

SCHOOL INJURIES

Facts about school injuries in Utah¹

- ▶ 6,200 students on average are injured per year.
- ▶ 5,200 school days are missed each year because of student injuries.
- ▶ There are 13.1 school injuries for every 1,000 students per year.
- ▶ 9-1-1 is called twice every school day because of a school injury.
- ▶ A student is hospitalized every other school day because of a school injury.

UTAH STUDENT INJURY REPORT DATA SCHOOL YEARS 2001-02 TO 2005-06 GRADES K-12

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM¹

WHO

- Number of school injuries peaks in 6th and 7th grade.
- Injuries occur more often to males (61%).

WHAT

- 31,083 student injuries.
- 26,060 school days missed due to school injuries.
- 1,584 calls to 9-1-1 due to school injuries.
- 418 hospitalizations due to school injuries.

WHERE

- Most common body areas injured:
head (17%), arm (14%), fingers (13%), and wrist (12%).
- Most common locations for injuries:
playground/playfield (40%), gym (15%), and classroom (8%).

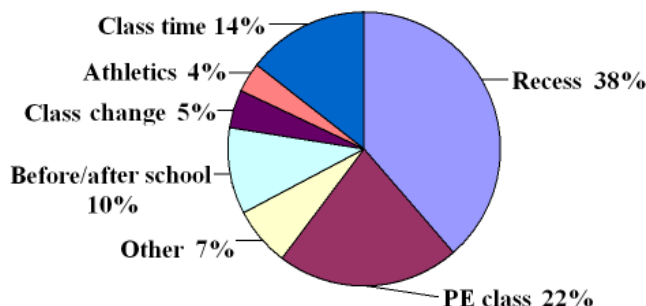
WHY

- Most common activities for injuries:
running (13%), playing on bars (11%), walking (10%),
classroom activity (7%), and basketball (7%).

WHEN

- Most injuries occurred during recess, PE, and class time.

**Utah School Injuries by Period
2001-02 to 2005-06**



PREVENTION TIPS²

- Train all school staff and faculty in basic injury prevention.
- Create a school safety committee to review problems and discuss injury prevention.
- Provide written safety and behavior policies that give consequences for rulebreakers.
- Actively supervise all student activities. This includes observing, listening to students, anticipating and responding to unsafe situations, and promoting positive behaviors.

Criteria for reportable injuries: Any injury severe enough to cause the loss of one-half day or more of school and/or warrants medical attention (e.g., nurse, M.D., ER staff, etc.).

UTAH SCHOOL INJURY EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1: A 5th grader was running in the classroom when she tripped over another student's backpack. She cut her mouth on a desk and received stitches.

PREVENTION: Look for potential injury hazards and fix immediately. Establish and enforce safety guidelines in the classroom.

EXAMPLE 2: During class, a 5th grade boy went to sit down when another student pulled the chair out from under him. He hit his head on the chair and needed stitches to close the head wound.

PREVENTION: Educate students about the importance of safety. Establish and enforce safety guidelines in the classroom. Provide adequate supervision of students.

EXAMPLE 3: A 7th grader was running in the hall when he collided into a 7th grade girl and broke her collarbone.

PREVENTION: Establish and enforce safety rules for all school areas.

EXAMPLE 4: A 5th grade boy was swinging during lunch recess when the swing broke and he fell. The student received medical attention and a CT scan to rule out a head injury. He missed 2 days of school.

PREVENTION: Regularly inspect and maintain school equipment.

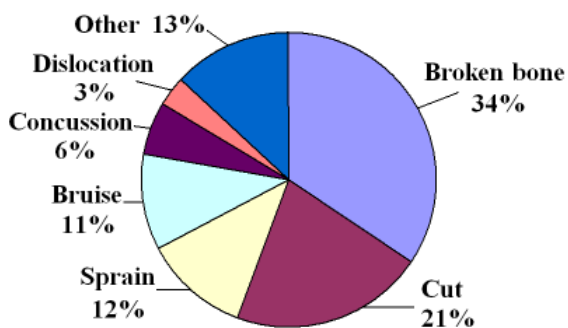
EXAMPLE 5: PE class was in session on the athletic field while the lawn was being cut. The mower hit an object in the grass and projected it into the air striking a 9th grader's face. The boy suffered a fractured nose and cheek and needed 50 stitches to close the wound. He missed 3 days of school.

PREVENTION: Ensure that instruction takes place in a safe environment. Identify and correct any possible hazards.

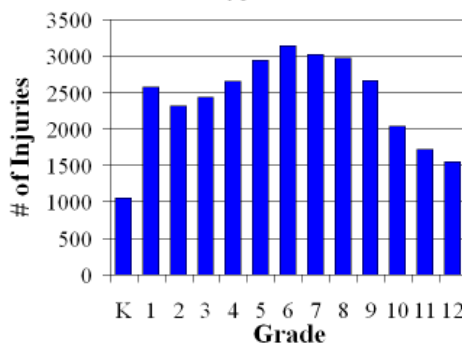
PREVENTION TIPS²

- Train all staff in first aid and CPR.
- Inspect the entire campus for safety hazards and correct any immediately.
- Teach safety at all grade levels and in multiple school activities and classes.
- Implement proper classroom management and discipline, and reinforce positive student behaviors.
- Train and support all staff members to be positive role models for a healthy and safe lifestyle.
- Make sure sports programs include: personal protective equipment, conditioning, enforcement of safety rules, adult supervision, and an emergency medical plan.
- Involve students, parents, and the community in injury prevention programs and policies.
- Collect, review, and report information on all school-related injuries.

Utah School Injuries by Severity
2001-02 to 2005-06



Utah School Injuries by Grade
2001-02 to 2005-06



Schools can promote the adoption of lifelong injury prevention skills through strategies that provide opportunities to practice and reinforce safe behaviors. However, education interventions alone cannot produce major reductions in injury.

Effective school-based injury prevention efforts address policies and procedures, staff development, the physical environment of the school, and the curriculum in a coordinated manner.³

1. Utah Department of Health VIPP Student Injury Report Database.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. School Health Guidelines to Prevent Unintentional Injuries and Violence. *MMWR* 2001;50(No. RR-22).

3. Sleet DA. *Injury Prevention*. Vol. 1. Santa Cruz, CA:ETR Associates, 1994:443-489.