



DURHAM  
REGION

HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

# Injury Rates in Durham Region

(2015–2024)

---



## KEY STATISTICS

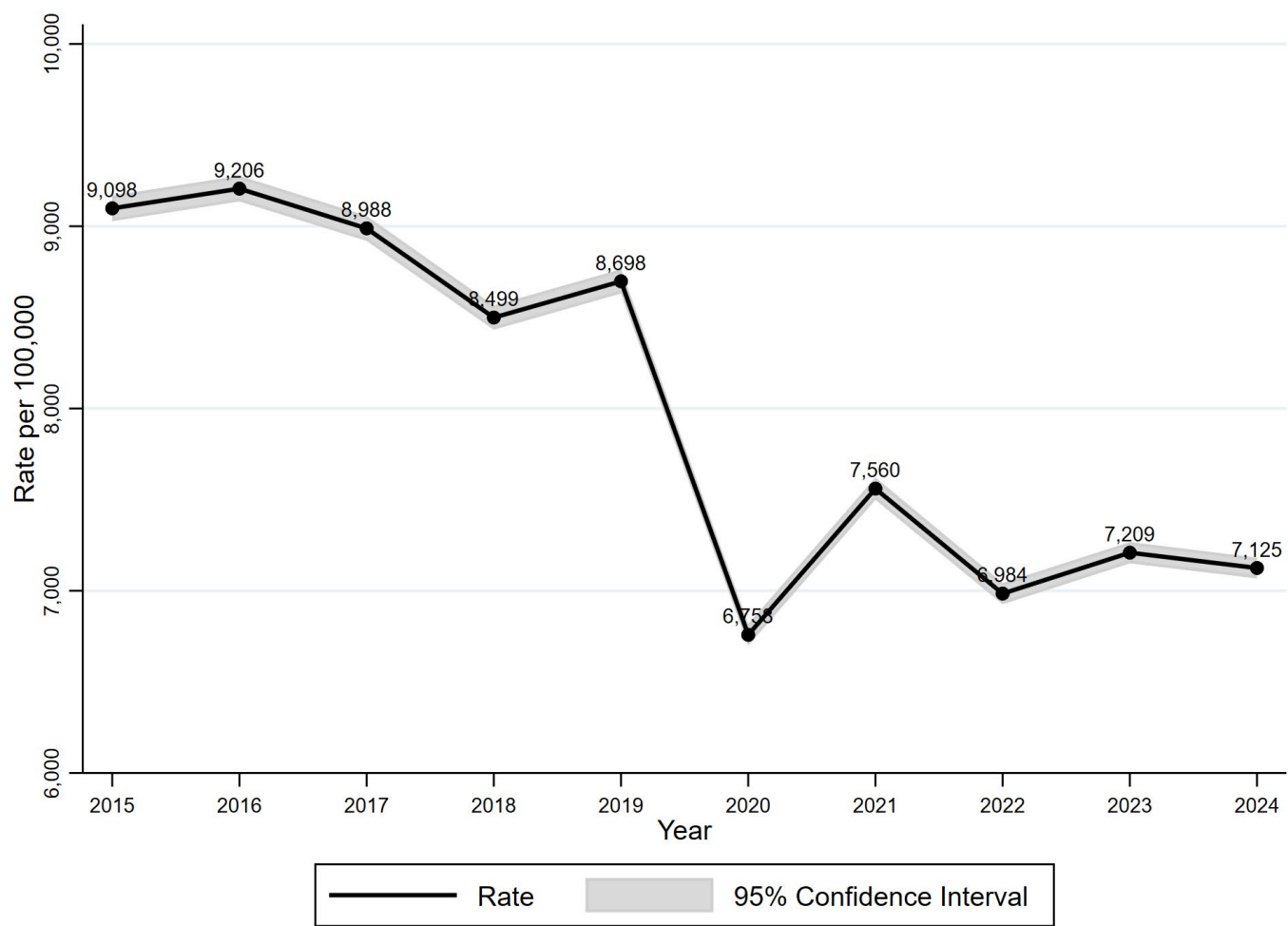
- All-cause injury emergency department visit rates reached a high of **9,206** visits per 100,000 people in 2016 and declined to a low of **6,758** per 100,000 in 2020.
- By 2024, the all-cause injury rate was **7,125** per 100,000 people, approximately **23%** lower than the 2016 peak.
- MVC injury rates were highest in 2016 with **631** per 100,000 people and decreased to **392** per 100,000 people in 2020.
- By 2024, MVC injury rates increased to **475** per 100,000 people but remained below pre-pandemic levels.



# All-Cause Injury Emergency Department Visits

Age-standardized rates of all-cause injury emergency department visits remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2019, ranging from 8,499 to 9,206 visits per 100,000 people. The highest rate occurred in 2016 (9,206 per 100,000). Rates declined sharply in 2020 to 6,758 per 100,000 people and partially rebounded thereafter. Data from 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, the rate was 7,125 per 100,000 people.

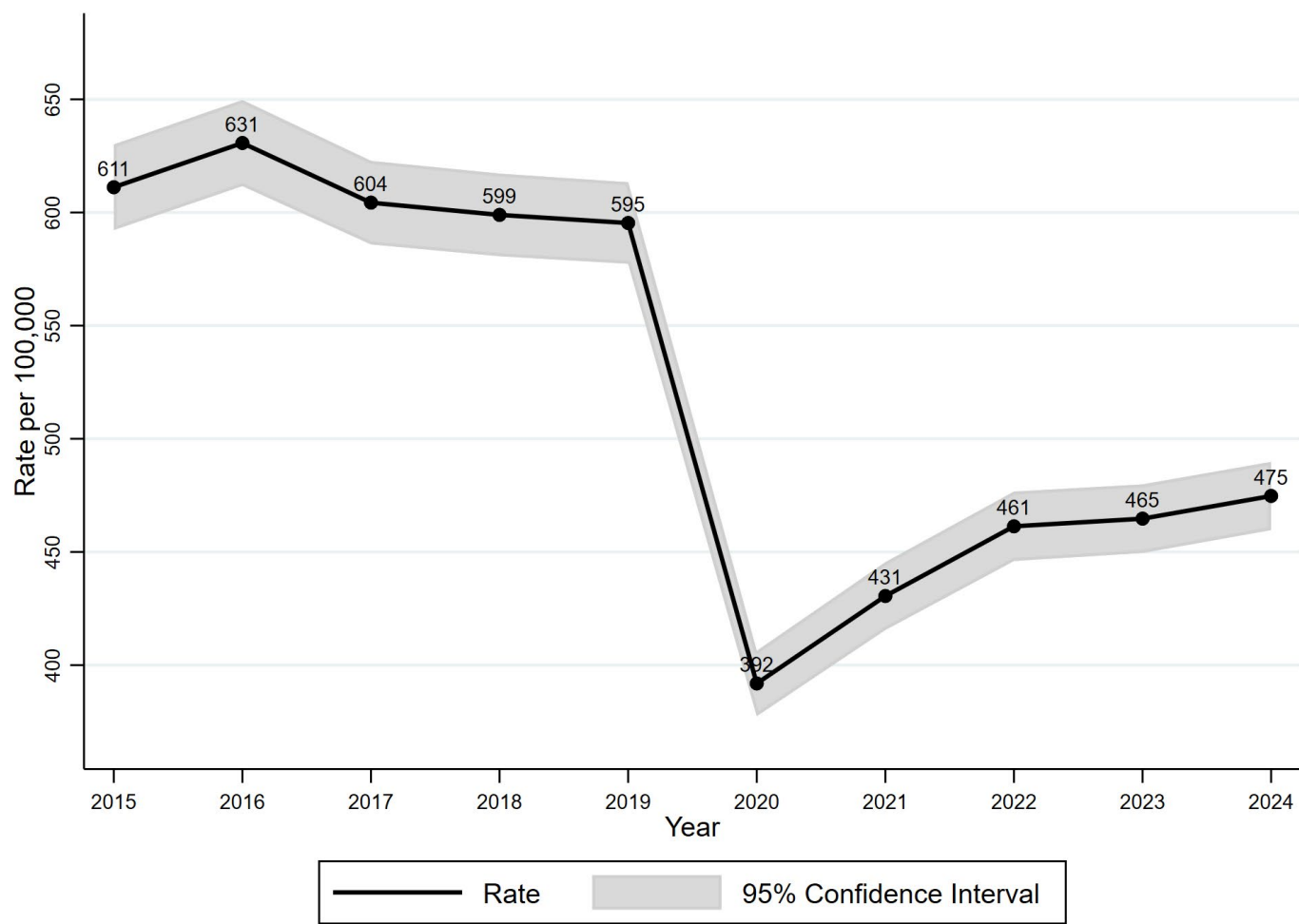
Age-standardized rate of all-cause injury emergency department visits, Durham Region, 2015–2024.



# Motor Vehicle Collision Injury Emergency Department Visits

MVC injury rates were relatively stable from 2015 to 2019, ranging from 595 to 631 per 100,000 people. Rates dropped substantially in 2020 to 392 per 100,000 people and subsequently increased each year, reaching 475 per 100,000 people in 2024. Data from 2020 and 2021 should be interpreted with caution due to changes in the availability of health care and health seeking behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Age-standardized rate of motor vehicle collision injury emergency department visits, Durham Region, 2015–2024.



Note: Y-axis does not start at zero to better highlight trends in the data.

# DATA NOTES

## Data Source

Emergency department (ED) visit data were obtained from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for Durham Region from 2015 to 2024. ED visit data are collected by CIHI on a fiscal year basis.

The primary diagnosis represents the patient's main problem (MP). External cause codes (e-codes) are used to classify the environmental events, circumstances, and conditions responsible for injuries but are not used as the main problem diagnosis. External cause codes were used to identify injury mechanisms, including motor vehicle collision-related injuries. Results are reported as counts and rates of ED visits.

## Indicator Definitions

Injuries were identified using records containing both an injury diagnosis code and a corresponding external cause code.

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Canada (ICD-10-CA) code lists were informed by methodologies developed by APHEO and Public Health Ontario. Additional codes were included where appropriate to improve the capture of unintentional and undetermined injury events. Indicators were developed for:

- All-Cause injuries: V01-X59; Y85-Y86; X60-Y09; Y870-Y871; Y10-Y34
- Motor vehicle collision-related injuries: V02-V04; V090; V092; V12-V14; V190-192; V194-196; V20-V79; V803-805; V809; V810-811; V820-821; V828; V83-V86; V870-V878; V880-V888; V890; V892

## Data Processing and Analysis

Analyses were restricted to injury diagnosis codes S00-T79. Records with diagnoses coded as T80-T88 (complications of surgical and medical care) and T90-T98 (sequelae of injuries, poisoning, and other consequences of external causes) were excluded.

Population estimates were used to calculate annual rates. Age-standardized rates were calculated using the 2021 Canadian standard population to allow comparisons over time while minimizing the influence of changes in population age structure.

## Interpretation Considerations

Rates are expressed per 100,000 people. Age-standardized ED visit rates represent the number of ED visits per 100,000 that would occur if the population had the same age distribution as the 2021 Canadian population.

Shifts observed in 2020 likely reflect pandemic-related changes in injury exposure, mobility patterns, and emergency department utilization. Data represent emergency department visits only and do not capture injuries treated in other healthcare settings or injuries for which care was not sought.



Durham Health Connection Line 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729  
[durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

**Dial 311** (within regional limits)



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.