

Unintentional Injuries

While we have made great progress in reducing motor-vehicle fatalities in recent years, deaths from other types of injury have been on the rise. Drug overdoses, particularly from prescription painkillers, now kill as many as 46 people each day in the U.S. Deaths from falls among older persons have also increased, as our aging population grows. Together, drug poisonings (of any intent) and older-adult falls claimed more than 18,500 additional lives in 2012, compared to 2005.

Trends in Unintentional Injuries

Age-Adjusted Death rate (per 100,000 persons)	Baseline 2005	Status 2012	Progress
All unintentional injuries (motor-vehicle crashes, falls among older adults, and drug poisonings)	39.5	39.1	▲
• Motor vehicle	15.2	11.4	●
• Drug poisonings (any intent)	10.1	13.1	■
• Older adult falls (age 65+)	42.3	55.3	■



Trend in wrong direction



Insufficient Progress



Progress



5% of all deaths attributed to unintentional injuries

130,000
deaths



caused by unintentional injuries each year



\$99.0
BILLION

annual cost associated with motor vehicle injuries alone, from medical care, rehabilitation and lost wages



1 in 3

motor vehicle deaths caused by drinking and driving