

Injury among Residents of La Paz County, Arizona 2007

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Injury is a public health problem that impacts the lives of thousands of Arizona residents each year. Chronic pain, disability, large medical bills, changes in quality of life, and premature death are just some of the possible effects of injuries. These effects can extend beyond injured individuals to their families and communities. With non-fatal injuries, family members are often required to provide care, which can result in time away from work, loss of income, and increases in stress within the family. At the community level, the financial burden of injuries can include medical expenses, rehabilitation, lost wages, and lost productivity. Most injuries are predictable and preventable. Understanding the causes of injury is an important step toward reducing injury-related morbidity and mortality.

The following report identifies the leading causes of injury among residents of La Paz County in 2007. This report is intended to be used as a guide for strategy development, program implementation, and evaluation. The Arizona Department of Health Services Injury Prevention Program operates under the vision of reducing injuries in Arizona using integrated surveillance and evidence-based interventions. This report was generated to increase awareness of county-specific injury issues and to facilitate opportunities for effective injury prevention activities.

Figure 1. Injury Pyramid for La Paz County Residents, Arizona 2007

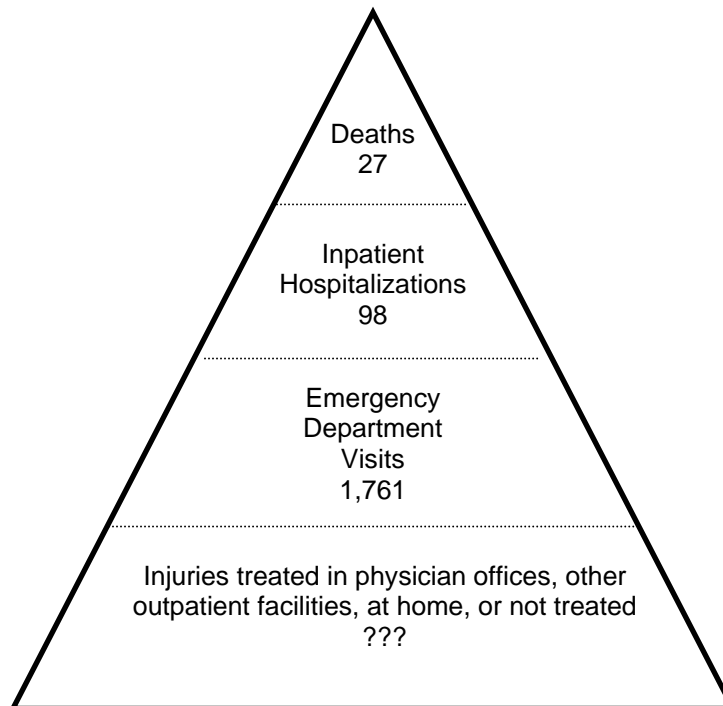


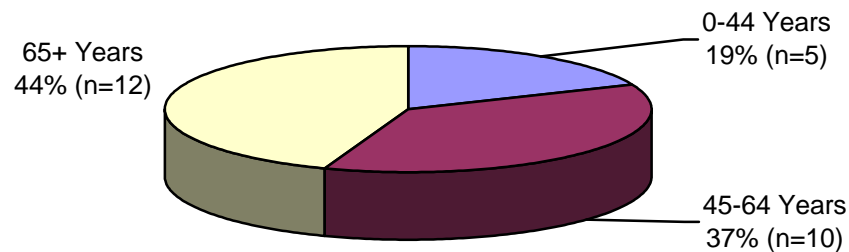
Figure 1 shows an injury pyramid for residents of La Paz County during 2007. This pyramid shows that deaths represent the smallest proportion of injuries. The proportions increase towards the foundation of the pyramid, which is comprised of

hospital discharges, emergency department visits, and self care. Although injuries that do not require medical treatment may be the most numerous, no existing datasets capture these types of injuries.

Deaths

In 2007, there were 27 injury-related deaths in La Paz County. Most of these deaths were among males (74 percent, n=20), and females accounted for 26 percent (n=7). The largest percentage of deaths was among individuals age 65 years and older (44 percent, n=12). There were no injury-related deaths to children 14 years and younger. Age distributions are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Injury-Related Deaths by Age Group, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=27)

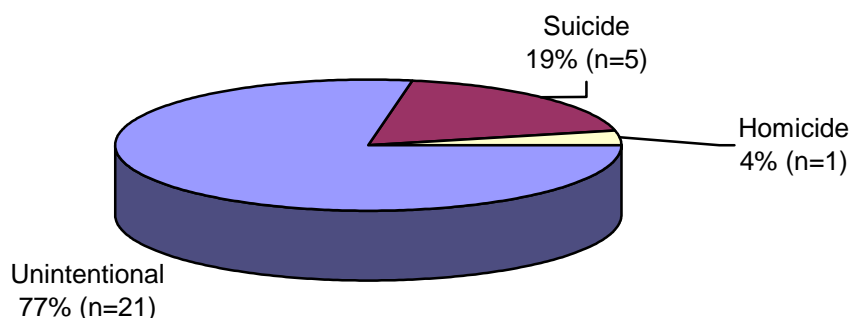


Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for the majority of injury-related deaths in La Paz County (70 percent, n=19), followed by Hispanics (19 percent, n=5). Rates by racial/ethnic groups could not be calculated due to small sample sizes.

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among individuals ages 1 to 44 years in La Paz County and in the state of Arizona as a whole.¹ Seventy-seven percent of injury-related deaths in La Paz County were due to unintentional injuries (n=21); 19 percent were suicides (n=5); and 4 percent were homicides (n=1). There were no injury-related deaths of undetermined intent in La Paz County during 2007. Figure 3 shows injury-related deaths by intent.

1. Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2007.

Figure 3. Injury-Related Deaths by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=27)



La Paz County Injury-Related Deaths Compared to Other Arizona Counties

Table 1 shows the intent of injury-related deaths for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related deaths was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related deaths. La Paz County had a smaller percentage of suicides (19 percent) than the remainder of Arizona (22 percent), and only 1 homicide.

La Paz County (n=27)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=4,506)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	77	Unintentional	65
Suicide	19	Suicide	22
Homicide	4	Homicide	11
Undetermined	0	Undetermined	3

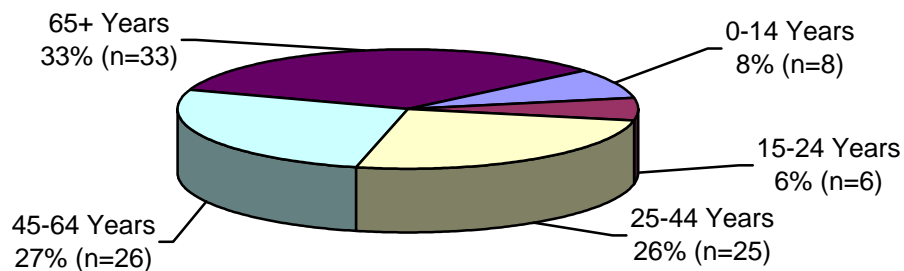
The most common cause of unintentional injury-related deaths was motor vehicle traffic crashes (57 percent, n=12). Nineteen percent of unintentional injury-related deaths were attributed to other or unspecified causes (n=4). Fourteen percent of unintentional injury deaths resulted from natural or environmental causes (n=3). Natural and environmental causes can include dehydration, animal bites, and insect stings. The causes of unintentional injury-related deaths during 2007 in La Paz County are shown in Table 2.

Cause	Number	Percent
Motor vehicle traffic	12	57%
Other/unspecified	4	19%
Natural/environmental	3	14%
Poisoning	2	10%
Total	21	100%

Non-Fatal Inpatient Hospitalizations

In 2007, there were 98 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of La Paz County. Fifty-seven percent were male (n=56) and 43 percent were female (n=42). Thirty-three percent of the hospitalizations were among individuals 65 years and older (n=33). Figure 4 shows injury-related inpatient hospitalizations by age group among residents of La Paz County.

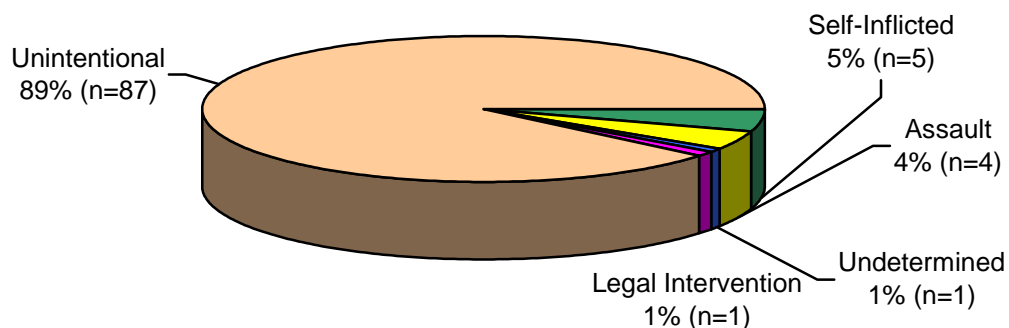
Figure 4. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations by Age Group, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=98)



There were 69 injury-related hospitalizations among White, Non-Hispanic residents of La Paz County (70 percent). The second highest number was among Hispanics (17 percent, n=17). Rates by racial/ethnic groups could not be calculated due to small sample sizes.

Eighty-nine percent of the inpatient hospitalizations were unintentional (n=87); 4 percent were assaults (n=4); 5 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=5); 1 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1); and 1 percent were due to legal intervention (n=1). Figure 5 shows injury-related hospitalizations by intent.

Figure 5. Injury-Related Inpatient Hospitalizations by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=98)



La Paz County Injury-Related Hospitalizations Compared to Other Arizona Counties

Table 3 shows the intent of injury-related hospitalizations for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. **The leading intent of injury-related hospitalizations was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related hospitalizations.** Overall, La Paz County had smaller percentages of hospitalizations due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults than the rest of Arizona.

La Paz County (n=98)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=32,477)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	89	Unintentional	83
Self-Inflicted	5	Self-Inflicted	9
Assault	4	Assault	7
Undetermined	1	Undetermined	2

The most common cause of unintentional inpatient hospitalizations was falls (36 percent, n=31). Table 4 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations among residents of La Paz County.

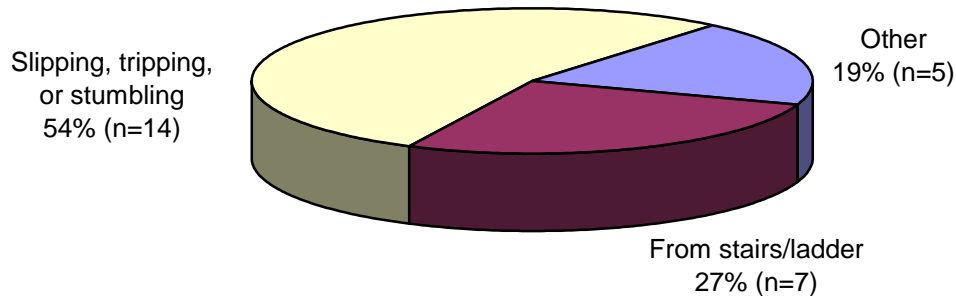
Cause	Number	Percent
Fall	31	36%
Motor vehicle traffic	17	20%
Other/unspecified	15	17%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	9	10%
Poisoning	8	9%
Fire/hot objects	7	8%
Total	87	100%

Falls

Males accounted for 48 percent of unintentional fall-related hospitalizations (n=15) and females accounted for 52 percent (n=16). Thirty-five percent of fall-related hospitalizations were among individuals 64 years and younger (n=11), and 65 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=20).

For 54 percent of the unintentional fall-related hospitalizations with a specified contributing event, slipping, tripping, or stumbling was specified (n=14). Falls from stairs or ladders accounted for 27 percent of the unintentional fall-related hospitalizations (n=7). Figure 6 shows unintentional fall-related hospitalizations by contributing event.

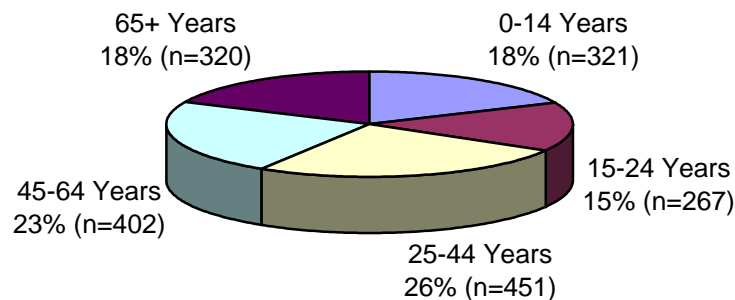
Figure 6. Inpatient Hospitalizations due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=26)



Non-Fatal Emergency Department Visits

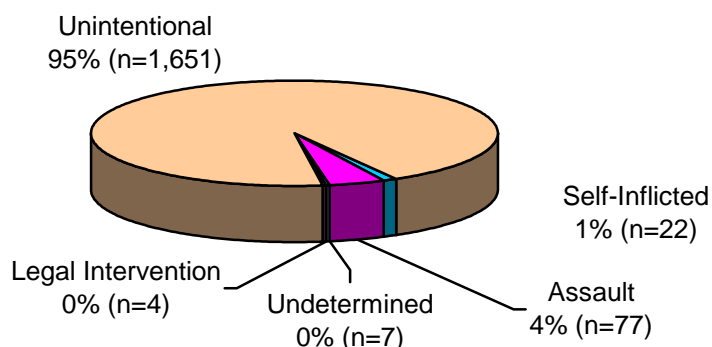
In 2007, there were 1,761 injury-related emergency department visits among residents of La Paz County. Males accounted for 53 percent of these visits (n=940) and females accounted for 47 percent (n=821). The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (26 percent, n=451). Figure 7 shows injury-related emergency department visits by age group.

Figure 7. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=1,761)



Nearly all of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (95 percent, n=1,651). Four percent were due to assaults (n=77) and 1 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=22). Four injury-related visits were due to legal intervention, and seven visits were of undetermined intent. Figure 8 shows emergency department visits by intent.

Figure 8. Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Intent, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=1,761)



La Paz County Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits Compared to Other Arizona Counties

Table 5 shows the intent of injury-related emergency department visits for residents of La Paz County compared to residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading intent of injury-related visits was unintentional for both La Paz County and the remaining counties, accounting for the majority of injury-related visits. La Paz County and the rest of Arizona had the same percentages of emergency department visits due to self-inflicted injuries and assaults.

Table 5. Intent of Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits, La Paz County Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2007			
La Paz County (n=1,761)		Arizona, excluding La Paz County (n=383,226)	
<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Intent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Unintentional	94	Unintentional	93
Self-Inflicted	1	Self-Inflicted	2
Assault	4	Assault	5
Undetermined	0	Undetermined	1

The most common cause of unintentional emergency department visits was falls (28 percent, n=454). Table 6 shows the causes of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits for La Paz County residents in 2007.

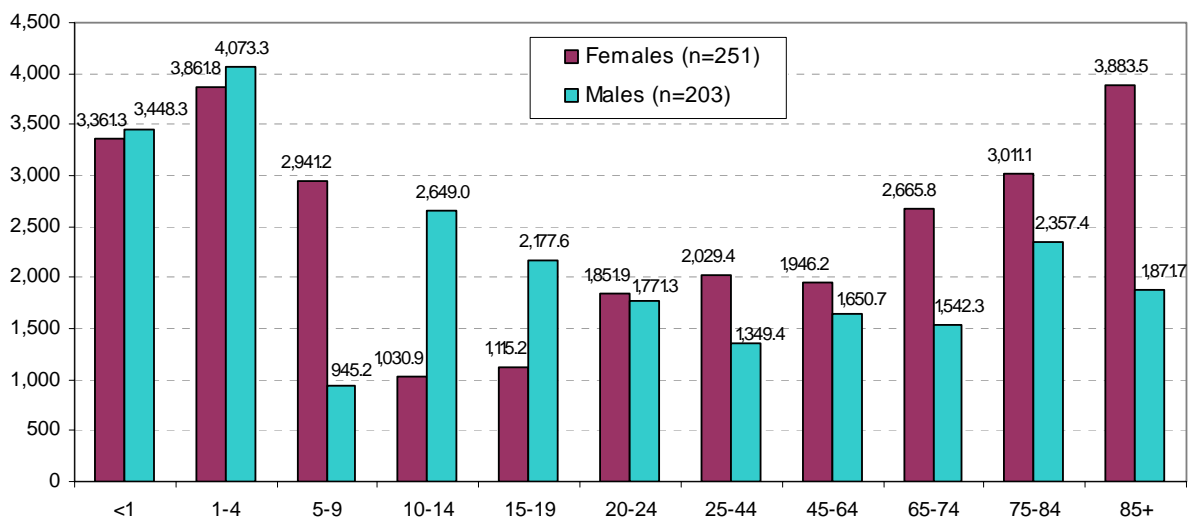
Cause	Number	Percent
Fall	454	28%
Other/unspecified	269	16%
Overexertion	244	15%
Struck by/against	197	12%
Cut/pierce	150	9%
Nature/environment	117	7%
Motor vehicle traffic	109	7%
Motor vehicle non-traffic	56	3%
Fire/hot object	31	2%
Poisoning	24	1%
Total	1,651	100%

Falls

There were 454 emergency department visits due to unintentional falls. Males accounted for 45 percent of these visits (n=203) and females accounted for 55 percent (n=251). Nineteen percent of visits were among children 14 years and younger (n=88); 9 percent were among individuals ages 15 to 24 years (n=40); 37 percent were among individuals ages 25 to 64 years (n=166); and 35 percent were among individuals 65 years and older (n=160).

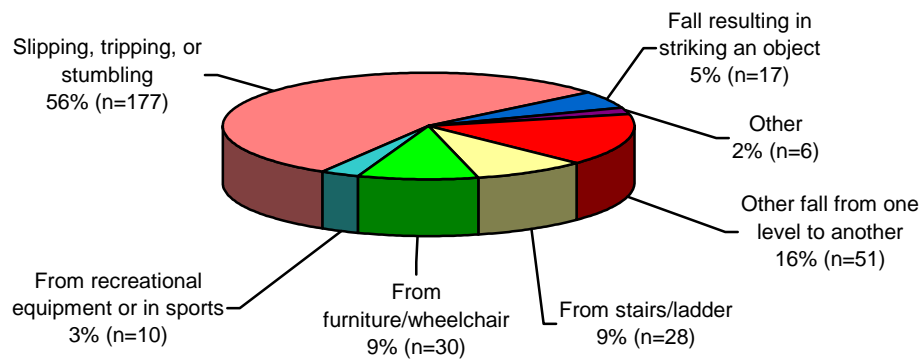
The highest rates of unintentional fall-related emergency department visits were among young children. Males ages 1 to 4 years had a rate of 4,073.3 fall-related emergency department visits per 100,000 residents. Figure 9 shows emergency department visit rates of unintentional falls by age group and sex.

Figure 9. Unintentional Fall-Related Emergency Department Visit Rates per 100,000, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=454)



For 30 percent of the unintentional fall-related emergency department visits, information regarding contributing event was not specified in the emergency department database (n=135). Among the emergency department visits for which contributing event was specified, 56 percent of falls were due to slipping, tripping, or stumbling (n=177). Figure 10 shows emergency department visits due to unintentional falls by contributing event.

Figure 10. Emergency Department Visits due to Unintentional Falls by Contributing Event, La Paz County, Arizona 2007 (n=319)



Summary

In 2007, there were 27 injury-related deaths in La Paz County, and the largest percentage of deaths was among individuals age 65 years and older (44 percent, n=12). The majority of these deaths were due to unintentional injuries (77 percent, n=21). The most common cause of unintentional injury deaths was motor vehicle traffic crashes (57 percent, n=12). For residents of La Paz County, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for individuals ages 1 to 44 years.¹ Nineteen percent of injury-related deaths in La Paz County were suicides (n=5) and 4 percent were homicides (n=1).

There were 98 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations due to injury among residents of La Paz County. Thirty-three percent of the hospitalizations were among individuals 65 years and older (n=33). Eighty-nine percent of the hospitalizations were due to unintentional injuries (n=87); 4 percent were due to assaults (n=4); 5 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=5); 1 percent were of undetermined intent (n=1); and 1 percent were due to legal intervention (n=1). The most common cause of unintentional injury-related hospitalizations was falls (36 percent, n=31).

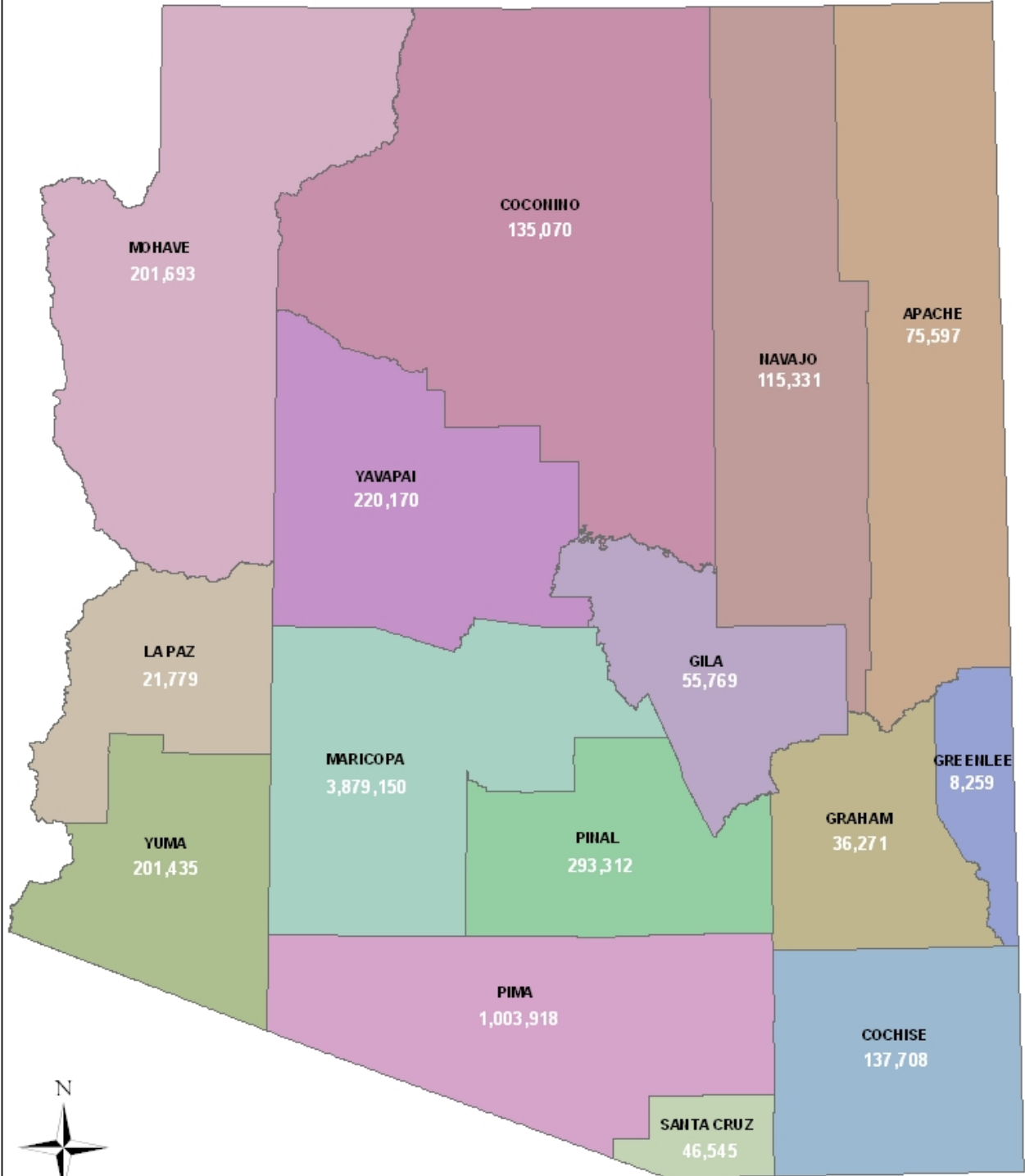
There were 1,761 injury-related non-fatal emergency department visits among residents of La Paz County in 2007. The largest percentage of visits was among individuals ages 25 to 44 years (26 percent, n=451). Ninety-five percent of the emergency department visits were due to unintentional injuries (n=1,651); 4 percent were due to assaults (n=77); and 1 percent were due to self-inflicted injuries (n=22). There were four injury-related visits due to legal intervention and seven visits were of undetermined intent. The most common cause of unintentional injury-related emergency department visits was falls (28 percent, n=454).

Source for deaths: 2007 Death Certificate Database

Source for hospitalizations: 2007 Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database

Source for emergency department visits: 2007 Outpatient Emergency Department Database

Arizona Counties with Population, 2007



1 in = 44 miles
Source: Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2007