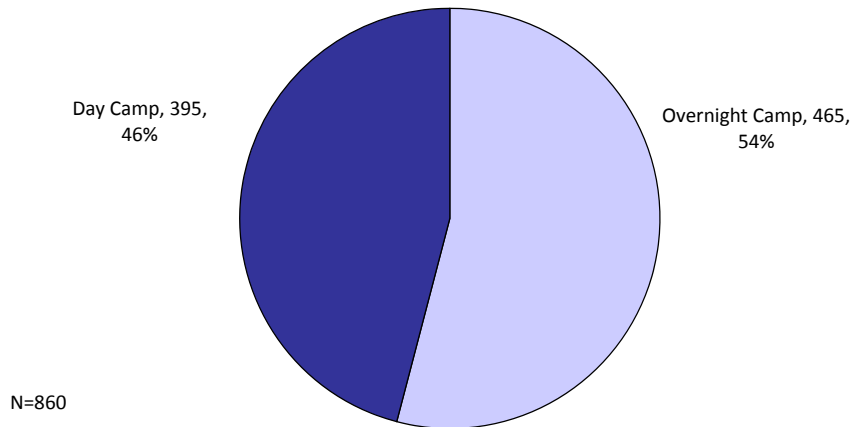
\*Justice Center Reportable Incidents may be reported in multiple categories

**Figure 2: Camp Injuries by Year**



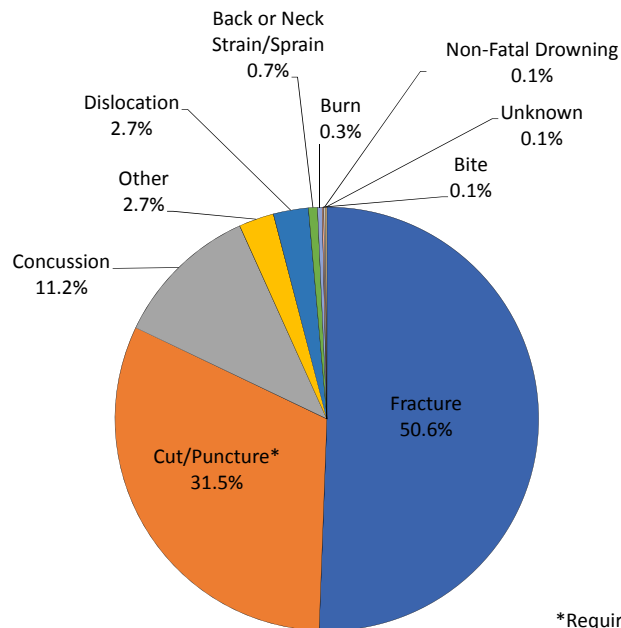
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 3: Injury Incidents by Camp Type - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 4: Injuries by Type - 2015**

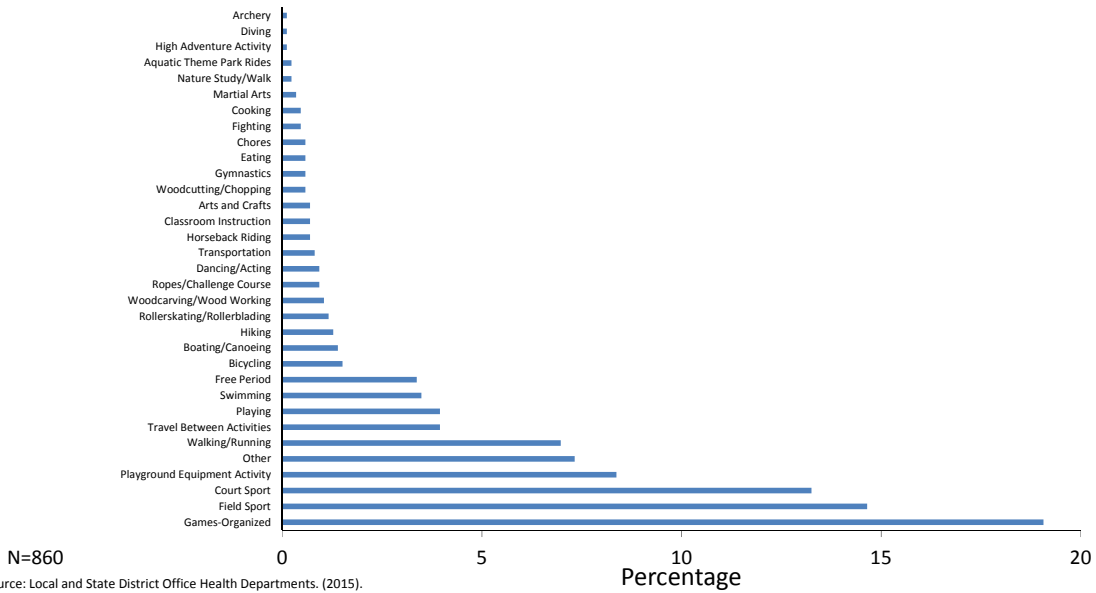


N=860

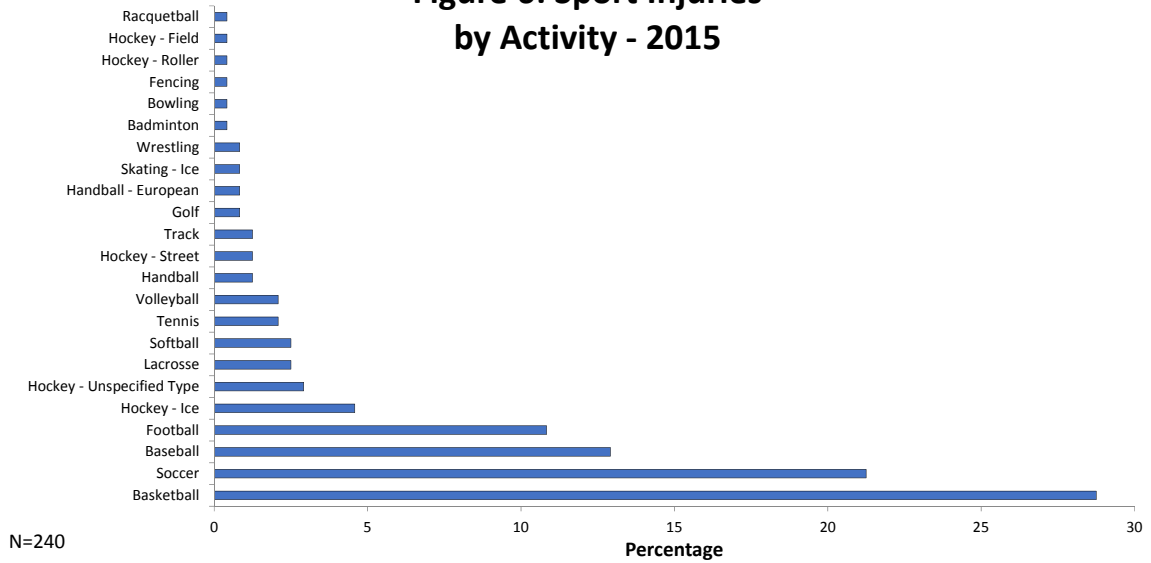
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

\*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

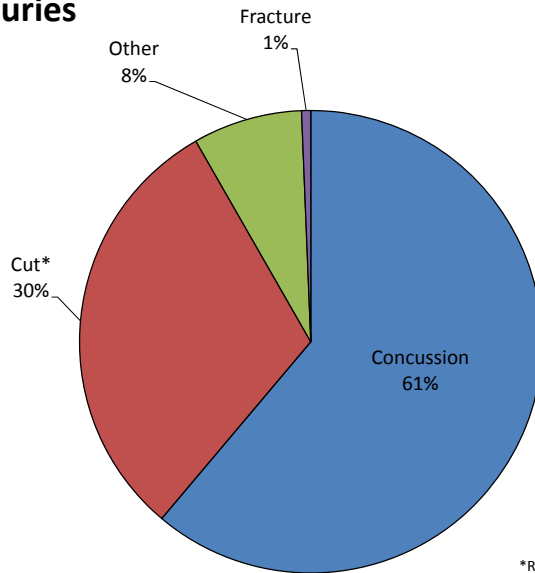
**Figure 5: Injuries by Activity - 2015**



**Figure 6: Sport Injuries by Activity - 2015**



**Figure 7: Head Injuries by Type - 2015**

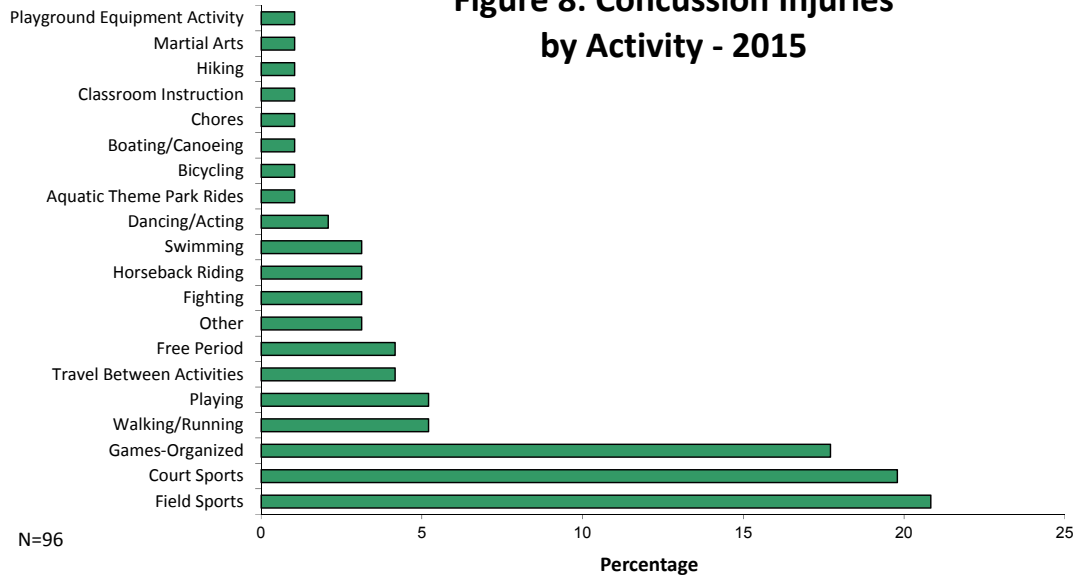


N=157

\*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 8: Concussion Injuries by Activity - 2015**

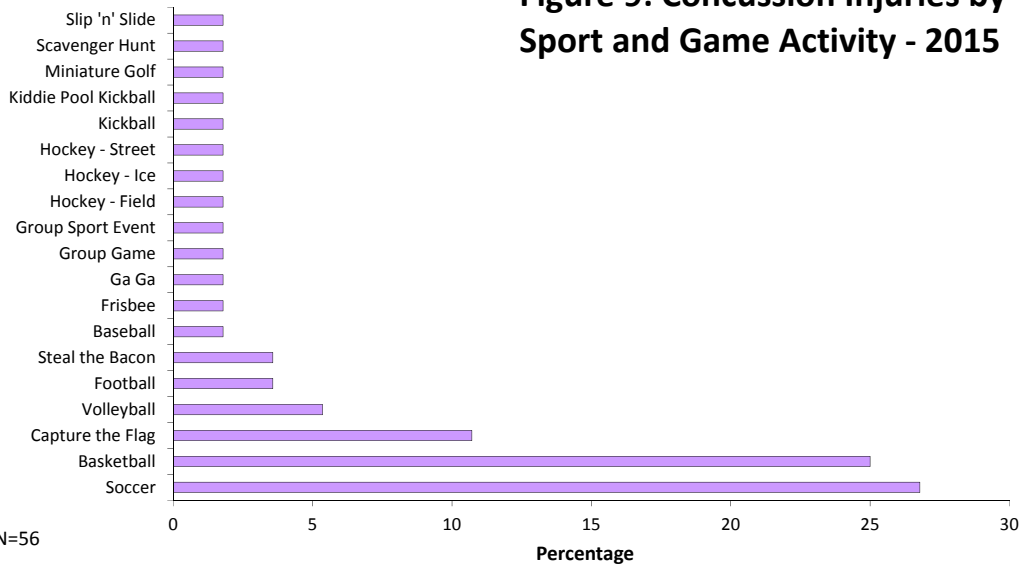


N=96

Percentage

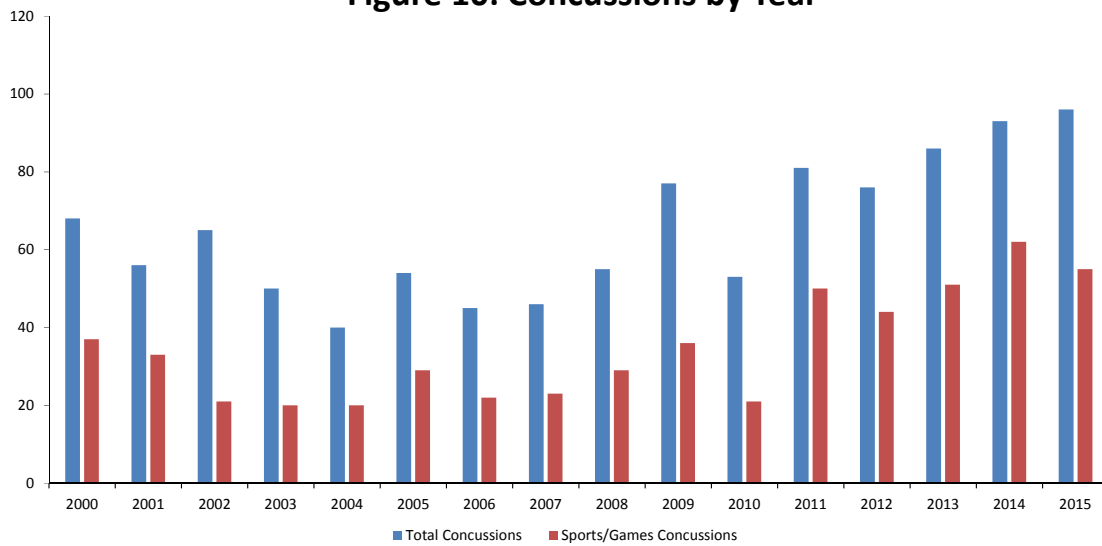
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 9: Concussion Injuries by Sport and Game Activity - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

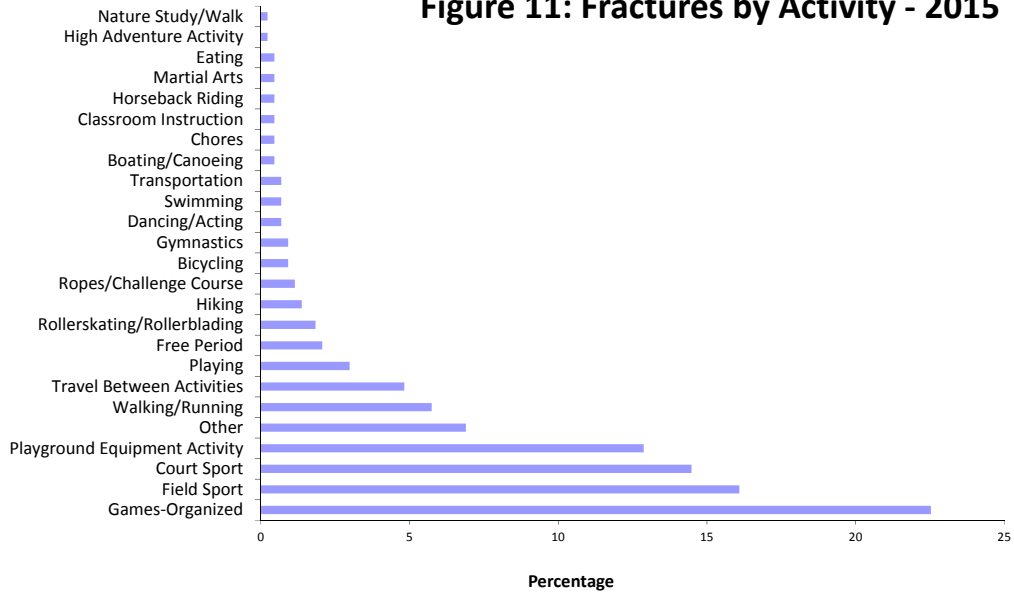
**Figure 10: Concussions by Year**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

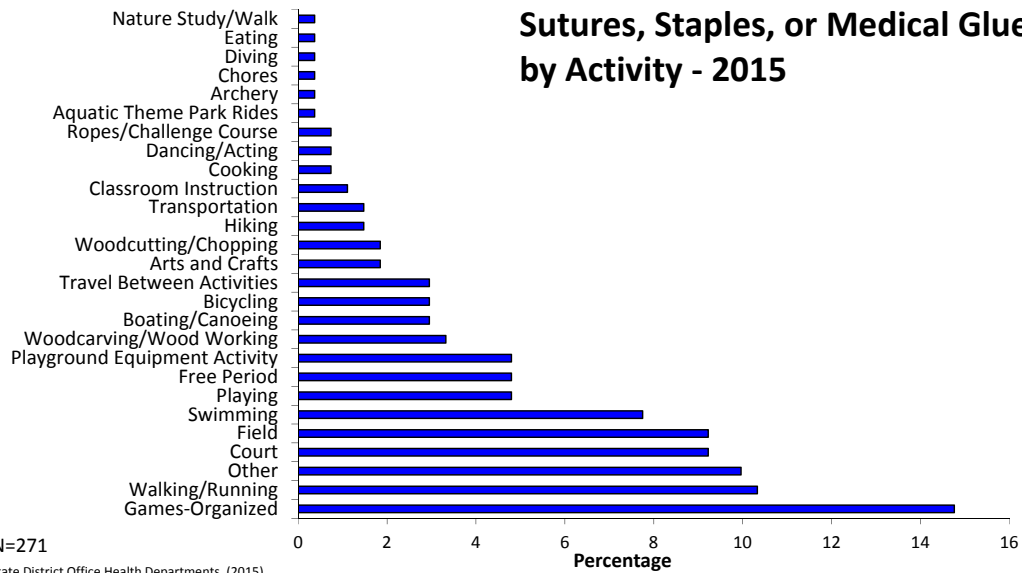


**Figure 11: Fractures by Activity - 2015**



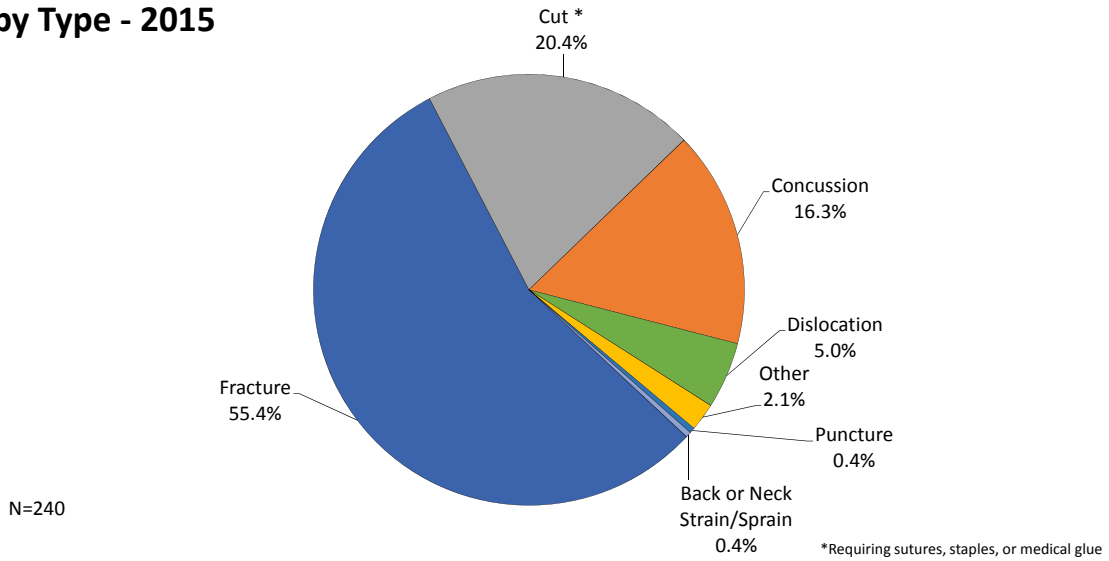
N=435  
 Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 12: Cuts Requiring Sutures, Staples, or Medical Glue by Activity - 2015**



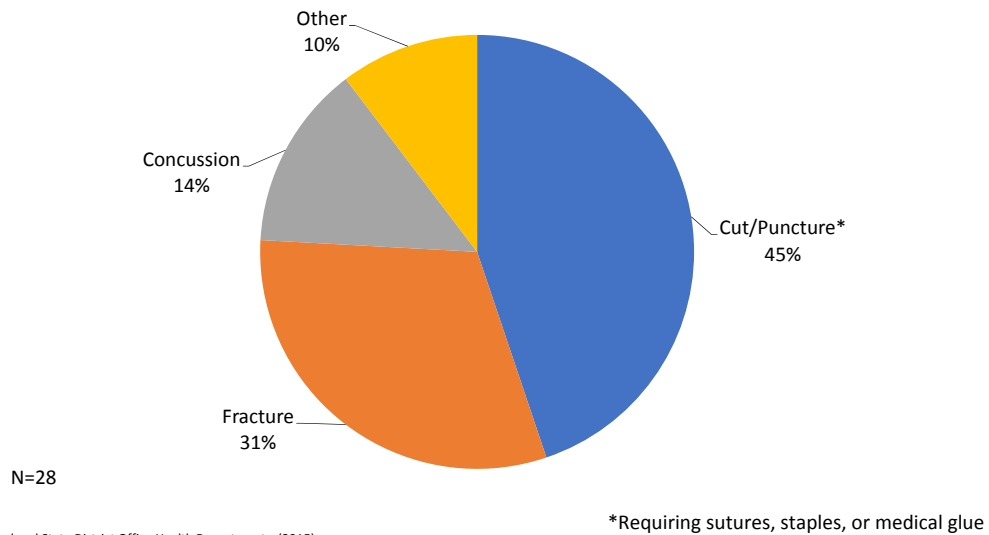
N=271  
 Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 13: Sports Injuries by Type - 2015**



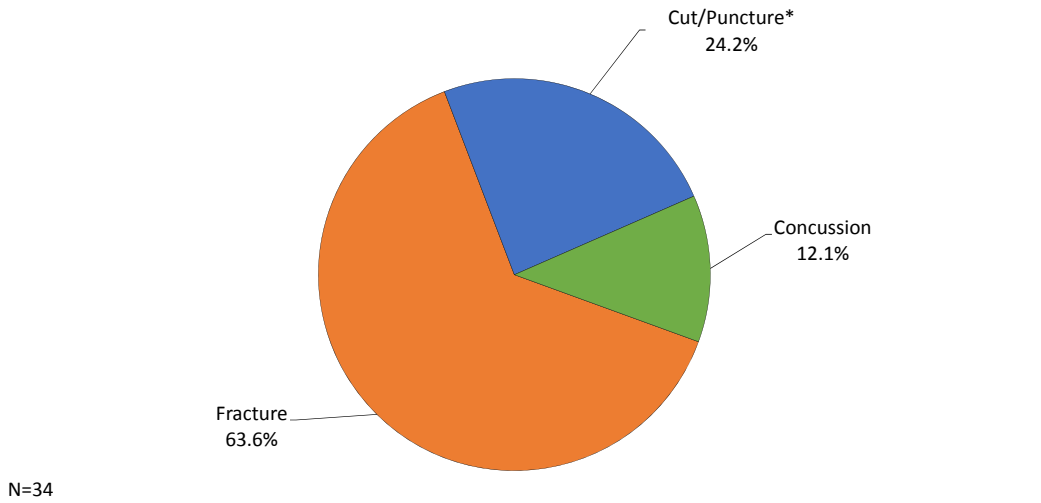
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 14: Free Period Injuries by Type - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
 NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 15: Travel between Activities Injuries - 2015**

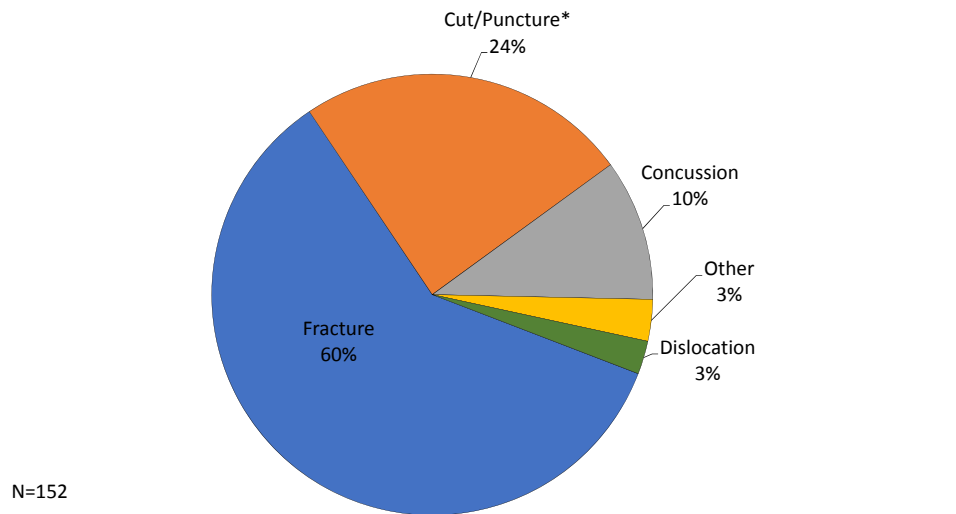


N=34

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

\*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

**Figure 16: Organized Game Injuries - 2015**

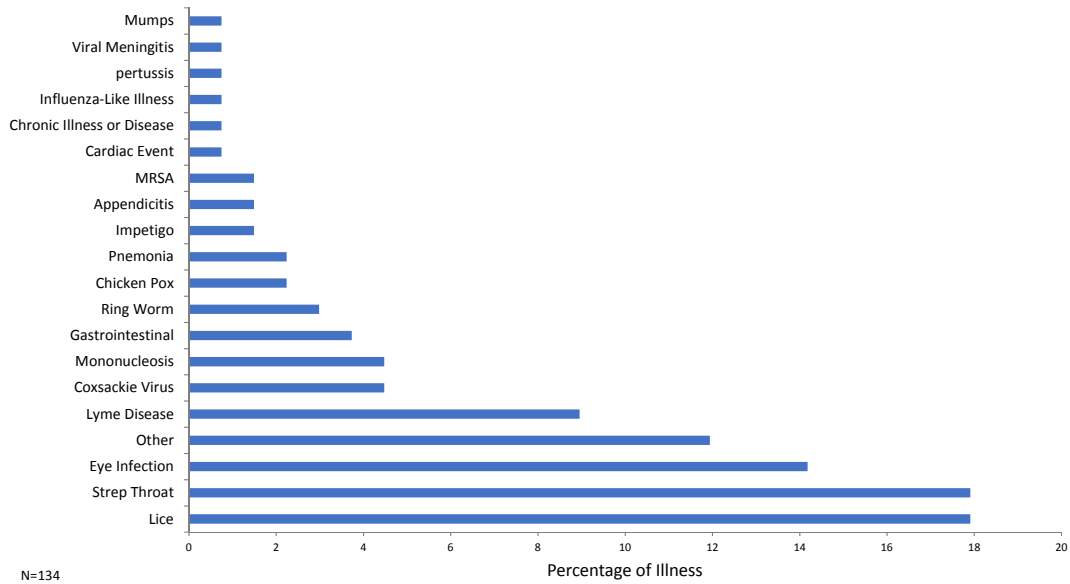


N=152

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

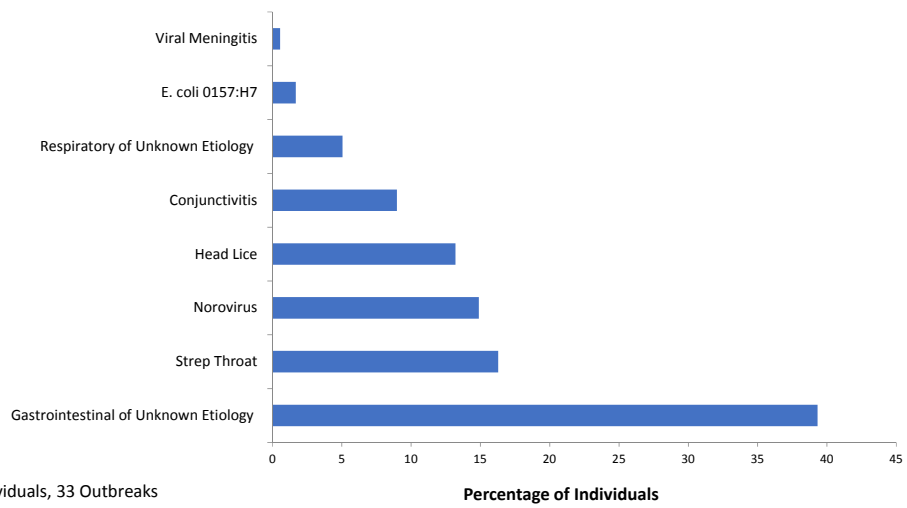
\*Requiring sutures, staples, or medical glue

**Figure 17: Individual Illnesses - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 18: Outbreak Illnesses - 2015**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 19: Epi-Pen Administrations by Year**



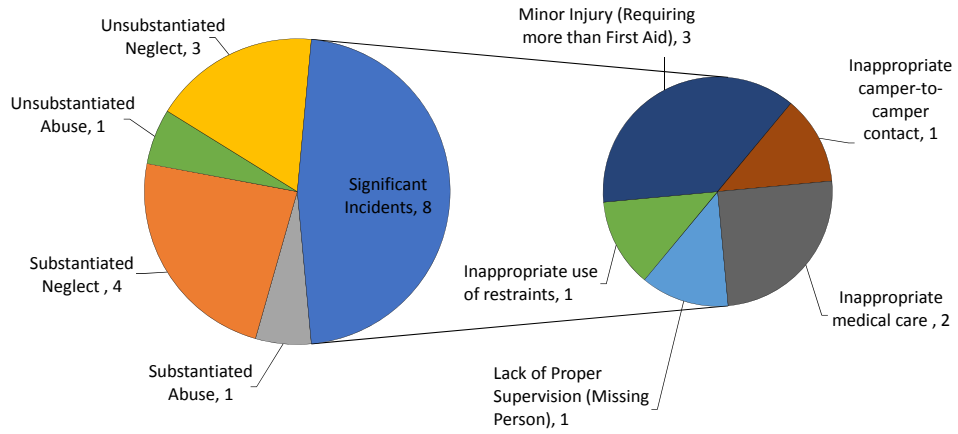
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 20: Potential Rabies Exposures by Year**



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015).  
NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System

**Figure 21: Justice Center Reportable Incidents - 2015**



N=17

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments. (2015). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Inspection and Permitting System