



**County of San Diego  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Emergency Medical Services**

**Prehospital Annual Report**

**July 1, 2000  
through  
June 30, 2001**

County of San Diego  
Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

Walter F. Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

Rodger G. Lum, Ph.D., Director,  
Health and Human Services Agency

Nancy L. Bowen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Public Health Officer

Gwen Jones, Chief  
Emergency Medical Services

**August 2003**

# **Prehospital Annual Report**

**July 1, 2000  
through  
June 30, 2001**



# County of San Diego

RODGER G. LUM, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR

GEORGE R. FLORES, M.D., M.P.H.  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417  
(619) 515-6505. FAX (619) 515-6707

Children, Youth & Family Health Services  
Disease Control/Epidemiology  
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion  
Emergency Medical Services  
HIV/AIDS Services  
Medical Quality Assurance  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB & STD Control  
Vital Records

April 29, 2002

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), is pleased to present this comprehensive review of prehospital services in San Diego County. This Prehospital Services Annual Report compiles significant data from the County's many ambulance personnel, provider agencies, and base hospitals, with the intent of providing health care administrators, health care providers, and public health personnel information necessary for the development of sound public policy.

The County of San Diego EMS agency would like to acknowledge the consistent effort demonstrated by all of the EMS provider agencies to give us the data to compile this report. Because of these efforts, we have been able to increase prevention efforts throughout the county. Since the advent of managed care in the San Diego region and across the nation, the gathering and analysis of prehospital system information is a major priority for EMS regulators, providers and consumers. Without the comprehensive information on how our system works, your contribution, we would be unable to respond to the rapidly changing face of emergency services. It is our hope that this report will provide some of this vital information.

The information in this report derives from data given to us by the most vital link in the chain of prehospital care, the EMS field provider. Without dedicated field personnel, ambulances would not arrive on scene, emergency care could not be provided and transportation services to hospitals would not happen. Base hospital personnel and dispatch personnel are also integral components of the EMS system, providing important support services necessary for the prompt and effective care provided to emergency patients. Therefore, this report is dedicated to the many Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Mobile Intensive Care Nurses, Base Hospital Physicians, and Nurse Coordinators, dispatchers and air medical personnel whose primary mission is to provide excellence in prehospital care to the citizens of San Diego County.

We hope you find this report informative and useful. Please feel free to contact the Division of Emergency Medical Services with your comments or suggestions for future uses of the Annual Prehospital System Report.

---

GWEN JONES  
EMS Chief

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the contribution of the following Emergency Medical Services staff members for their work in the preparation of this report:

Barbara M. Stepanski, MPH, Epidemiologist  
Edward M. Castillo, PhD, MPH, Epidemiologist  
Alan M. Smith, MPH, Epidemiologist  
Leslie Upledger Ray, MA, MPPA, Senior Epidemiologist  
Marcy Metz, RN, Quality Assurance Specialist  
Anne Marcotte, RN, MSN, Quality Assurance Specialist  
Patricia A. Murrin, RN, MPH, EMS Coordinator  
Gwen Jones, Chief, Emergency Medical Services

# Table of Contents

<b>Section 1: All Calls</b> .....	1-1
Prehospital Activity: All Calls .....	1-2
Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas.....	1-2
<b>Section 2: All Patients</b> .....	2-1
Prehospital Activity: All Patients.....	2-2
Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas.....	2-2
Gender of All Patients.....	2-4
Race/Ethnicity of All Patients.....	2-5
<b>Section 3: Emergency Patients</b> .....	3-1
Emergency Patients by Call Type and Run Disposition.....	3-2
Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas .....	3-2
Gender of Emergency Patients.....	3-4
Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity.....	3-5
Race/Ethnicity of Emergency Patients.....	3-6
Response Times .....	3-8
Response Times and Agency Type by Hour of Day.....	3-9
Chief Complaint .....	3-10
Chief Complaint by Age Group .....	3-10
Chief Complaint by Gender .....	3-12
Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity.....	3-13
Chief Complaint by Incident Location .....	3-14
Chief Complaint by Patient Status .....	3-15
Chief Complaint by Run Outcome .....	3-16
Cause of Injury .....	3-17
Cause of Injury by Age Group .....	3-17
Cause of Injury by Gender.....	3-19
Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity.....	3-20
Cause of Injury by Incident Location .....	3-21
Cause of Injury by Patient Status .....	3-22
Cause of Injury by Run Outcome .....	3-23
<b>Section 4: Non-Emergency Patients</b> .....	4-1
Prehospital Activity: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-2
Non-Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas .....	4-2
Gender of Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-4
Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity.....	4-5
Race/Ethnicity of Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-6
Hour of Call .....	4-8
Chief Complaint by Age Group .....	4-9
Chief Complaint by Gender .....	4-10
<b>Section 5: Detail Tables</b> .....	5-1
<b>Technical Notes</b> .....	T-1

# List of Tables

## Section 1: All Calls

Table 1.1	Prehospital Run Outcomes, San Diego County, FY 2000/01 .....	1-2
Table 1.2	Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Calls .....	1-3

## Section 2: All Patients

Table 2.1	Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Patients ..	2-3
Table 2.2	Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: All Patients .....	2-7

## Section 3: Emergency Patients

Table 3.1	Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Emergency Patients.....	3-3
Table 3.2	Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Emergency Patients .....	3-7
Table 3.3	Leading Chief Complaints (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients.....	3-11
Table 3.4	Leading Causes of Injury (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients.....	3-18

## Section 4: Non-Emergency Patients

Table 4.1	Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Non-Emergency Patients.....	4-3
Table 4.2	Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-7
Table 4.3	Chief Complaint by Age Group: Non-Emergency Patients.....	4-9
Table 4.4	Chief Complaint by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-10

## Section 5: Detail Tables

Table 5.1	Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients .....	5-2
Table 5.2	Chief Complaint by Gender: Emergency Patients .....	5-5
Table 5.3	Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity, Number and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients.....	5-6
Table 5.4	Chief Complaint by Incident Location: Emergency Patients .....	5-7
Table 5.5	Chief Complaint by Patient Status: Emergency Patients .....	5-9
Table 5.6	Chief Complaint by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients .....	5-10
Table 5.7	Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients .....	5-11
Table 5.8	Cause of Injury by Gender: Emergency Patients.....	5-14
Table 5.9	Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity, Number and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients.....	5-15
Table 5.10	Cause of Injury by Incident Location: Emergency Patients .....	5-16
Table 5.11	Cause of Injury by Patient Status: Emergency Patients .....	5-18
Table 5.12	Cause of Injury by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients .....	5-19

# List of Figures

## Section 2: All Patients

Figure 2.1	Type of Call: All Patients .....	2-2
Figure 2.2	Comparison of Prehospital Patients with Overall County Population by Gender .....	2-4
Figure 2.3	Hour of Call by Gender: All Patients.....	2-4
Figure 2.4	Comparison of Prehospital Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity.....	2-5
Figure 2.5	Prehospital Patients: Rate by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity .....	2-6

## Section 3: Emergency Patients

Figure 3.1	Type of Call: Emergency Patients .....	3-2
Figure 3.2	Run Disposition: Emergency Patients .....	3-2
Figure 3.3	Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender .....	3-4
Figure 3.4	Hour of Call by Gender: Emergency Patients.....	3-4
Figure 3.5	Rate by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity: Emergency Patients .....	3-5
Figure 3.6	Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity.....	3-6
Figure 3.7	Response Time in Minutes: Emergency Patients.....	3-8
Figure 3.8	Average Response Time by Agency Type and Hour of Day: Emergency Patients.....	3-9
Figure 3.9	Leading Chief Complaints per 100,000 Population by Gender: Emergency Patients.....	3-12
Figure 3.10	Leading Chief Complaints per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity: Emergency Patients.....	3-13
Figure 3.11	Incident Location: Emergency Patients .....	3-14
Figure 3.12	Patient Status: Emergency Patients.....	3-15
Figure 3.13	Run Outcome: Emergency Patients .....	3-16
Figure 3.14	Cause of Injury per 100,000 Population by Gender: Emergency Patients .....	3-19
Figure 3.15	Cause of Injury per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity: Emergency Patients.....	3-20
Figure 3.16	Incident Location: Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated .....	3-21
Figure 3.17	Patient Status: Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated .....	3-22
Figure 3.18	Run Outcome: Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated .....	3-23

## Section 4: Non-Emergency Patients

Figure 4.1	Run Disposition: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-2
Figure 4.2	Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender .....	4-4
Figure 4.3	Age Group by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients.....	4-4
Figure 4.4	Rate by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity: Non-Emergency Patients.....	4-5
Figure 4.5	Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity.....	4-6
Figure 4.6	Hour of Call by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-8
Figure 4.7	Leading Chief Complaints by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients .....	4-11

## Technical Notes

Figure T.1	San Diego County Major Statistical Areas (MSA).....	T-7
Figure T.2	San Diego County Subregional Areas (SRA).....	T-8

## San Diego County Emergency Medical Services

A Division of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) serves to coordinate the activities of prehospital and trauma center service providers for all residents and visitors of San Diego. The Division has been designated as the County's "local EMS agency" pursuant to the Health & Safety Code, and serves as the primary regulatory agency for the local EMS system. Additionally, the Division oversees the County's mass casualty plan, administers two EMS districts, permits ambulance providers and ambulances pursuant to the County's Ambulance Ordinance, supports the County's Sexual Assault Response Teams, and manages several grant projects.

### EMS Resources

The San Diego County EMS system has developed into a finely integrated network of resources linked together with one purpose: the delivery of excellence in prehospital medical services to the residents and visitors of San Diego County. In 2000-01 the system was composed of the following resources.

### Hospital Resources

- Base Hospitals: Designated by the Division of EMS (8)

Grossmont Hospital-Sharp Healthcare	Scripps Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
Palomar Medical Center	Sharp Memorial Hospital
Scripps Memorial Hospital, Chula Vista	Tri-City Medical Center
Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla	UCSD Medical Center
- Trauma Centers: Designated by the Division of EMS (6)

Children's Hospital and Health Center	Scripps Mercy Hospital and Medical Center
Palomar Medical Center	Sharp Memorial Hospital
Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla	UCSD Medical Center
- Other Receiving Hospitals - with permit for basic emergency services (14)

### Air Medical Resources with Emergency Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services (1)

Mercy Air

### Advanced Life Support (ALS) Jurisdictions

Borrego Springs Fire Protection District, Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Vista, Grossmont Hospital District, Heartland District (CSA-69), North County Fire Protection District, Ramona Water District, San Dieguito EMS District (CSA-17), Sycuan Fire Department

### Basic Life Support (BLS) EMT-I primary responding (transporting) agencies:

Coronado Fire Department, Del Mar Fire Department, East County Fire Protection District, Encinitas Fire Department, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department, Solana Beach Fire Department,



#### EMT-Defibrillation Agencies (40)

Alpine Fire Protection District	Lemon Grove Fire Protection District
American Medical Response	Medicor Inc.
Americare Ambulance	Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department
Barona Fire Department	National Steel and Ship Building Company
Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District	National City Fire Department
Borrego Springs Fire Protection District	North County Fire Protection District
Boulevard Volunteer Fire Department	Pala Fire Department
Care Medical Transportation	Palomar Mtn Volunteer Fire Department
Chula Vista Fire Department	Pine Valley Fire Protection District
Coronado Fire Department	Poway Fire Department
Deer Springs Fire Protection District	Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department
Del Mar Fire Department	Rural Fire Protection District
East County Fire Protection District	San Diego Fire Department
El Cajon Fire Department	San Miguel Fire Protection District
Encinitas Fire Department	San Onofre Fire Department
Event Medical Services	Santee Fire Department
Imperial Beach Fire Department	Solana Beach Fire Department
Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Protection District	Sycuan Fire Protection District
La Mesa Fire Department	Valley Center Fire Protection District
Lakeside Fire Protection District	Warner Springs Fire Department

#### Private Ambulance Providers (with permit from EMS) (6)

American Medical Response of San Diego	Professional Transport Services
Balboa Ambulance Service	Schaefer Ambulance Service
Care Medical Transportation	Stat Medical Transportation, Inc.

#### Prehospital Data Collection

As required in the California statute, one of the primary functions of an emergency medical services system is the data collection and evaluation (Health & Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.103). The region made a major transition to optically scanned “bubble forms” in 1983. These forms were completed by field personnel at the time of transport. Information regarding unit identification, response times, patient assessment information and treatments, as well as patient disposition were collected. This multi-part form became a part of the patient’s medical record, and a copy was returned to the County EMS Division offices for scanning, editing, and compilation.

In 1993 the County embarked upon a project to automate the collection of the prehospital data through the use of desktop computers, linked together in a real-time system known as the Quality Assurance Network (QANet, described below). The data collected on the QANet paralleled the data gathered on the optically scanned forms, and were linked together with the data generated from the base hospital providing medical control (the Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) record) to provide a complete picture of the care that a patient received. The County has been in the process of transitioning prehospital service provider agencies from the optically scanned forms to the QANet data collection system. The data generated for this annual report were developed from a database which combines the information from both forms of the prehospital patient record (PPR).

## Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI)

The County maintains an active QA/QI process designed to identify areas of possible system improvement and improved patient care. At the center of this system is the field provider, who is recognized as the most important asset to providing quality care. All regional QA/QI activities are coordinated by the county's Prehospital Audit Committee (PAC), which is comprised of base hospital personnel, air medical personnel, field EMT-Is and paramedics, EMS educators, and County staff. This body meets monthly, reviews prehospital patient records, examines QA/QI interventions, undertakes focused audits, and develops QA/QI related policies.

In the San Diego County regional EMS system, base hospitals are charged with the primary responsibility (by contract with the County) for overseeing the quality of prehospital care provided within their spheres of influence. They accomplish this by maintaining close oversight of assigned prehospital personnel, implementing educational needs for individuals and the EMS system, collecting prehospital QA/QI data, and coordinating QA/QI activities. Their work would not be successful without the cooperation and participation of field providers, provider agency supervisory personnel, and EMS educators.

The County considers the Quality Assurance Network (the QANet) to be the backbone of its quality improvement data gathering activities. This on-line, real-time computer network connects all receiving hospitals, all base hospitals and trauma centers, and many ambulance stations. Besides serving as the primary medium for the PPR documentation, the QANet tracks hospital resource status and all QA/QI activities for system analysis. Not all of the data generated for this Prehospital Annual Report were captured through the QANet, since there remain a number of ALS and BLS agencies who still use the system's optically scanned PPR forms for data entry. Aside from collecting prehospital patient data, the QANet provides real-time updates on the resource status of all receiving hospitals and trauma centers so that patients could be delivered to the "right place the first time." Additionally, the QANet's e-mail functions and bulletin board allow for information to be easily communicated among all system participants.

## Prehospital Patient Records (PPRs)

PPRs were completed by ALS and BLS prehospital personnel. For the purposes of this report, the data were divided into emergency and non-emergency calls. Emergency calls were defined as medical calls received by the 9-1-1 system that were responded to by ALS or BLS personnel. Non-emergency calls encompassed all other calls not managed through the 9-1-1 system. These included interfacility transfers and non-emergency BLS transports.

Data were collected by over 2500 field personnel. Given the nature of the data collection process, there were errors in reporting that could not be controlled for. The level of error generally did not exceed 5%. Corrections in the data were made when possible. Some fields, such as race/ethnicity, were based on the judgement of the prehospital care provider and may not reflect the race/ethnicity as defined by the patient. In addition, data were sometimes omitted from the PPRs. The number of missing data points are footnoted in tables and charts.

***Please note that these data presentations are intended to demonstrate the activity of the entire prehospital system, which includes emergency (911) calls and non-emergency transportation. It is recommended that caution is used when interpreting data presented.***

# **Section 1**

## **All Calls**

## Prehospital Activity: All Calls

Prehospital (ambulance) calls are classified into three main categories based on outcome: emergency patients, non-emergency patients, and other outcomes. The majority of ambulance responses are for emergency patients. This includes patients that were transported by the reporting unit, left the scene against medical advice (AMA), were treated at the scene and released, were dead on scene (DOS), were transported by private vehicle, or for whom no aid was necessary. Non-emergency patient transports include those who were transported from one medical facility to another or were transported for some other non-emergent reason. Other outcomes that prehospital personnel might report are transported by another unit, either at the same site or met at another location to complete transport to a medical facility (transport rendezvous), or call cancelled. This report examines emergency and non-emergency patient transports in detail in separate sections.

**Table 1.1 Prehospital Run Outcomes, San Diego County, FY 2000/01**

Type of Outcome	Outcome	Number	% Calls	% Patients
Emergency Patients N=165,841 (70.27%)	Transported by Unit	146,176	61.94%	66.01%
	AMA	13,642	5.78%	6.16%
	Release	3,219	1.36%	1.45%
	DOS	2,022	0.86%	0.91%
	Aid Unnecessary	782	0.33%	0.35%
Non-Emergency Patients N=55,602 (23.56%)	Interfacility	11,144	4.72%	5.03%
	Interfacility CCT	12,561	5.32%	5.67%
	Other Non-Em BLS	31,897	13.52%	14.40%
<b>Total Patients</b>		<b>221,443</b>	<b>93.98%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Other Outcomes N=14,557 (6.17%)	Transport Other Unit	11,149	4.72%	---
	Transport Rendezvous	362	0.15%	---
	Call Cancelled	1,732	0.73%	---
	Unknown/Missing	1,314	0.56%	---
<b>Total Calls</b>		<b>236,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>---</b>

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services,  
Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Note: No cases had an outcome of Transport by Private Vehicle

## Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas

Table 1.2 shows the number and rates of ambulance calls by San Diego County subregional areas for fiscal year 2000-01. Central San Diego had the most ambulance calls (12% of all calls). As a proportion of population, Harbison Crest and Anza-Borrego Springs had the highest rates of ambulance utilization, 20,038 and 17,702 (per 100,000) respectively. These areas were closely followed by Central San Diego (16,551/100,000) and La Mesa (16,418/100,000).

**Table 1.2 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Calls**

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/Unk			
Alpine	1,228	89	29	57	1,403	13,933	10,070
Anza-Borrego Springs	9	723	45	1	778	4,395	17,702
Carlsbad	3,175	566	81	6	3,828	101,028	3,789
Central San Diego	15,529	12,633	12	3	28,177	170,240	16,551
Chula Vista	6,529	7,106	23	16	13,674	108,209	12,637
Coastal	4,558	4,626	2	2	9,188	82,222	11,175
Coronado	63	2,102	8	0	2,173	25,572	8,498
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3,534	566	1	0	4,101	148,357	2,764
El Cajon	7,149	2,198	10	6	9,363	123,602	7,575
Elliott-Navajo	2,794	7,087	2	1	9,884	95,771	10,320
Escondido	3,991	9,931	56	6	13,984	146,959	9,516
Fallbrook	1,984	585	44	1	2,614	45,780	5,710
Harbison Crest	2,050	1,173	3	11	3,237	16,154	20,038
Jamul	575	129	27	2	733	13,854	5,291
Kearny Mesa	8,875	8,631	4	2	17,512	154,207	11,356
La Mesa	3,558	6,603	4	5	10,170	61,944	16,418
Laguna-Pine Valley	133	52	20	2	207	5,779	3,582
Lakeside	3,009	231	15	12	3,267	58,069	5,626
Lemon Grove	1,485	536	2	1	2,024	31,097	6,509
Mid-City	8,509	1,972	1	2	10,484	161,149	6,506
Miramar	124	56	0	0	180	5,603	3,213
Mountain Empire	746	119	84	2	951	6,640	14,322
National City	2,908	3,144	5	3	6,060	55,686	10,882
North San Diego	3,558	1,553	4	0	5,115	92,534	5,528
Oceanside	9,054	5,490	237	13	14,794	155,324	9,525
Palomar-Julian	91	322	39	5	457	6,617	6,906
Pauma	78	225	21	0	324	5,969	5,428
Pendleton	25	1,376	61	2	1,464	38,492	3,803
Peninsula	1,934	881	3	1	2,819	64,768	4,352
Poway	2,348	2,146	30	1	4,525	85,945	5,265
Ramona	1,265	180	35	3	1,483	35,242	4,208
San Dieguito	4,246	2,373	29	10	6,658	90,989	7,317
San Marcos	5,669	399	24	1	6,093	69,850	8,723
Santee	3,136	377	8	17	3,538	58,463	6,052
South Bay	4,038	881	4	2	4,925	134,487	3,662
Southeast San Diego	6,639	920	3	0	7,562	160,919	4,699
Spring Valley	3,291	513	1	3	3,808	84,959	4,482
Sweetwater	684	233	6	4	927	83,730	1,107
University	1,557	948	1	0	2,506	53,432	4,690
Valley Center	5	673	18	1	697	21,021	3,316
Vista	6,391	1,794	57	7	8,249	94,878	8,694
Out of County	2	40	86	0	128	---	*
Unknown	4,230	812	349	545	5,936	---	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,756</b>	<b>92,994</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>2,973,869</b>	<b>7,931</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

\* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

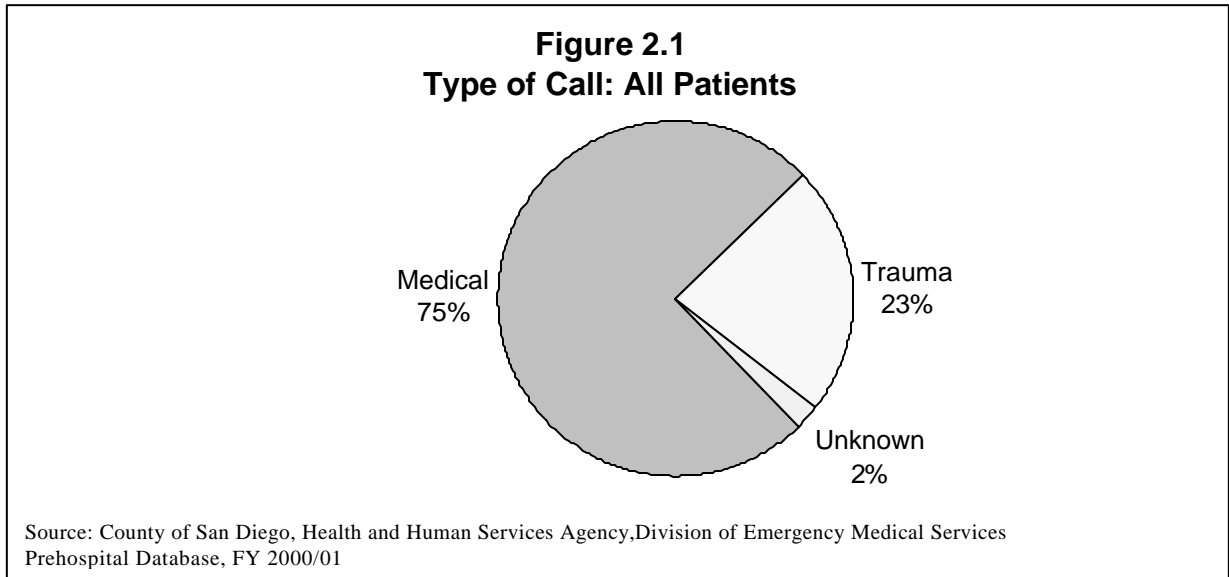
## **Section 2**

**All Patients**

## Prehospital Activity: All Patients

This section addresses all patients to whom an ambulance responded during fiscal year 2000-01. This is defined as all calls, with the exception of those with an outcome code of transport by other unit, transport rendezvous, or call cancelled. This includes all three agency types: advanced life support (ALS), basic life support (BLS), and air transport.

As seen in Figure 2.1, the majority (75%) of the calls for prehospital patients are medical in nature.



## Prehospital Activity: The San Diego Subregional Areas

San Diego County is made up of 41 subregional areas, which vary substantially in geographic area, population size, and many demographic factors. As shown in Table 2.1, the areas that use ambulance services most often are the most populous, which also tend to be located in more urban parts of the county. Indeed, the five most populous regions, which comprise 27 percent of the county population, accounted for 34% of all prehospital patients during FY 2000-01. This does not necessarily mean that people who live in these areas are more likely to use ambulance services than individuals in other areas. Harbison Crest, which is the ninth smallest of the subregional areas, has the highest rate of ambulance utilization (18,806 per 100,000 people). The likelihood of somebody in this area being transported by ambulance is 2.5 times the overall county rate.

**Table 2.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: All Patients**

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/Unk			
Alpine	1,167	85	22	18	1,292	13,933	9,273
Anza-Borrego Springs	7	676	41	0	724	4,395	16,473
Carlsbad	3,033	549	79	5	3,666	101,028	3,629
Central San Diego	15,501	12,480	12	3	27,996	170,240	16,445
Chula Vista	6,373	7,065	21	5	13,464	108,209	12,443
Coastal	4,549	4,564	2	1	9,116	82,222	11,087
Coronado	62	2,053	8	0	2,123	25,572	8,302
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3,480	555	1	0	4,036	148,357	2,720
El Cajon	6,437	2,161	8	5	8,611	123,602	6,967
Elliott-Navajo	2,772	7,032	2	1	9,807	95,771	10,240
Escondido	3,890	9,864	53	6	13,813	146,959	9,399
Fallbrook	1,838	580	43	1	2,462	45,780	5,378
Harbison Crest	1,876	1,154	3	5	3,038	16,154	18,806
Jamul	528	103	25	1	657	13,854	4,742
Kearny Mesa	8,863	8,534	4	2	17,403	154,207	11,285
La Mesa	3,502	6,571	4	3	10,080	61,944	16,273
Laguna-Pine Valley	115	46	17	1	179	5,779	3,097
Lakeside	2,682	230	14	4	2,930	58,069	5,046
Lemon Grove	1,460	529	2	1	1,992	31,097	6,406
Mid-City	8,485	1,954	1	2	10,442	161,149	6,480
Miramar	124	55	0	0	179	5,603	3,195
Mountain Empire	651	100	74	2	827	6,640	12,455
National City	2,815	3,109	4	0	5,928	55,686	10,645
North San Diego	3,461	1,539	4	0	5,004	92,534	5,408
Oceanside	5,914	5,425	228	12	11,579	155,324	7,455
Palomar-Julian	83	265	33	2	383	6,617	5,788
Pauma	74	209	20	0	303	5,969	5,076
Pendleton	18	1,340	57	2	1,417	38,492	3,681
Peninsula	1,931	831	3	0	2,765	64,768	4,269
Poway	2,124	2,131	28	1	4,284	85,945	4,985
Ramona	1,210	179	29	3	1,421	35,242	4,032
San Dieguito	3,288	2,353	29	2	5,672	90,989	6,234
San Marcos	3,188	383	21	0	3,592	69,850	5,142
Santee	2,665	372	6	5	3,048	58,463	5,214
South Bay	3,943	841	2	1	4,787	134,487	3,559
Southeast San Diego	6,609	907	3	0	7,519	160,919	4,673
Spring Valley	2,846	499	1	2	3,348	84,959	3,941
Sweetwater	646	225	5	2	878	83,730	1,049
University	1,553	936	1	0	2,490	53,432	4,660
Valley Center	4	648	18	1	671	21,021	3,192
Vista	5,304	1,781	51	3	7,139	94,878	7,524
Out of County	1	39	83	0	123	---	---
Unknown	3,107	781	337	30	4,255	---	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,179</b>	<b>91,733</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>221,443</b>	<b>2,973,869</b>	<b>7,438</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

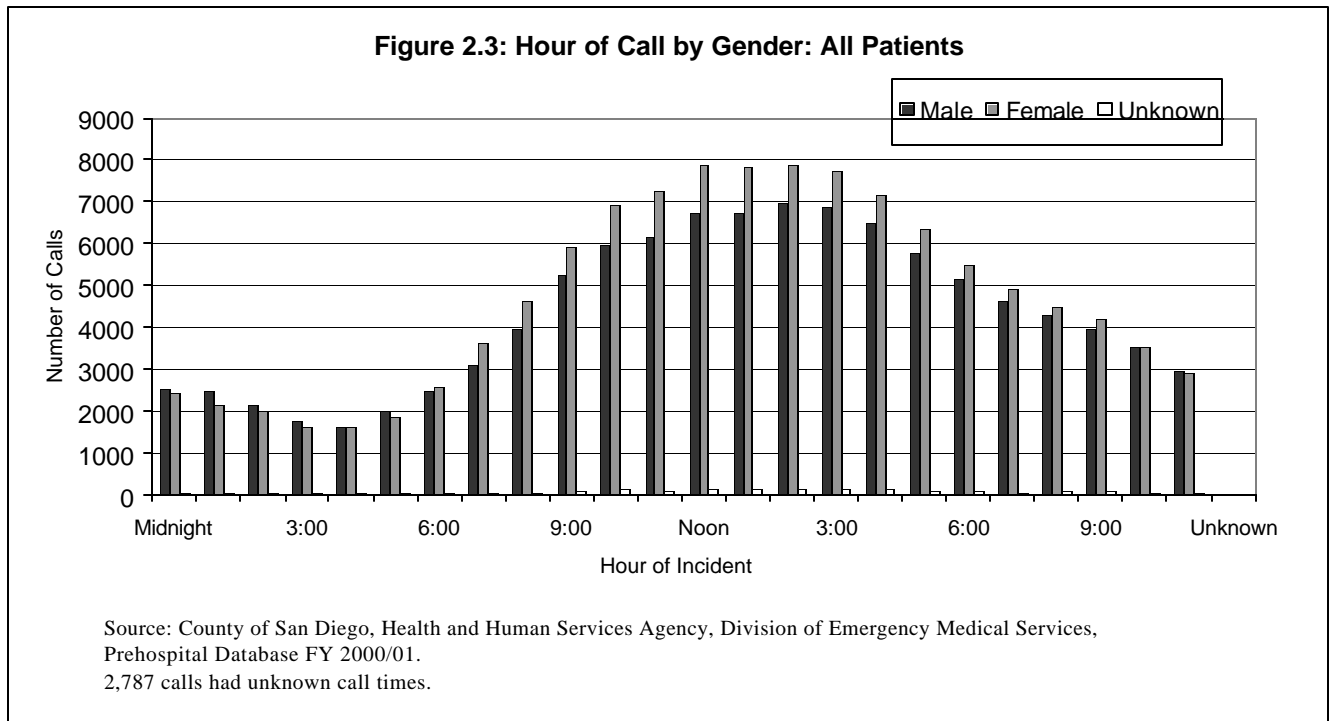
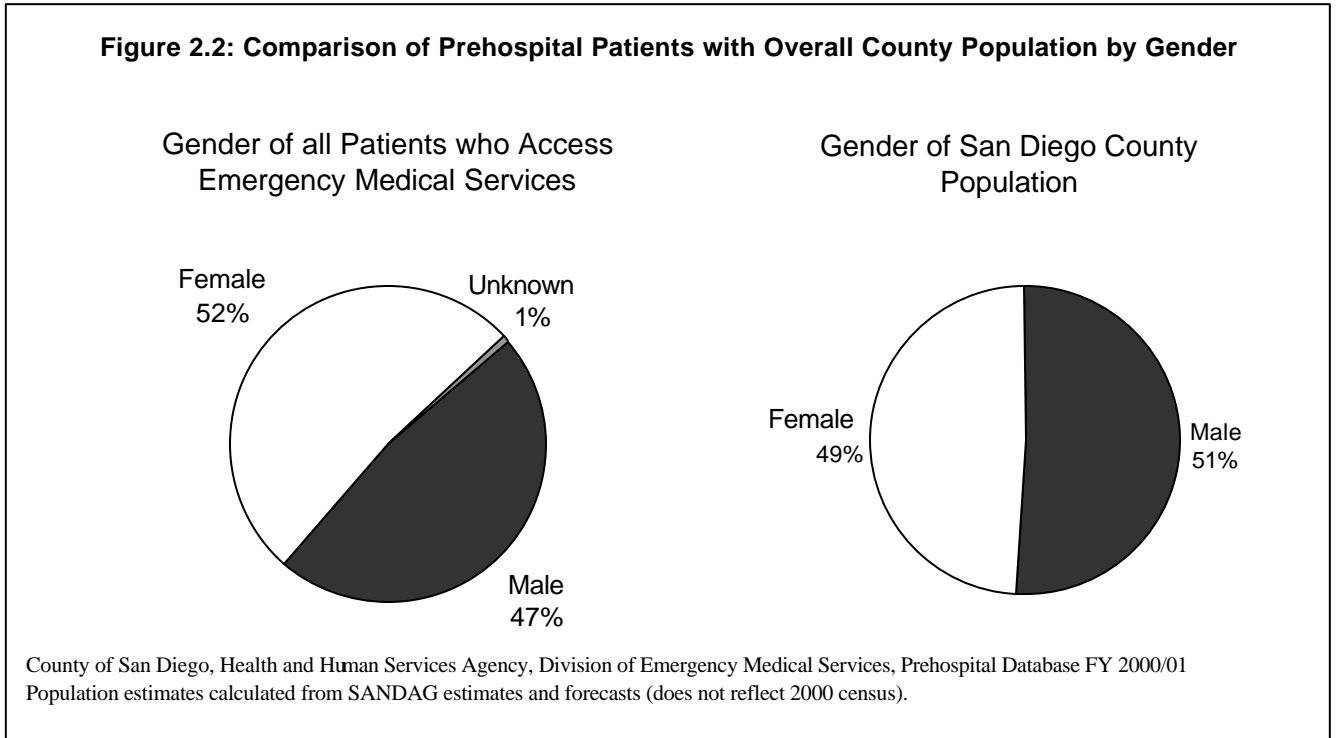
Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

\* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation



## Gender of All Patients

The overall percentage of males and females that used the EMS system was about the same as the gender distribution of residents in San Diego County (Figure 2.2). However, there was a difference based on time of day, with females accounting for 53% of calls between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm (Figure 2.3).

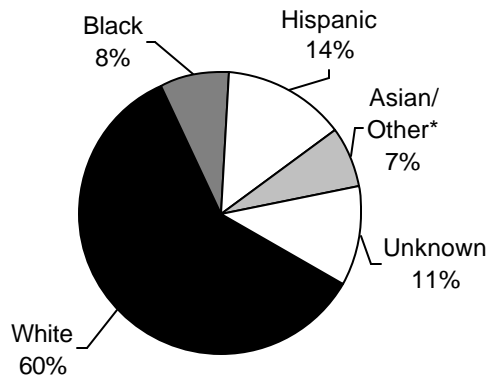


## Race/Ethnicity of All Patients

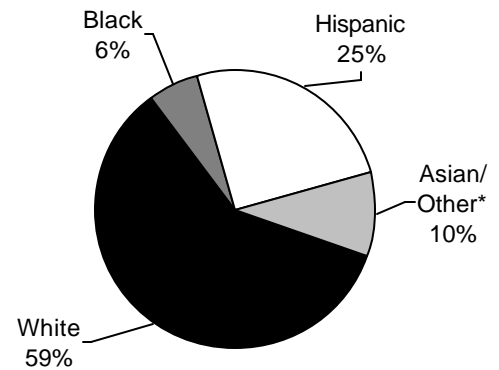
Prehospital personnel in the field make race/ethnicity determinations for all individuals who use ambulance services. Comparing prehospital patients to statistics for the entire county population reveals that Blacks appear to be overrepresented (8% of patients, 6% of the population), and that these services may be underutilized by the Hispanic population (14% of patients, 25% of the population).

**Figure 2.4: Comparison of Prehospital Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity of All Patients who Access Emergency Medical Services



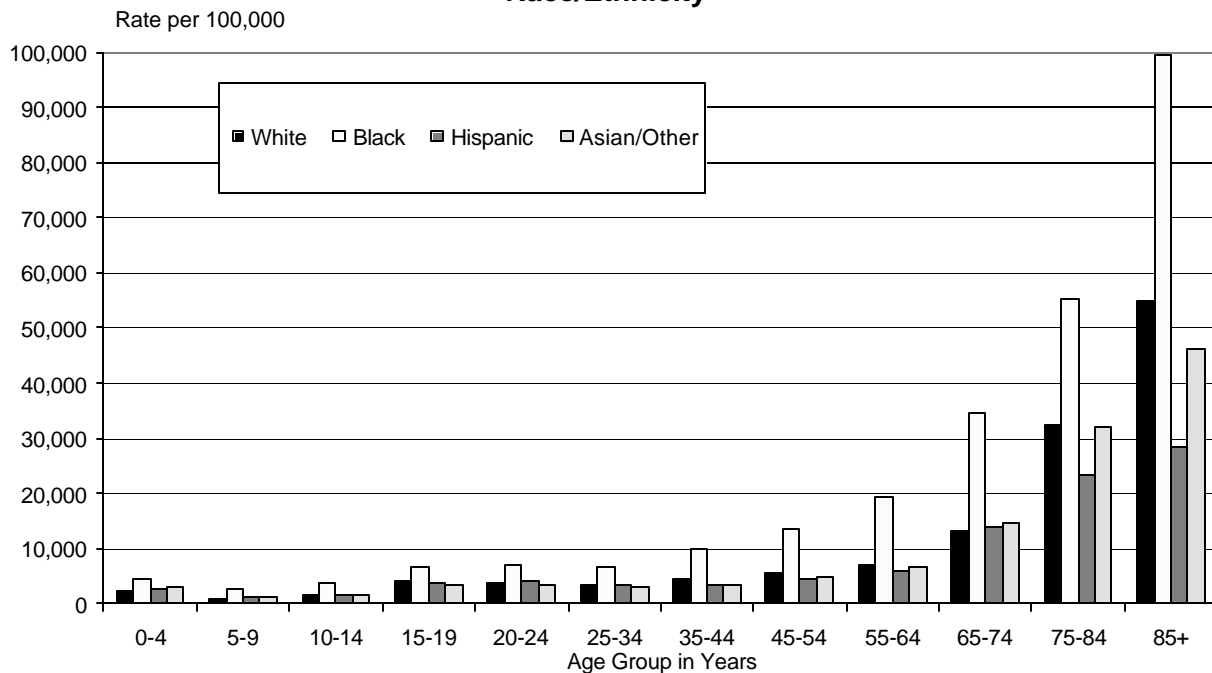
Race/Ethnicity of San Diego County Population



\*County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census did. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 62% Asian, 4% Native American, 34% Other. There were 25,373 cases with missing race/ethnicity.

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01  
Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

**Figure 2.5: Prehospital Patients: Rate by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity**



There were 25,373 cases with unknown race/ethnicity

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

Black patients had the highest rate of ambulance utilization for all age levels, and increased to an average of more than one ambulance response per person for patients aged 85 and above (Figure 2.5). This high rate was equally distributed between elderly Black men and women (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2 Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: All Patients**

Age Group in Years		Race/Ethnicity									Total*	
		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown		
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
0-4	Male	1,462	2,846	416	4,968	1,469	3,136	463	3,879	692	4,502	3,798
	Female	1,035	2,119	310	3,892	1,099	2,310	272	2,429	452	3,168	2,741
	Total	2,497	2,492	726	4,444	2,568	2,720	735	3,178	1,144	7,670	3,276
5-9	Male	675	1,257	247	3,034	609	1,429	179	1,576	309	2,019	1,743
	Female	402	797	179	2,292	412	1,037	125	1,155	191	1,309	1,203
	Total	1,077	1,034	426	2,671	1,021	1,240	304	1,371	500	3,328	1,482
10-14	Male	1,039	1,980	281	3,774	634	1,692	165	1,479	337	2,456	2,262
	Female	725	1,448	242	3,347	530	1,509	171	1,591	271	1,939	1,880
	Total	1,764	1,720	523	3,564	1,164	1,603	336	1,534	608	4,395	2,076
15-19	Male	2,303	4,487	483	5,843	1,136	3,583	365	3,345	684	4,971	4,863
	Female	1,936	3,859	518	7,622	1,044	3,641	383	3,663	626	4,507	4,690
	Total	4,239	4,176	1,001	6,646	2,180	3,610	748	3,500	1,310	9,478	4,779
20-24	Male	2,667	3,712	582	5,302	1,331	3,965	380	3,102	724	5,684	4,418
	Female	2,098	3,976	654	9,780	1,176	4,167	399	3,652	598	4,925	4,995
	Total	4,765	3,824	1,236	6,998	2,507	4,057	779	3,361	1,322	10,609	4,669
25-34	Male	4,384	3,356	950	5,894	2,153	3,313	674	2,970	1,199	9,360	3,992
	Female	3,892	3,424	1,075	7,836	2,013	3,583	760	3,211	1,111	8,851	4,271
	Total	8,276	3,387	2,025	6,787	4,166	3,438	1,434	3,093	2,310	18,211	4,123
35-44	Male	7,218	4,658	1,351	8,976	1,944	3,354	694	3,258	1,532	12,739	5,111
	Female	5,761	3,988	1,509	11,300	1,884	3,635	858	3,383	1,463	11,475	4,883
	Total	12,979	4,335	2,860	10,069	3,828	3,487	1,552	3,326	2,995	24,214	5,000
45-54	Male	7,950	6,155	1,390	14,018	1,596	4,463	744	4,676	1,403	13,083	6,859
	Female	6,406	5,285	1,237	13,251	1,555	4,381	933	4,732	1,294	11,425	6,150
	Total	14,356	5,734	2,627	13,645	3,151	4,422	1,677	4,707	2,697	24,508	6,509
55-64	Male	6,210	7,508	926	18,833	1,093	6,046	786	7,847	1,069	10,084	8,714
	Female	5,558	6,639	1,017	19,736	1,226	6,106	742	5,694	996	9,539	7,820
	Total	11,768	7,071	1,943	19,295	2,319	6,078	1,528	6,629	2,065	19,623	8,255
65-74	Male	8,117	13,237	844	32,815	1,575	15,863	1,009	16,582	1,247	12,792	16,009
	Female	9,083	13,041	1,050	35,751	1,558	12,296	1,202	13,150	1,457	14,350	15,202
	Total	17,200	13,133	1,894	34,380	3,133	13,863	2,211	14,521	2,704	27,142	15,572
75-84	Male	12,749	32,357	573	53,884	1,188	22,650	958	32,354	1,725	17,193	35,326
	Female	17,791	32,187	861	56,106	1,727	23,619	1,397	31,461	2,202	23,978	34,974
	Total	30,540	32,258	1,434	55,196	2,915	23,214	2,355	31,818	3,927	41,171	35,120
85+	Male	6,816	54,368	278	99,785	486	24,598	433	46,133	750	8,763	55,710
	Female	13,849	55,017	594	98,540	980	30,382	670	45,653	1,493	17,586	57,720
	Total	20,665	54,802	872	98,934	1,466	28,185	1,103	45,840	2,243	26,349	57,035
Unknown	Male	827	---	85	---	195	---	66	---	94	1,267	---
	Female	917	---	87	---	185	---	71	---	79	1,339	---
	Total	1,744	---	172	---	380	---	137	---	173	2,606	---
Total	Male	62,417	7,002	8,406	9,027	15,409	3,990	6,916	5,029	11,765	104,913	6,956
	Female	69,453	8,025	9,333	11,228	15,389	4,203	7,983	5,288	12,233	114,391	7,805
	Total	131,870	7,506	17,739	10,065	30,798	4,094	14,899	5,164	23,998	219,304	7,374

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01  
2,139 patients had unknown gender.

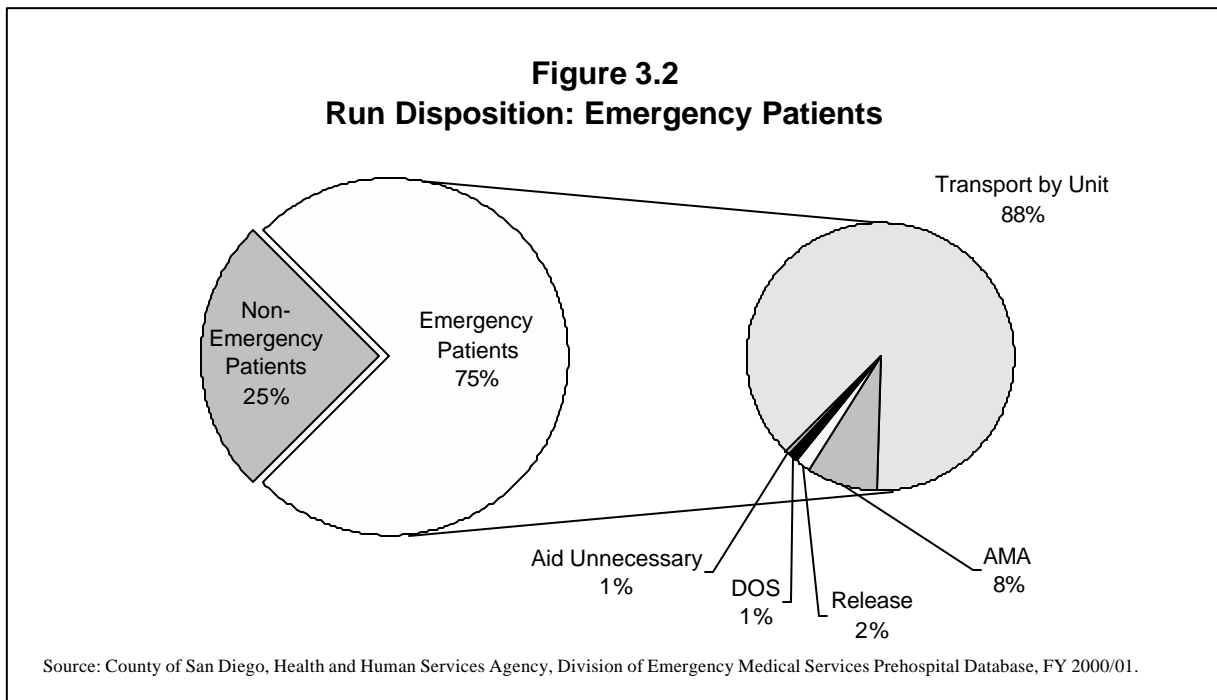
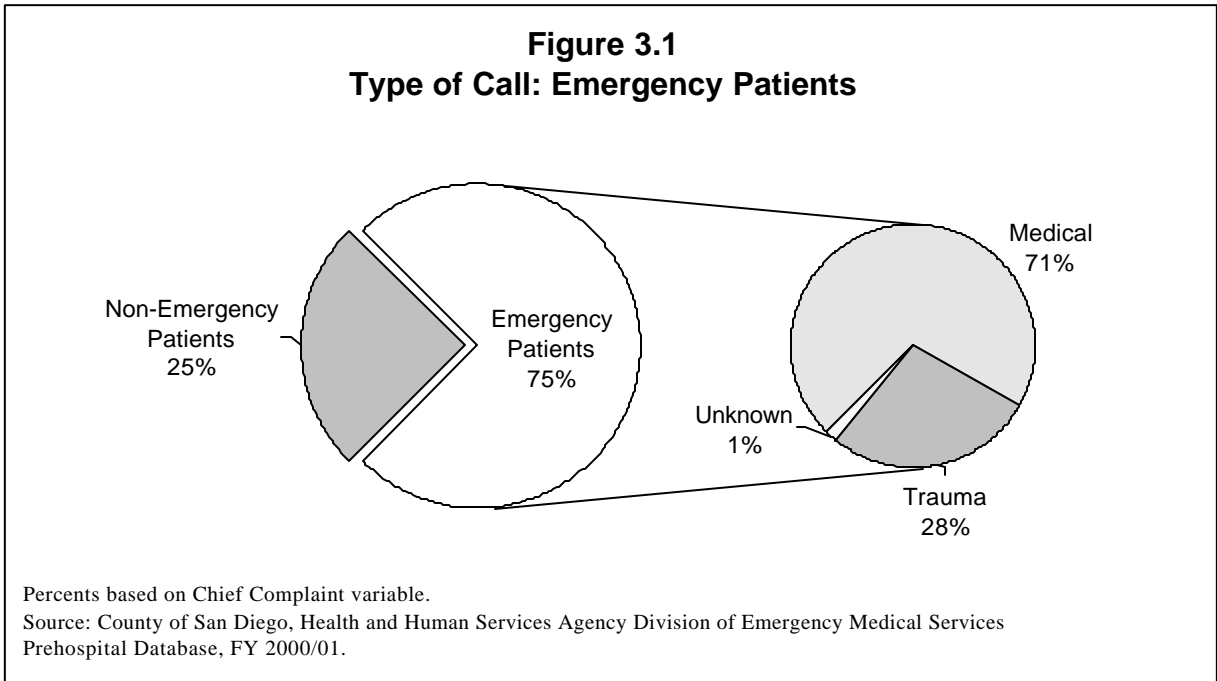
\*Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity.

## **Section 3**

# **Emergency Patients**

## Emergency Patients by Call Type and Run Disposition

Seventy-five percent of prehospital patients were emergency patients. Over two-thirds of calls for emergency patients (71%) were medical in nature (Figure 3.1), and 88% were transported by the calling unit (Figure 3.2).



## Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas

Emergency patients are defined as those with outcome codes of transported by unit, left scene against medical advice (AMA), treated and released, dead on scene (DOS), transported by private vehicle, or aid unnecessary. Emergency patients are transported most often by ground advanced life support (ALS) agencies, but include most patients who were transported by air, and a portion of

those to whom basic life support (BLS) agencies responded. As with the regional breakdown for all prehospital responses, the subregional areas with the largest populations also had the most emergency responses. Again, the five most populous regions, which comprise 27% of the county population, accounted for 34% of all emergency response patients during FY 2000-01.

**Table 3.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Emergency Patients**

	Agency Type				Total	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	Air	Other/ Unk			
Alpine	1,164	57	22	17	1,260	13,933	9,043
Anza-Borrego Springs	7	612	41	0	660	4,395	15,017
Carlsbad	3,017	399	79	5	3,500	101,028	3,464
Central San Diego	15,454	3,739	10	0	19,203	170,240	11,280
Chula Vista	6,349	2,189	19	5	8,562	108,209	7,912
Coastal	4,535	1,100	2	1	5,638	82,222	6,857
Coronado	61	1,417	8	0	1,486	25,572	5,811
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	3,475	250	1	0	3,726	148,357	2,512
El Cajon	6,428	1,223	8	5	7,664	123,602	6,201
Elliott-Navajo	2,761	1,207	2	0	3,970	95,771	4,145
Escondido	3,881	5,361	50	6	9,298	146,959	6,327
Fallbrook	1,766	285	43	1	2,095	45,780	4,576
Harbison Crest	1,873	689	3	5	2,570	16,154	15,909
Jamul	526	52	25	1	604	13,854	4,360
Kearny Mesa	8,720	2,876	4	0	11,600	154,207	7,522
La Mesa	3,477	2,121	3	2	5,603	61,944	9,045
Laguna-Pine Valley	112	30	17	1	160	5,779	2,769
Lakeside	2,681	181	14	4	2,880	58,069	4,960
Lemon Grove	1,460	325	2	1	1,788	31,097	5,750
Mid-City	8,481	900	1	0	9,382	161,149	5,822
Miramar	124	23	0	0	147	5,603	2,624
Mountain Empire	651	44	74	2	771	6,640	11,611
National City	2,806	1,147	4	0	3,957	55,686	7,106
North San Diego	3,454	767	4	0	4,225	92,534	4,566
Oceanside	5,823	2,189	223	12	8,247	155,324	5,310
Palomar-Julian	83	238	32	2	355	6,617	5,365
Pauma	74	204	20	0	298	5,969	4,992
Pendleton	18	1,200	56	2	1,276	38,492	3,315
Peninsula	1,925	558	3	0	2,486	64,768	3,838
Poway	2,114	571	21	0	2,706	85,945	3,149
Ramona	1,210	101	29	3	1,343	35,242	3,811
San Dieguito	3,284	595	29	2	3,910	90,989	4,297
San Marcos	3,188	260	21	0	3,469	69,850	4,966
Santee	2,653	251	6	5	2,915	58,463	4,986
South Bay	3,942	555	1	1	4,499	134,487	3,345
Southeast San Diego	6,605	530	3	0	7,138	160,919	4,436
Spring Valley	2,841	355	1	2	3,199	84,959	3,765
Sweetwater	645	148	4	2	799	83,730	954
University	1,552	251	1	0	1,804	53,432	3,376
Valley Center	3	623	17	1	644	21,021	3,064
Vista	5,295	779	51	3	6,128	94,878	6,459
Out of County	0	5	64	0	69	---	---
Unknown	3,081	366	331	29	3,807	---	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,599</b>	<b>36,773</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>165,841</b>	<b>2,973,869</b>	<b>5,574</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

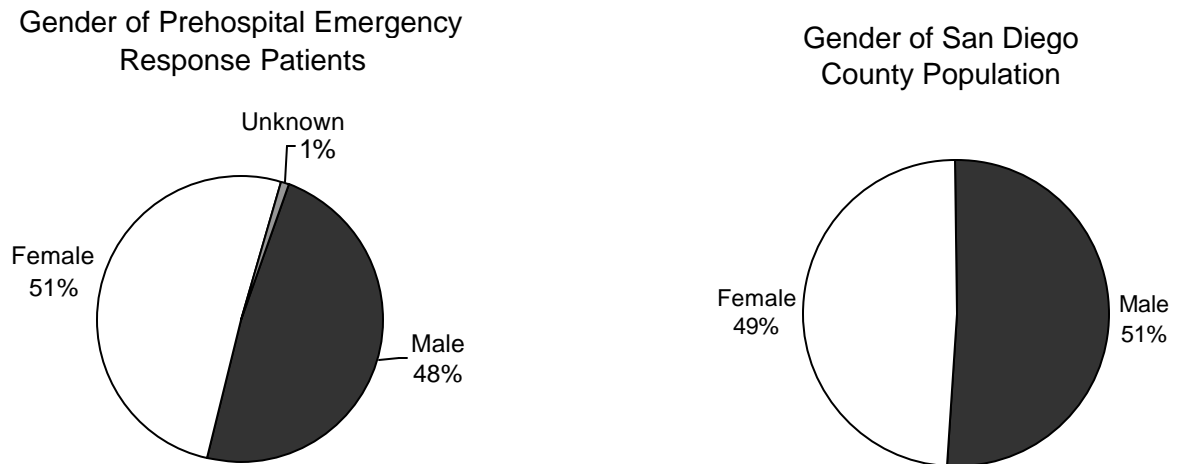
Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

\* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

## Gender of Emergency Patients

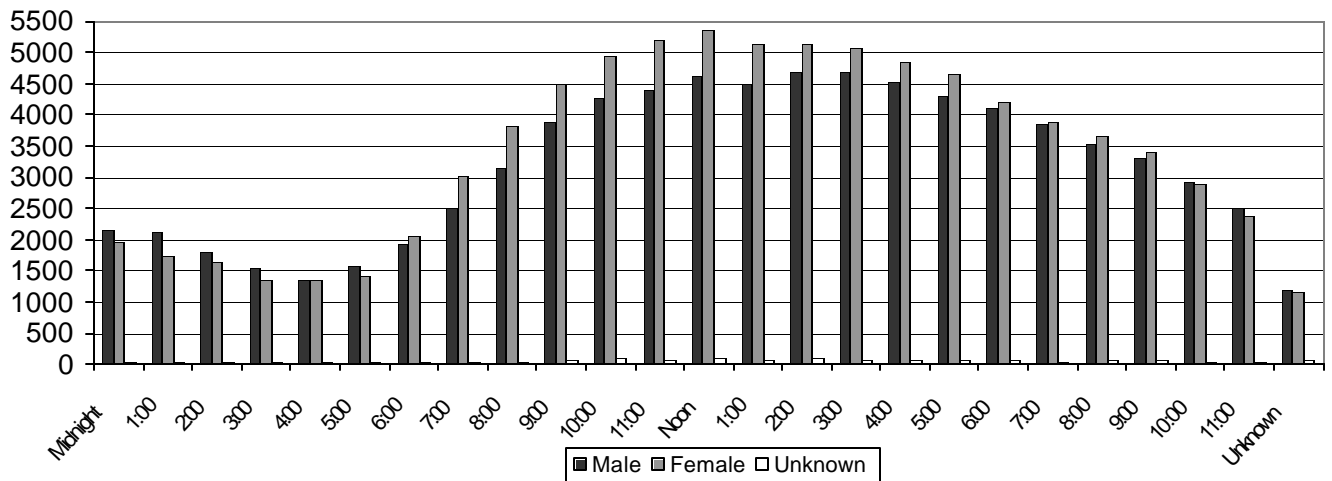
The percentage of males and females who used the EMS system was about the same as the gender distribution of residents in the county (Figure 3.3). Females made up 52% of patients between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, while crews responded to males more often from midnight to 5:00 am (Figure 3.4).

**Figure 3.3: Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender**



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01. Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

**Figure 3.4: Hour of Call by Gender: Emergency Patients**

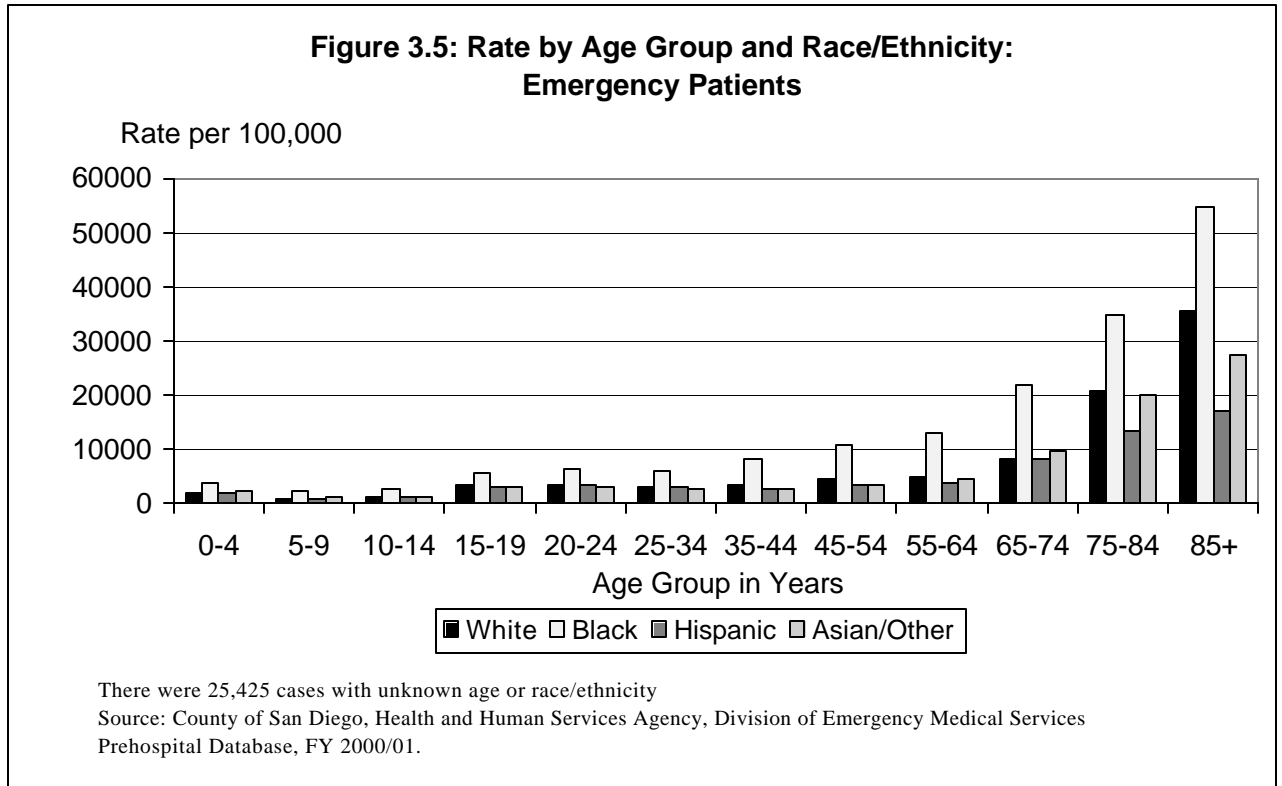


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01. 2428 calls had unknown call times.



## Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity

There was a considerable increase in number of emergency patients for all racial/ethnic groups beyond age 65, which was similar to the pattern for all patients. Blacks used ambulance services at a significantly greater rate than other racial/ethnic groups regardless of age.

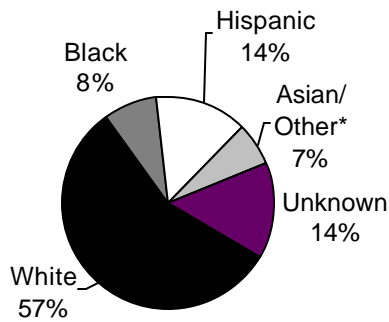


## Race/Ethnicity of Emergency Patients

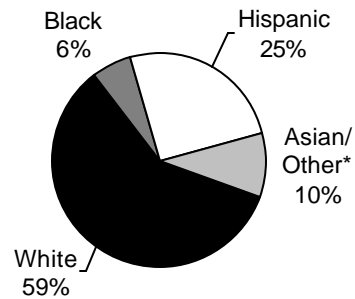
Compared with the countywide population distribution, Blacks constituted a larger proportion of emergency patients. The low proportion of Hispanics among emergency patients means either that these populations underutilized emergency services or that they may have been more likely than others to be classified as “unknown.”

**Figure 3.6: Comparison of Prehospital Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity of Emergency Patients who Access EMS



Race/Ethnicity of San Diego County Population



\*County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 63% Asian, 5% Native American, 32% Other.

There were 23,987 cases with missing race/ethnicity.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

Table 3.2 shows the number and rate per 100,000 population of emergency patients by age group, gender, and race/ethnicity. The highest rates were seen in the elderly and Black populations, while the lowest rates for all ethnicities were seen in the 5-9 year age group. Black females 15 to 44 years of age had significantly higher rates than both Black males and females of other race/ethnicities within the same age range.

**Table 3.2: Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Emergency Patients**

Age Group in Years	Race/Ethnicity										Total*	
	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Unknown			
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate	
0-4	Male	1,071	2,085	353	4,215	1,045	2,231	342	2,866	618	3,429	2,893
	Female	791	1,620	265	3,327	775	1,629	203	1,813	404	2,438	2,110
	Total	1,870	1,866	618	3,783	1,825	1,933	548	2,369	1,041	5,902	2,521
5-9	Male	560	1,043	217	2,665	501	1,175	161	1,418	289	1,728	1,492
	Female	345	684	163	2,087	341	858	108	998	175	1,132	1,041
	Total	907	871	381	2,388	844	1,025	270	1,218	469	2,871	1,278
10-14	Male	835	1,591	222	2,982	525	1,401	136	1,219	314	2,032	1,872
	Female	572	1,143	188	2,600	416	1,185	146	1,359	257	1,579	1,531
	Total	1,414	1,379	410	2,794	942	1,298	283	1,292	581	3,630	1,715
15-19	Male	1,969	3,836	429	5,190	985	3,107	304	2,786	664	4,351	4,257
	Female	1,575	3,140	441	6,489	860	2,999	321	3,070	611	3,808	3,963
	Total	3,551	3,499	872	5,789	1,853	3,069	628	2,939	1,290	8,194	4,132
20-24	Male	2,347	3,267	524	4,774	1,184	3,527	326	2,661	707	5,088	3,955
	Female	1,882	3,567	582	8,703	1,063	3,767	352	3,222	585	4,464	4,528
	Total	4,236	3,399	1,108	6,273	2,254	3,648	681	2,938	1,305	9,584	4,218
25-34	Male	3,817	2,922	846	5,249	1,900	2,923	585	2,578	1,175	8,323	3,550
	Female	3,324	2,924	989	7,210	1,763	3,138	677	2,860	1,092	7,845	3,786
	Total	7,157	2,929	1,839	6,164	3,669	3,028	1,267	2,733	2,288	16,220	3,672
35-44	Male	5,929	3,827	1,096	7,282	1,608	2,774	574	2,694	1,488	10,695	4,291
	Female	4,684	3,242	1,259	9,428	1,558	3,006	713	2,811	1,426	9,640	4,102
	Total	10,638	3,553	2,364	8,323	3,171	2,888	1,291	2,766	2,944	20,408	4,214
45-54	Male	6,209	4,807	1,051	10,599	1,198	3,350	569	3,576	1,362	10,389	5,446
	Female	4,925	4,063	1,005	10,766	1,145	3,226	715	3,626	1,258	9,048	4,871
	Total	11,154	4,455	2,061	10,705	2,354	3,304	1,288	3,615	2,655	19,512	5,182
55-64	Male	4,349	5,258	635	12,914	679	3,756	520	5,191	1,027	7,210	6,230
	Female	3,894	4,651	687	13,332	824	4,104	533	4,090	971	6,909	5,664
	Total	8,262	4,964	1,329	13,198	1,513	3,965	1,056	4,582	2,026	14,186	5,968
65-74	Male	5,168	8,428	556	21,617	875	8,813	684	11,241	1,178	8,461	10,589
	Female	5,708	8,196	651	22,165	968	7,639	798	8,730	1,389	9,514	10,079
	Total	10,907	8,328	1,209	21,946	1,853	8,199	1,489	9,779	2,594	18,052	10,357
75-84	Male	7,915	20,089	385	36,205	669	12,755	644	21,749	1,631	11,244	23,103
	Female	11,597	20,981	519	33,820	1,006	13,758	830	18,692	2,115	16,067	23,435
	Total	19,564	20,665	905	34,834	1,683	13,403	1,484	20,050	3,791	27,427	23,396
85+	Male	4,389	35,009	126	45,226	298	15,082	260	27,701	707	5,780	36,746
	Female	8,948	35,547	355	58,892	599	18,570	398	27,119	1,411	11,711	38,437
	Total	13,370	35,456	482	54,686	900	17,303	662	27,512	2,155	17,569	38,030
Unk	Male	465	---	50	---	122	---	44	---	71	752	---
	Female	479	---	45	---	103	---	44	---	61	732	---
	Total	1,005	---	96	---	241	---	96	---	848	2,286	---
Total	Male	45,023	5,100	6,490	7,072	11,589	3,118	5,149	3,894	11,231	79,482	5,270
	Female	48,724	5,693	7,149	8,741	11,421	3,257	5,838	4,036	11,755	84,887	5,792
	Total	94,035	5,408	13,674	7,879	23,102	3,198	11,043	3,988	23,987	165,841	5,577

Note: Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity. Rates not calculated if age is unknown.

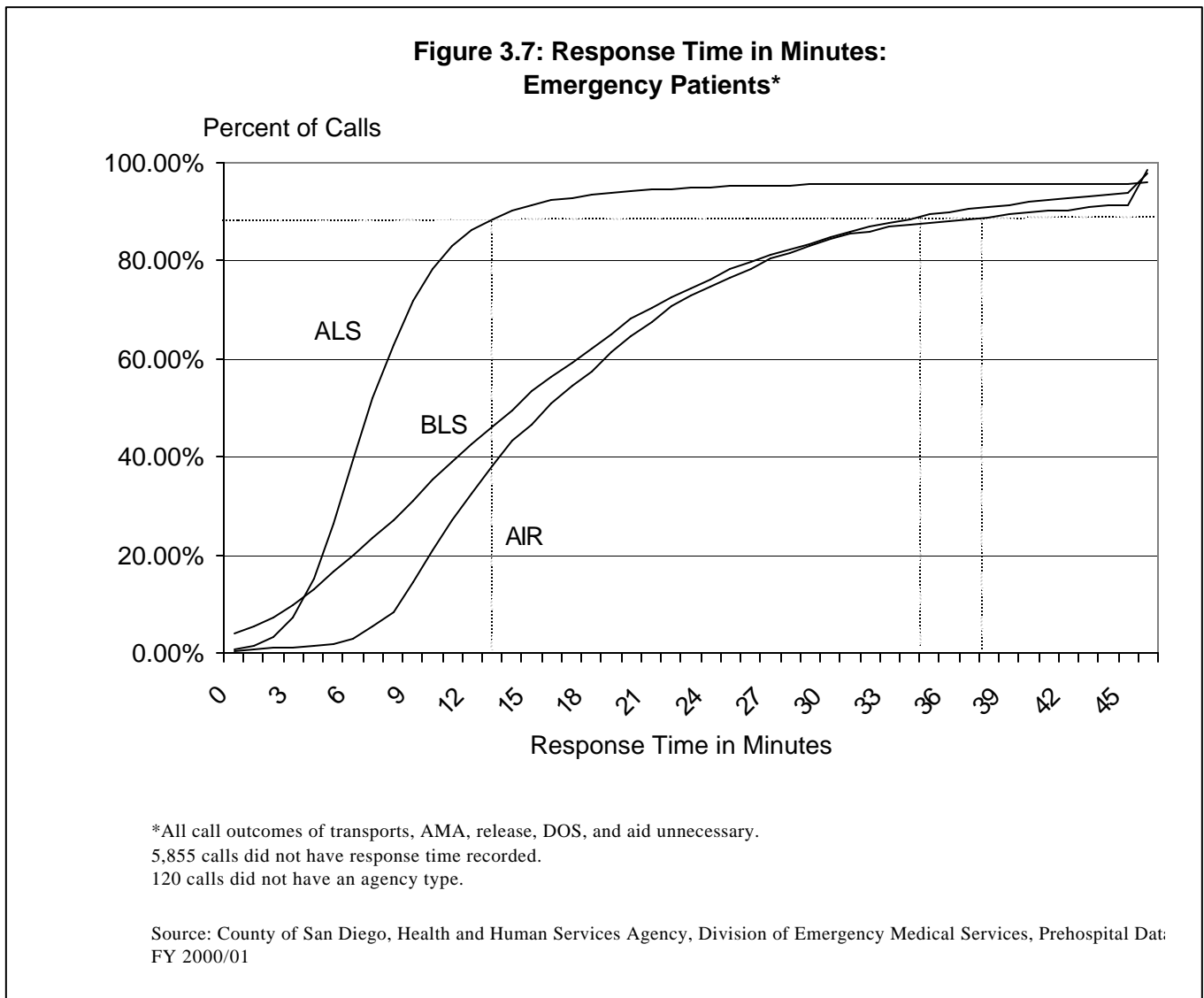
Tables totals include 1472 cases with an unknown gender.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

## Response Times

Response time is frequently used as a benchmark for emergency medical response systems. San Diego County incorporated a planned ground ALS response time goal of 10 minutes 90% of the time for metropolitan and urban areas, and a goal of 30 minutes 90% of the time in rural areas. Because of the varied terrain throughout the region and because of the restrictions imposed by weather, there has not been a County standard developed for the evaluation of air medical emergency response times.

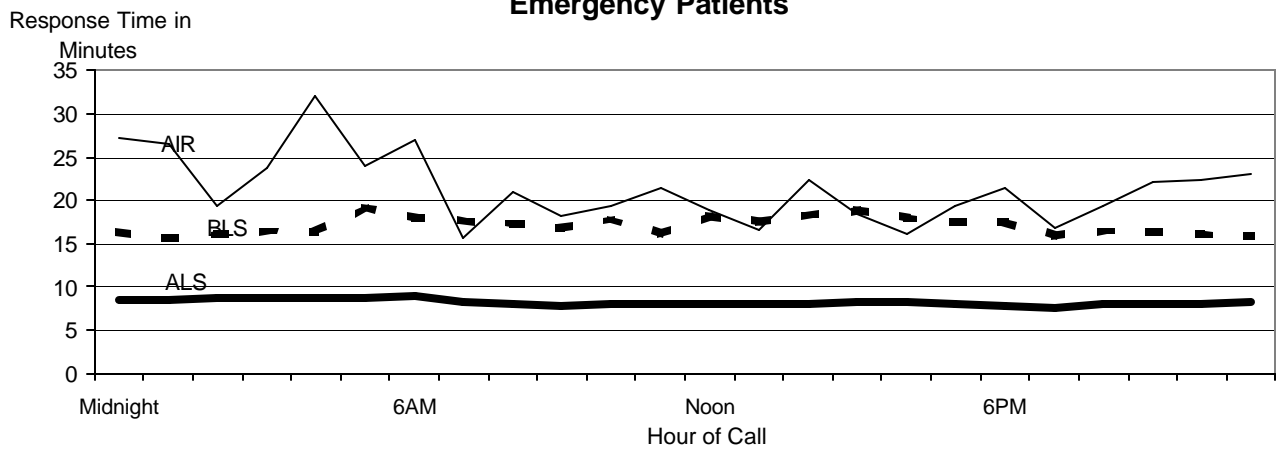
The following graph shows aggregate response times. Individually, agencies that comprise the EMS system demonstrated compliance in both ALS and BLS system goals. Air medical response time data were also presented for reference. The median response times for ALS, BLS, and Air agencies were 7, 11, and 19 minutes, respectively. Because the data included some runs with unknown response time values, the graph lines do not reach 100%.



## Response Times and Agency Type by Hour of Day

Response time was a reflection of system utilization and resource availability. Optimally, EMS systems should match predicted utilization with the resources needed to respond quickly. The following graph demonstrates that ALS systems seem to do a good job of matching utilization with resource availability, most likely because ALS systems generally used advanced dispatch systems, and they responded mostly within compact urban areas. BLS providers demonstrated longer, and more varied response times by hour of call due to the difficulties of responding over larger geographic areas. Air medical response times could have been a reflection of daily cyclical weather influences (for example, morning fog).

**Figure 3.8: Average Response Time by Agency Type and Hour of Day: Emergency Patients**



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database FY 2000/01  
 All call outcomes of transport, AMA, release, DOS, and aid unnecessary.  
 2,428 calls had unknown call times, 5,855 calls had unknown response times, and 120 calls did not have agency type.

## Chief Complaint

The paramedic or EMT who completes the information in the prehospital patient record selects the most appropriate chief complaint for each patient from the following list. This is meant to describe the types of conditions experienced by each patient. While this information is not intended to be diagnostic, it is critical for epidemiologic surveillance of the general types of calls to which the emergency medical system responds.

Abdominal Pain	Airway Obstruction	Allergic Reaction
Altered Neurologic (Diabetes)	Altered Neurologic (Medical)	Asthma
Birth	Burn	Chest Pain Cardiac
Chest Pain Other	CHF	COPD
CPR Medical	CPR Medical Bystander	CVA
Drown/Diving	Environmental	ETOH/Sub Abuse
Extreme Pain Medical	Fever Flu Rash	GI/GU
Hazardous Material/Toxic	Headache Medical	Hemodialysis
Neck Back Medical	OB/GYN	OD Poison
Other Medical	Palpitations	Psychiatric
Seizure	Respiratory Distress	Syncope
CPR Trauma	CPR Trauma Bystander	Trauma Extremity
Trauma Head/Neck	Trauma Torso	Other Trauma

## Chief Complaint by Age Group

There were predictable trends in the distribution of emergency patients by chief complaint and age group. Table 3.3 shows the leading chief complaints by age group. While patients younger than 55 years were most often seen for traumatic chief complaints, cardiac-related chest pain and respiratory distress were the most common chief complaints for patients 55 and older. Children under ten, meanwhile, had high rates for seizure, respiratory distress, and traumatic chief complaints. (See Table 5.1 for complete listing of numbers and rates.)

**Table 3.3: Leading Chief Complaints (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients**

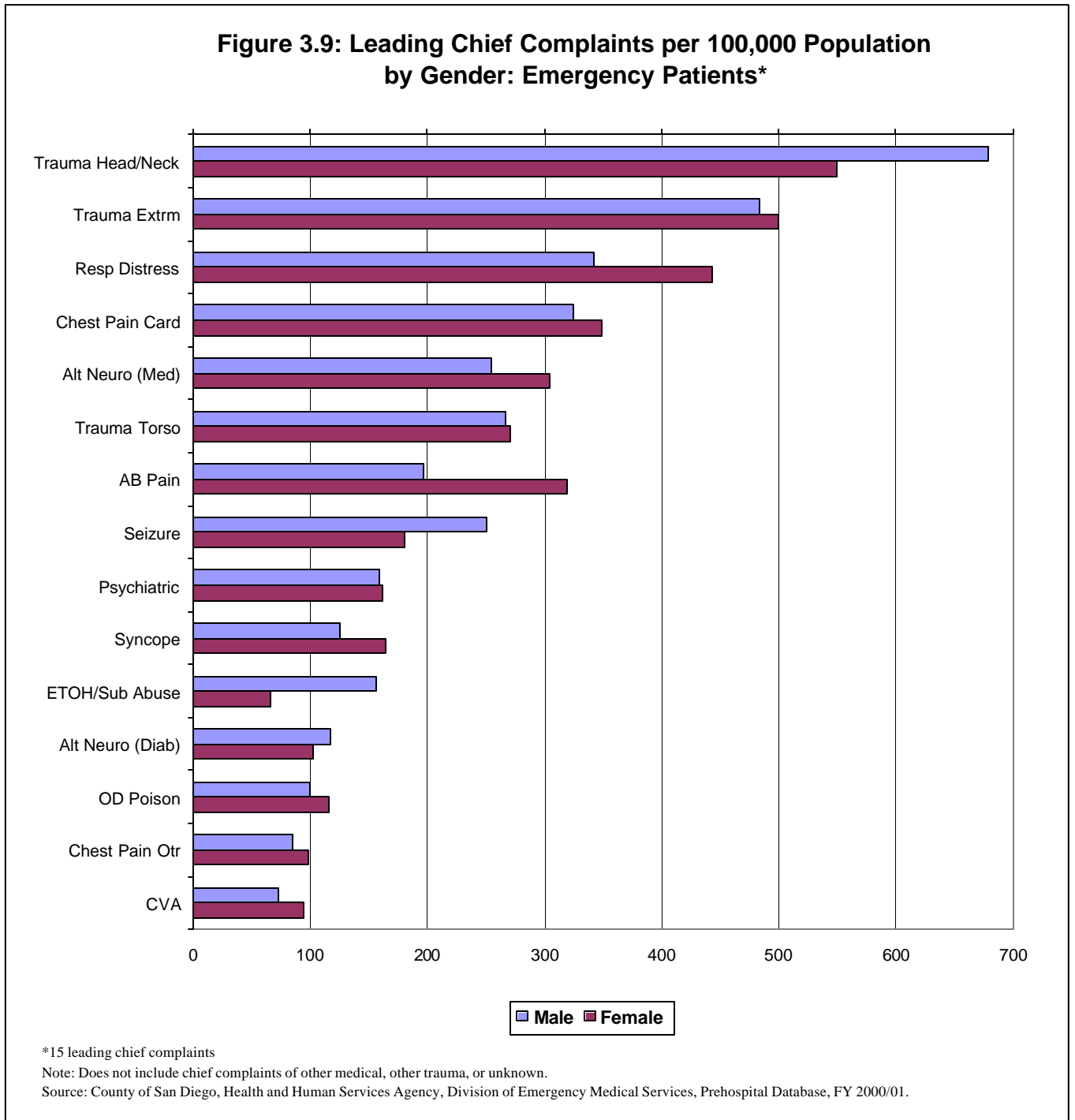
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Overall
1	Seizure 519.86	Trauma Head/Neck 362.43	Trauma Head/Neck 400.06	Trauma Head/Neck 936.92	Trauma Head/Neck 923.70	Trauma Head/Neck 611.75	Trauma Head/Neck 531.11	Trauma Head/Neck 528.53	Chest Pain Card 665.94	Resp Distress 1155.47	Resp Distress 2471.20	Resp Distress 3736.11	Trauma Head/Neck 617.75
2	Trauma Head/Neck 435.28	Trauma Extrm 182.55	Trauma Extrm 375.97	Trauma Extrm 607.13	Trauma Extrm 517.52	Trauma Extrm 415.68	Trauma Extrm 358.68	Chest Pain Card 426.81	Resp Distress 511.55	Chest Pain Card 1075.72	Chest Pain Card 2072.84	Alt Neuro (Med) 3597.57	Trauma Extrm 492.73
3	Resp Distress 320.38	Seizure 105.52	Trauma Torso 123.75	Trauma Torso 353.99	Trauma Torso 372.30	Trauma Torso 277.80	Seizure 263.49	Trauma Extrm 379.27	Trauma Head/Neck 442.14	Alt Neuro (Med) 699.93	Alt Neuro (Med) 1886.88	Trauma Extrm 3506.66	Resp Distress 393.76
4	Fever Flu Rash 152.50	Resp Distress 83.71	Psychiatric 95.88	OD Poison 211.29	AB Pain 256.56	AB Pain 236.59	Trauma Torso 259.36	AB Pain 274.09	Trauma Extrm 411.43	Trauma Extrm 656.33	Trauma Extrm 1642.92	Chest Pain Card 2441.67	Chest Pain Card 337.98
5	Trauma Extrm 116.62	Trauma Torso 83.71	Seizure 94.47	Psychiatric 190.11	Psychiatric 174.71	Seizure 199.92	AB Pain 251.10	Resp Distress 258.42	Alt Neuro (Med) 325.19	Trauma Head/Neck 515.20	Trauma Head/Neck 1217.26	Trauma Head/Neck 2052.05	Alt Neuro (Med) 279.77
6	Airway Obstr 85.01	Fever Flu Rash 46.31	Resp Distress 69.43	AB Pain 181.53	OD Poison 170.75	Psychiatric 168.90	Psychiatric 218.89	Trauma Torso 254.17	AB Pain 272.60	AB Pain 458.97	Syncope 907.61	Syncope 1404.83	Trauma Torso 269.78
7	OD Poison 59.80	AB Pain 40.52	AB Pain 50.54	Seizure 170.44	Seizure 168.11	OD Poison 137.20	Chest Pain Card 196.58	Seizure 241.16	Trauma Torso 233.06	Syncope 337.35	AB Pain 894.82	AB Pain 1389.68	AB Pain 258.82
8	Trauma Torso 34.17	Asthma 32.50	OD Poison 42.04	ETOH/Sub Abuse 159.85	OB/GYN 140.82	Resp Distress 117.96	ETOH/Sub Abuse 176.35	Alt Neuro (Med) 234.52	Alt Neuro (Diab) 184.68	Alt Neuro (Diab) 336.77	CVA 792.46	Trauma Torso 1309.59	Seizure 217.09
9	Alt Neuro (Med) 32.04	Psychiatric 23.60	Asthma 32.59	Syncope 105.89	ETOH/Sub Abuse 138.62	ETOH/Sub Abuse 106.41	Resp Distress 159.42	Psychiatric 228.68	Psychiatric 156.07	Trauma Torso 283.99	Trauma Torso 674.74	CVA 1225.17	Psychiatric 162.89
10	Burn 28.19	Aller Reac 15.58	ETOH/Sub Abuse 26.92	Resp Distress 99.34	Resp Distress 106.06	OB/GYN 102.56	OD Poison 156.11	ETOH/Sub Abuse 221.51	Seizure 152.29	CVA 277.11	Alt Neuro (Diab) 553.61	GI/GU 811.73	Syncope 145.13

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database 2000/01

Table excludes Other Medical (31,431) (1056.91/100,000), Other Trauma (4877) (164.00/100,000) and Unknown (2557) (85.98/100,000) categories.

## Chief Complaint by Gender

Males and females utilized emergency ambulance services in approximately equal numbers, although there were differences seen among the various chief complaints recorded in the Prehospital database. Females accounted for 61% of abdominal pain complaints, while males made up 71% of alcohol/substance abuse, 59% of seizure, and 56% of trauma head/neck complaints. (See Table 5.2 for complete listing)

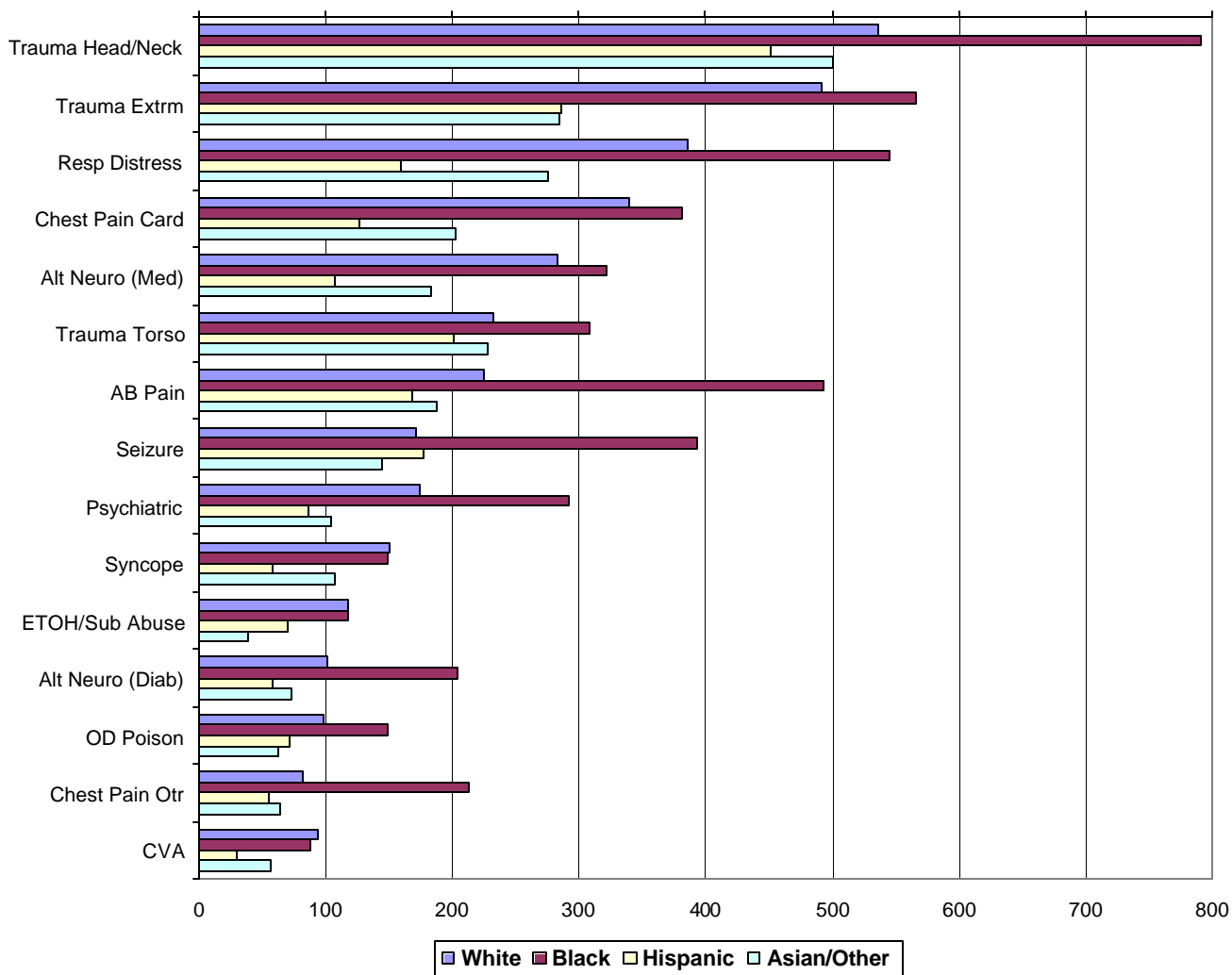




## Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity

The emergency ambulance utilization rate among Blacks (7,759/100,000) was higher than Whites and more than twice the rate for Hispanics and Asian/Other populations. This was true not only for emergency medical complaints in general, but for almost every medical complaint listed. The only complaints for which a different racial/ethnic group had similar rates were cardiovascular-type, syncope and ETOH/substance abuse. Of all chief complaints those that stand out in the Black population include: abdominal pain (494/100,000), asthma (116/100,000), OB/GYN (142/100,000), OD poison (149/100,000), psychiatric (291/100,000), seizure (393/100,000), respiratory distress (544/100,000), and trauma complaints (trauma extremity, head/neck, torso, and other; 567, 791, 309, and 201 per 100,000 respectively). (See Table 5.3 for complete listing).

**Figure 3.10: Leading Chief Complaints per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity: Emergency Patients\***



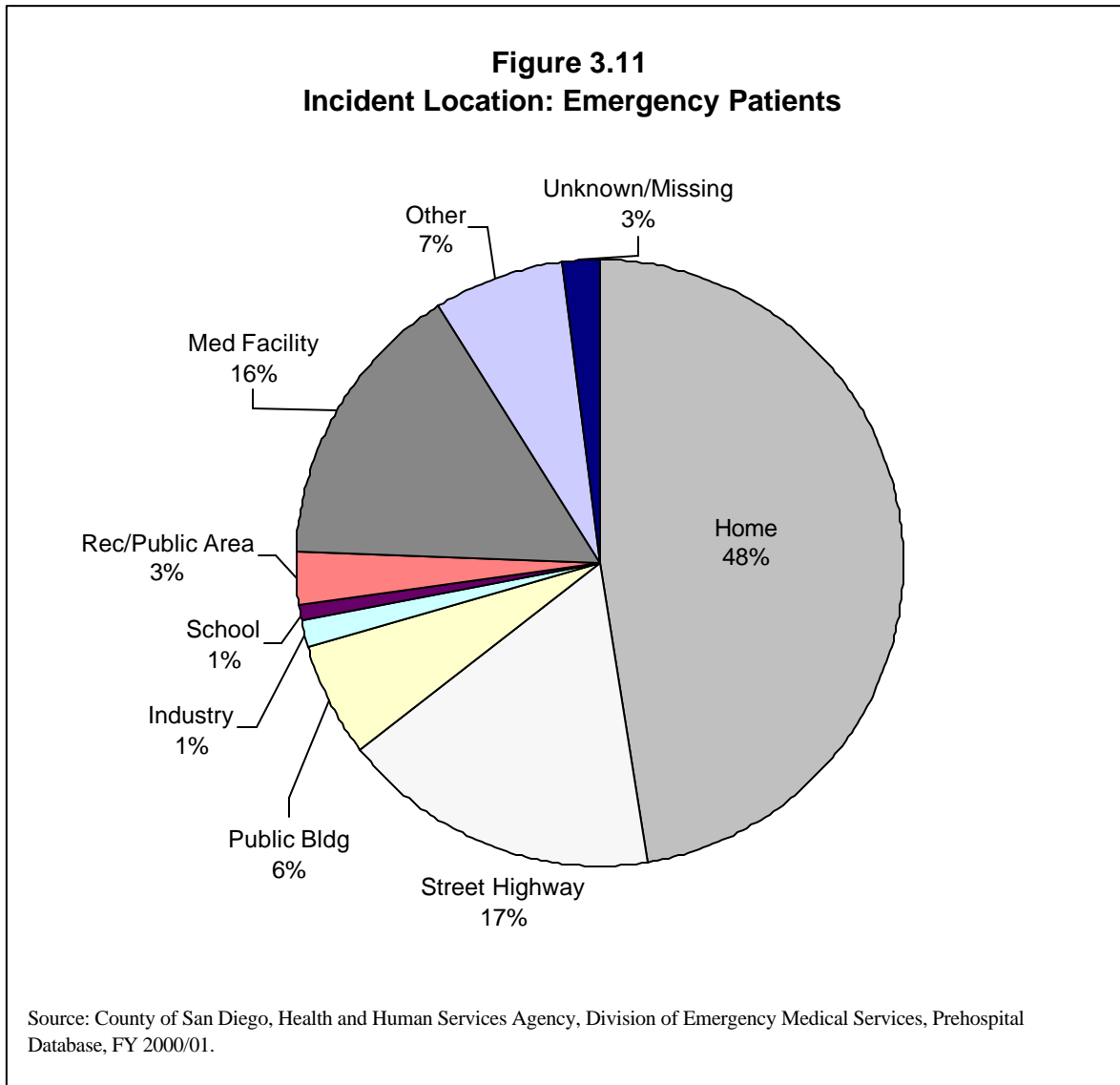
\*15 leading chief complaints

Note: Does not include chief complaints of other medical, other trauma, or unknown.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01

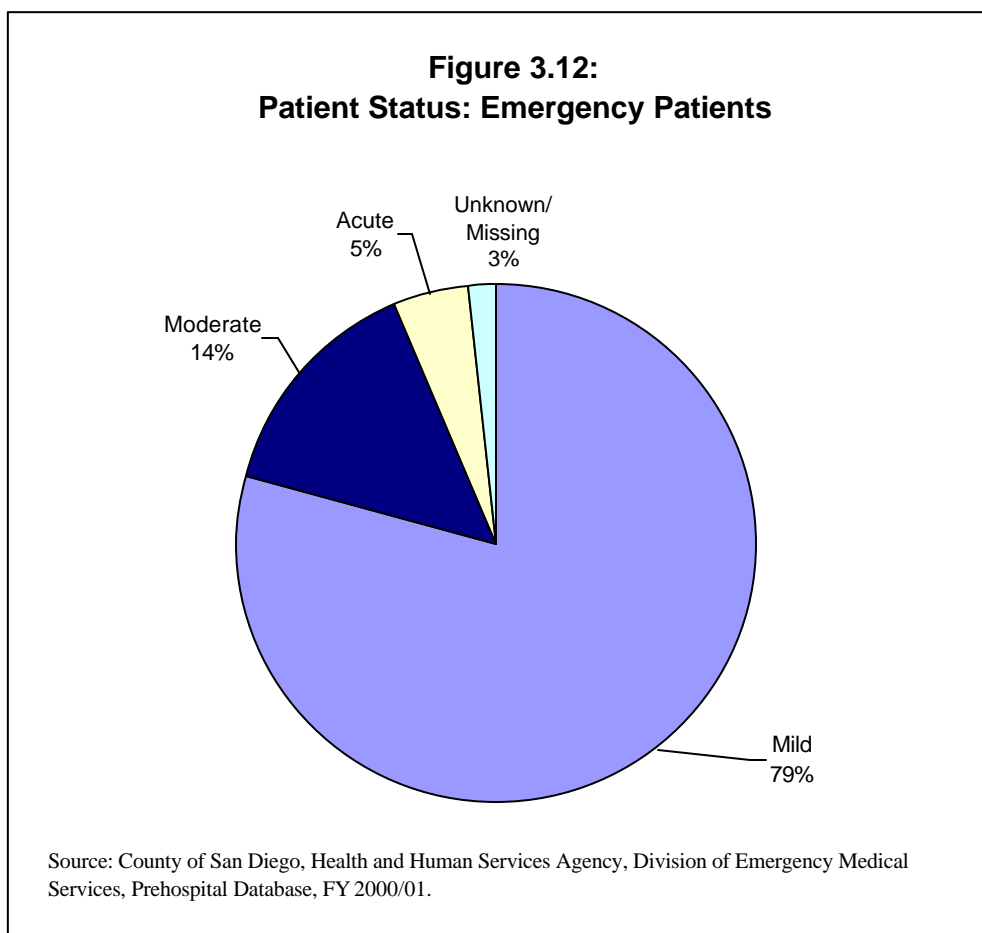
## Chief Complaint by Incident Location

The location to which prehospital personnel respond is closely related to the type of chief complaint. With the majority of calls being medical in nature, ambulances responded most often to homes. In 17% of cases, emergency crews responded to street/highways, owing largely to the high proportion of traumatic chief complaints resulting from motor vehicle crashes. (See Table 5.4 for complete listing)



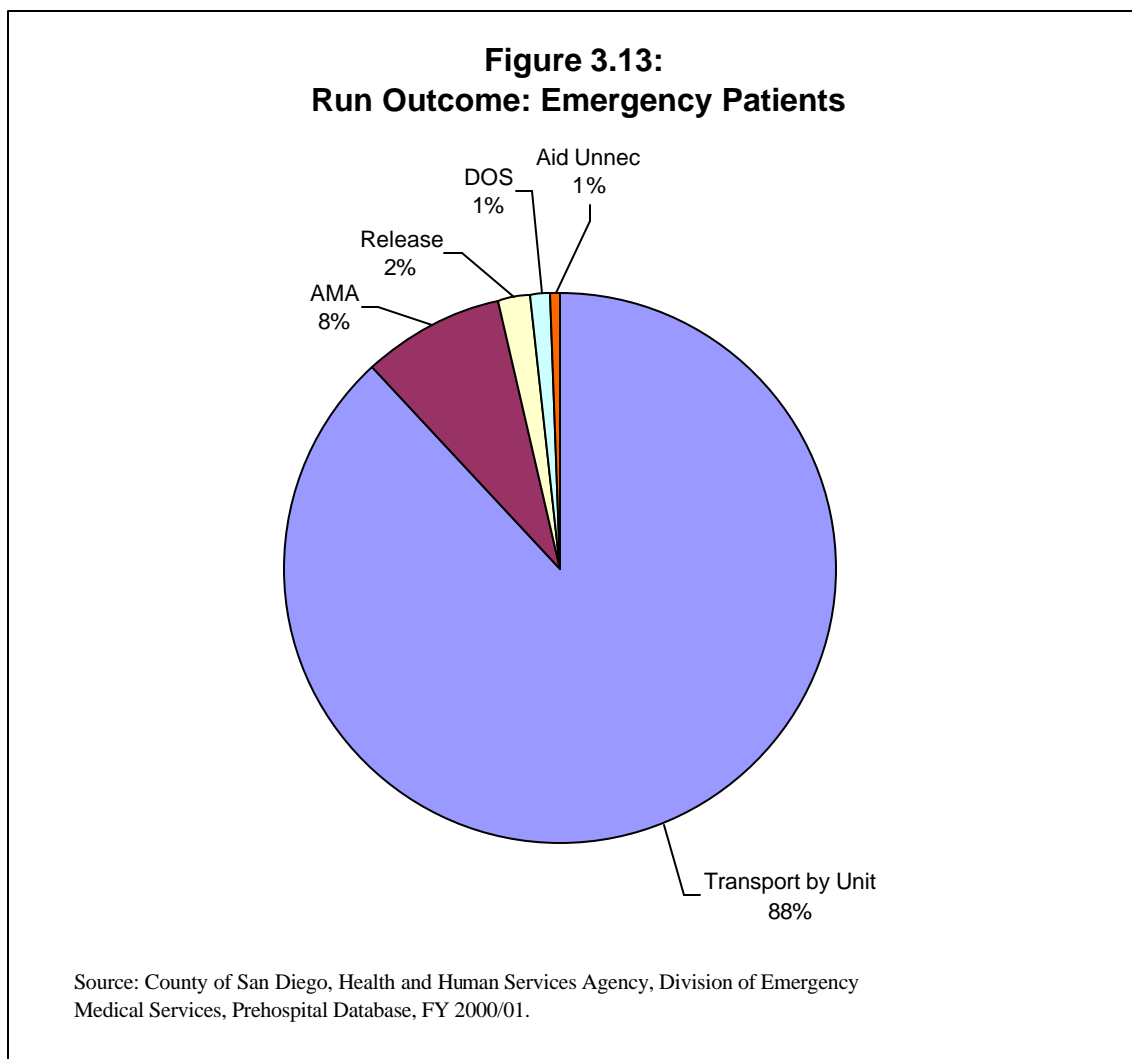
## Chief Complaint by Patient Status

Prehospital personnel report patient status/acuity as either mild, moderate, or acute. Seventy-nine percent of patients were categorized into “mild” status, indicating that the patient has stable vital signs with no apparent threat to life or limb. “Moderate” status patients, those with suspected threat to life or limb needing immediate evaluation by medical personnel, made up 14% of patients. Chief complaints more likely to be coded as moderate status included cardio-pulmonary complaints not requiring CPR, respiratory distress, and altered neurological function. Five percent of emergency patients were “acute,” meaning that the patient had an apparent need for immediate intervention to protect life or limb. The majority of patients in acute status had CPR-related chief complaints. (See Table 5.5 for complete listing)



## Chief Complaint by Run Outcome

Prehospital personnel transported 88% of emergency patients to the emergency department of a receiving hospital. Eight percent refused transport against medical advice (AMA). Patients were more likely to sign out AMA for the following chief complaints: airway obstruction (28%) and altered neurological function related to diabetes (32%). One percent did not require medical aid (Aid Unnecessary), 2% were treated and released, 1% were dead on scene (DOS). (See Table 5.6 for complete listing)



## Cause of Injury

Patients who have traumatic or other injuries (e.g., poisoning), are categorized according to their external cause of injury. Forty percent of all reported causes of injury were transportation-related, while 34% resulted from falls. The leading types of injury were strongly associated with demographic characteristics, with falls being most common among the elderly and very young, motorcycle crashes overwhelmingly male, and penetrating injuries (firearm, cut/pierce) occurring most often among 15-34 year old males. (See Tables 5.7 – 5.12 for complete listings)

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO)	Motorcycle	All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)
Pedalcycle	Pedestrian	Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) Other
Other Transportation	Fire-Burn	Firearm
Cut/Pierce	Blunt	Fall
Assault-Battery	Poison-Bite-Sting	Suffocation
Drown-Submersion	Other Struck-Hit-Kick	Other
Unknown		

## Cause of Injury by Age Group

Motor vehicle crashes were the number one cause of injury overall and for every age group from 5 to 54 years. Falls were the leading cause of injury for patients under five and over 54, reaching rates near 5,700 per 100,000 for individuals over the age of 84. The distribution of patients by age grouping followed a predictable pattern for many causes of injury. Motorcycle, firearm, and cut/pierce injuries had their highest rates among patients in age groupings from 15 to 44 years. (See Table 5.7 for complete listing)

**Table 3.4: Leading Causes of Injury (Rate per 100,000) by Age Group: Emergency Patients**

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Overall
1	Fall 322.08	MVO 208.37	MVO 229.55	MVO 1021.13	MVO 882.33	MVO 566.69	MVO 457.60	MVO 422.30	Fall 460.65	Fall 904.18	Fall 2707.49	Fall 5660.44	Fall 476.25
2	MVO 141.82	Fall 162.07	Fall 213.96	Blunt Trauma 194.64	Blunt Trauma 207.71	Fall 186.10	Fall 226.11	Fall 344.74	MVO 349.17	MVO 341.94	MVO 375.33	MVO 300.88	MVO 464.34
3	Pedestrian 27.34	Pedestrian 41.41	Pedalcycle 91.16	Fall 186.07	Fall 194.95	Blunt Trauma 129.50	Blunt Trauma 109.86	Blunt Trauma 89.77	Blunt Trauma 46.28	Pedestrian 32.13	Pedestrian 32.41	Blunt Trauma 49.79	Blunt Trauma 92.37
4	Cut-Pierce 22.64	Pedalcycle 32.95	Other Trans 59.04	Cut-Pierce 105.89	Cut-Pierce 123.22	Cut-Pierce 85.35	Cut-Pierce 60.30	Cut-Pierce 47.28	Cut-Pierce 30.71	Blunt Trauma 28.69	Blunt Trauma 31.56	Pedestrian 47.62	Cut-Pierce 55.95
5	Fire-Burn 17.94	Other Trans 29.83	Blunt Trauma 48.65	Pedalcycle 48.41	Motorcycle 77.45	Motorcycle 59.32	Motorcycle 39.03	Pedestrian 34.00	Pedestrian 27.34	Cut-Pierce 18.93	Cut-Pierce 20.47	Cut-Pierce 36.80	Pedestrian 33.69
6	Blunt Trauma 17.51	Blunt Trauma 29.39	Pedestrian 44.40	Other Trans 48.41	Firearm 42.69	Pedalcycle 32.60	Pedalcycle 33.66	Motorcycle 30.01	Motorcycle 21.03	Pedalcycle 13.20	Other Trans 14.50	Other Trans 10.82	Pedalcycle 31.68
7	Poison-bite- sting 15.81	Cut-Pierce 20.48	Other Str- Hit-Kick 33.06	Firearm 42.36	Other Trans 37.41	Pedestrian 28.98	Pedestrian 29.53	Pedalcycle 29.48	Pedalcycle 17.67	Other Trans 10.33	Fire-Burn 11.94	Poison-bite- sting 10.82	Motorcycle 31.54
8	Other Trans 12.82	Other Str- Hit-Kick 9.35	Cut-Pierce 30.23	Motorcycle 41.35	Pedestrian 36.09	Other Trans 26.26	Other Trans 23.33	Other Trans 22.31	Other Trans 13.04	Fire-Burn 8.03	Firearm 10.24	*	Other Trans 26.70
9	Other Str- Hit-Kick 11.96	Fire-Burn 8.46	Motorcycle 14.17	Pedestrian 40.34	Pedalcycle 26.40	Firearm 21.06	Firearm 14.25	Poison-bite- sting 16.47	Fire-Burn 8.41	MVC Oth 5.74	Other Str- Hit-Kick 8.53	*	Firearm 15.54
10	Pedalcycle 6.41	Poison-bite- sting 8.46	Poison-bite- sting 11.34	Other Str- Hit-Kick 28.74	Poison-bite- sting 18.48	Fire-Burn 16.07	Poison-bite- sting 13.01	Firearm 12.75	Firearm 8.41	Firearm 5.74	Pedalcycle 7.68	*	Poison-bite- sting 13.05

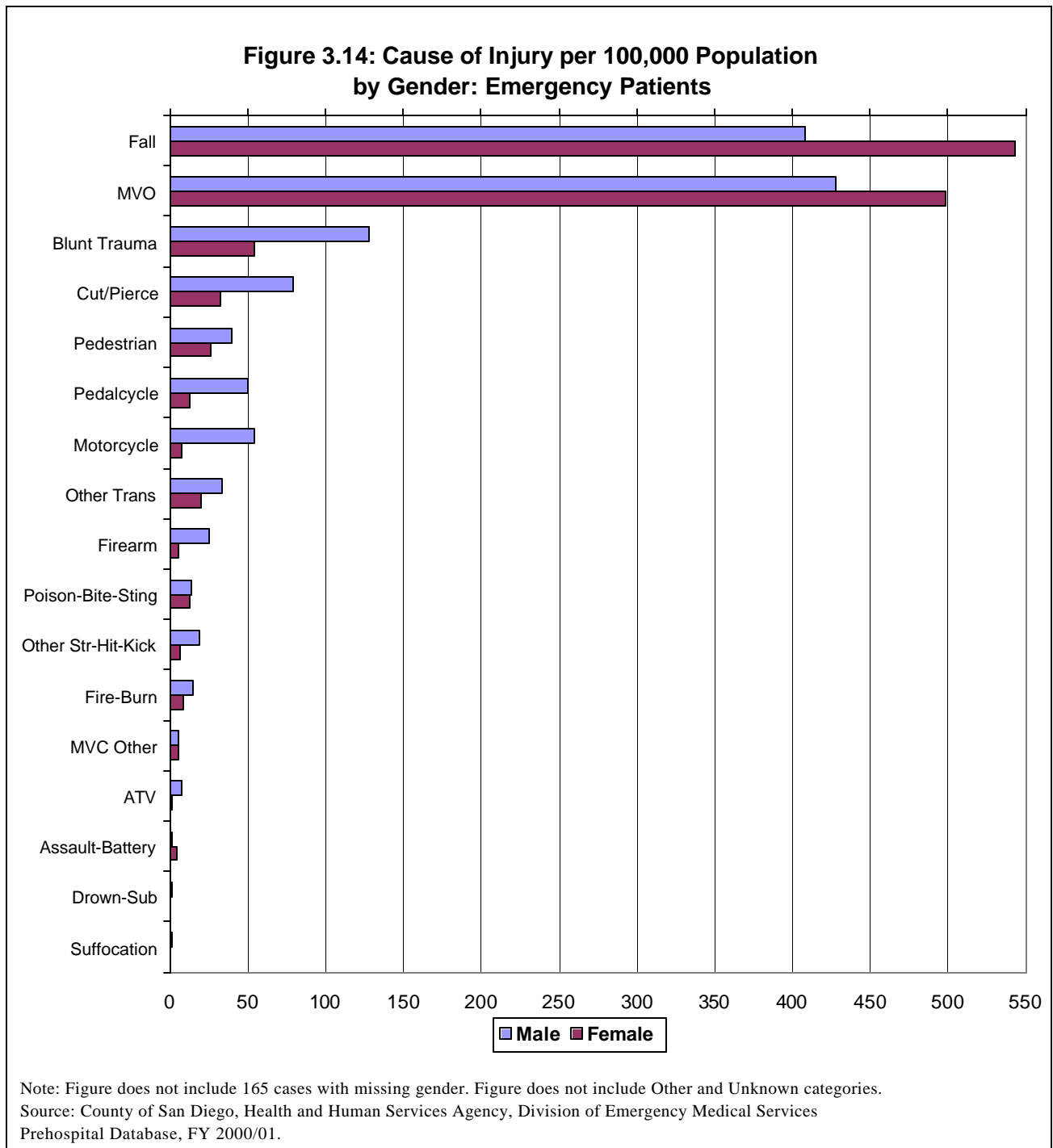
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database 2000/01.

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents.

Table excludes Other (2,585) (86.92/100,000) and Unknown (877) (29.49/100,000) categories.

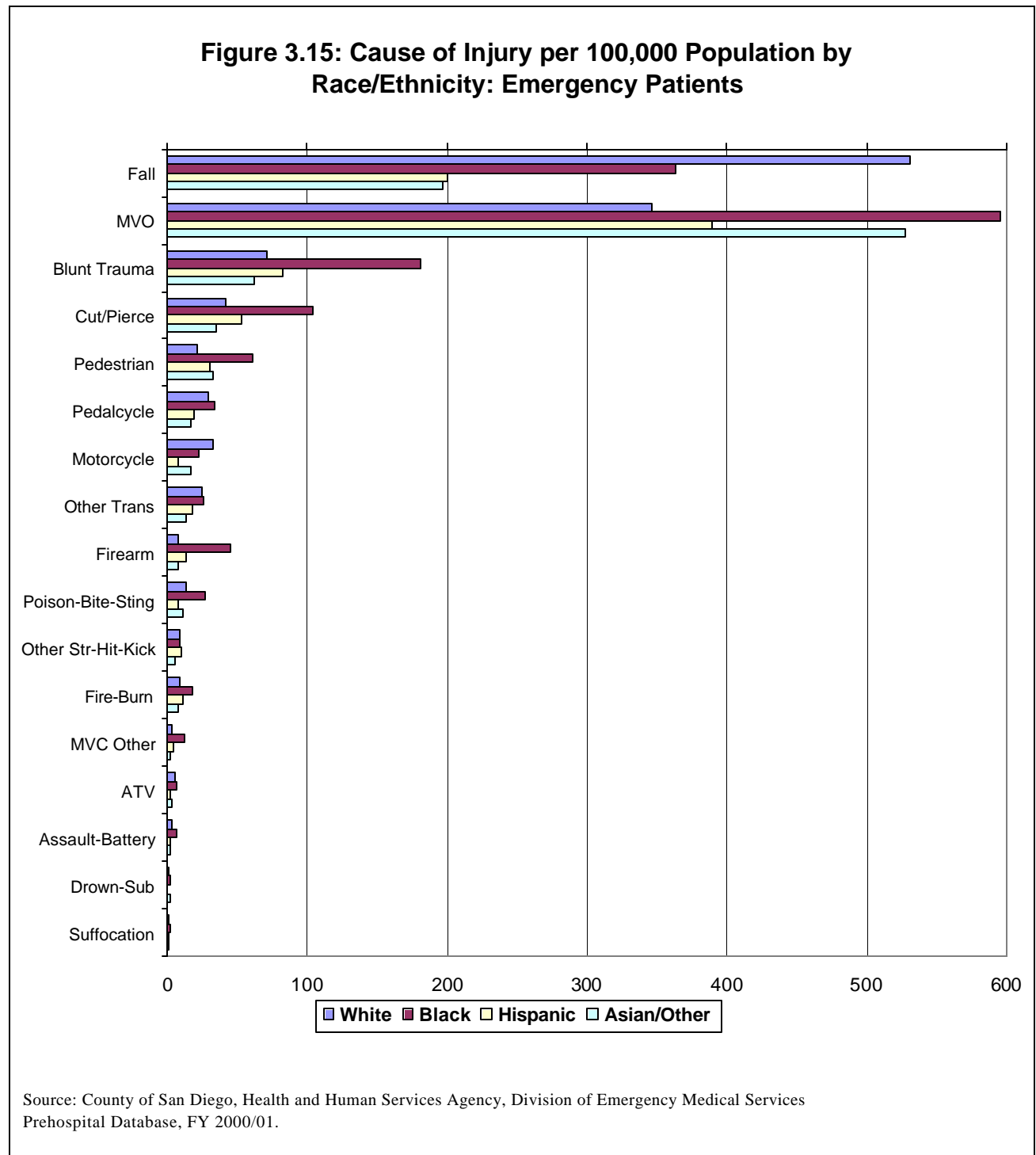
## Cause of Injury by Gender

Among emergency patients, the majority of injury patients were male, outnumbering females in all causes of injury except motor vehicle occupant injuries, falls, and assault/battery. The cause of injury category showing the greatest disparity between males and females was motorcycle crash, which was 88% male. Note that the MVO and Motorcycle data shown here combined injuries sustained by both drivers and passengers. (See Table 5.8 for complete listing)



### Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 3.15 shows the race/ethnicity-specific rate (per 100,000 population) for the occurrence of each of the major causes of injury. The Black population experienced the highest injury rates overall (7,759/100,000), with rates for blunt trauma, cut/pierce, firearm, poison-bite-sting, MVC other, assault-battery and suffocation injuries that was twice as high than any other race/ethnic group. Falls were particularly high among the White population, due to a much higher proportion of elderly. (See Table 5.9 for complete listing)

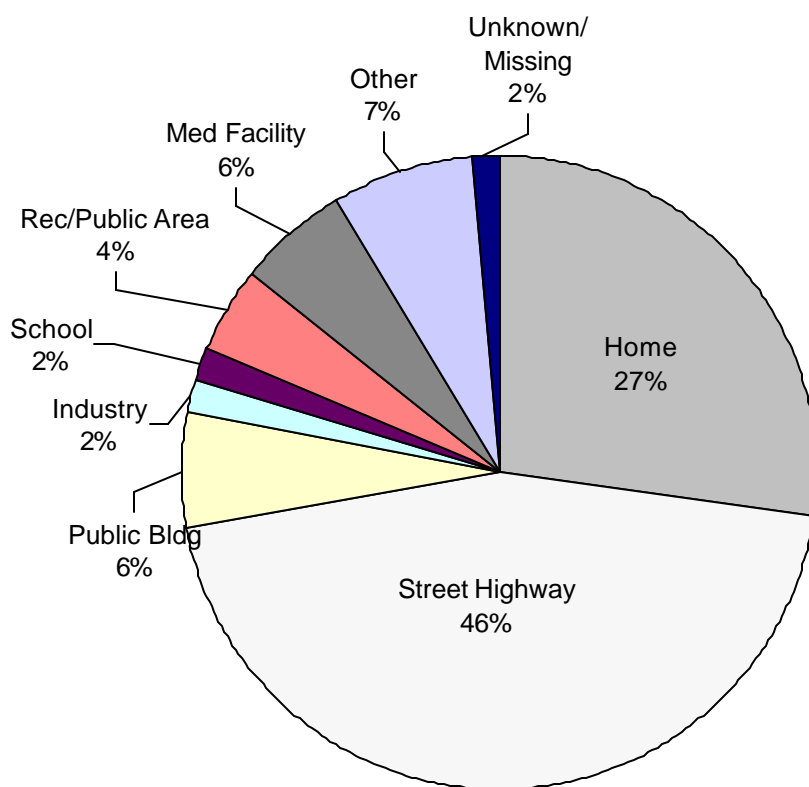




### Cause of Injury by Incident Location

With the exception of motor vehicle incidents, most emergency responses for injuries were to homes. A home was the location for, 58% suffocation, 52% of fire/burns, 51% falls, 49% cut/pierce and 47% of poison-bite-stings injuries. Note that the high number of various causes of injury reported at medical facilities was most likely due to triage or re-triage decisions made at medical clinics and non-trauma centers to transport the patient on an emergency basis to a higher level of care (See Table 5.10 for a complete listing).

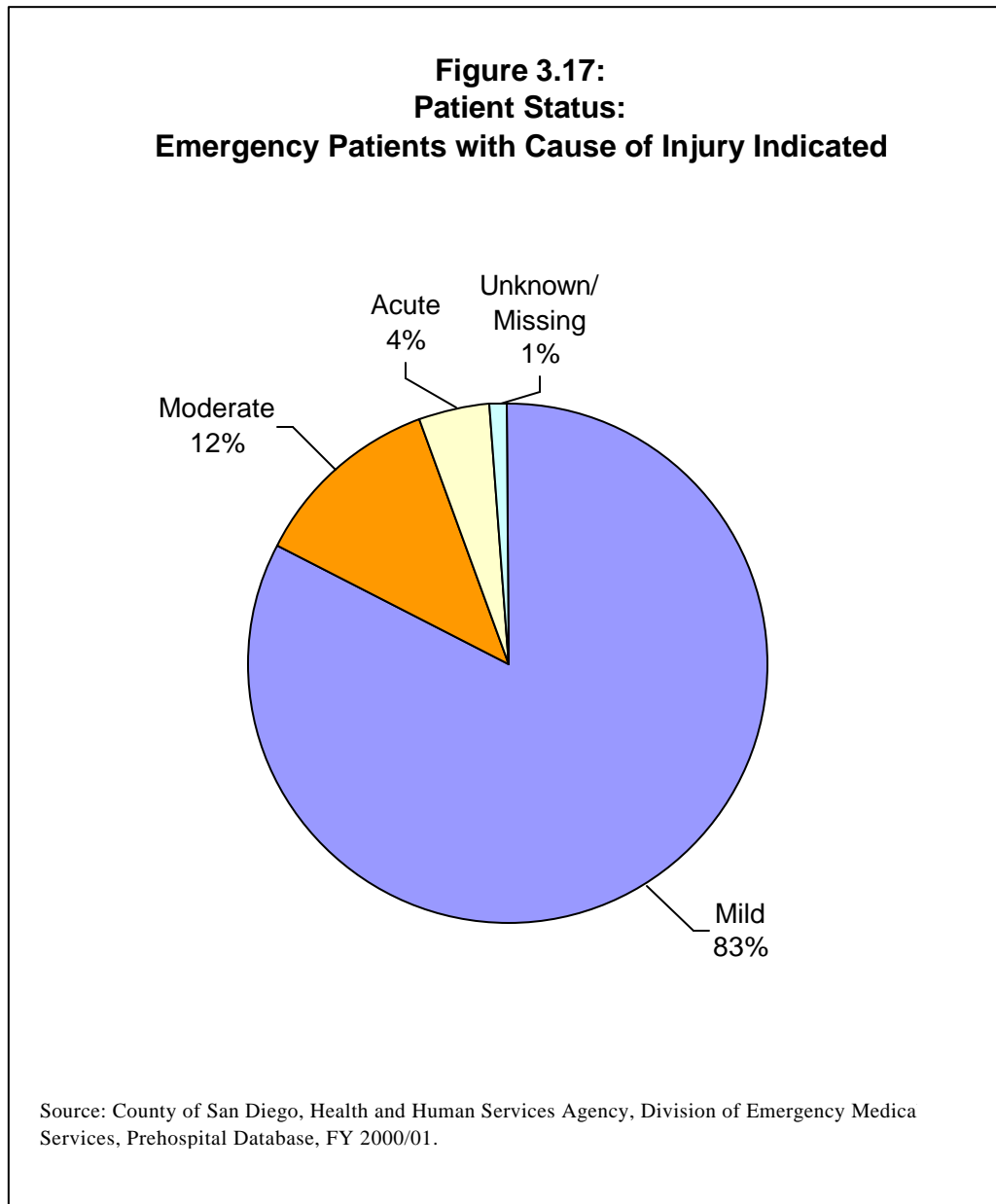
**Figure 3.16**  
**Incident Location:**  
**Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated**



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

## Cause of Injury by Patient Status

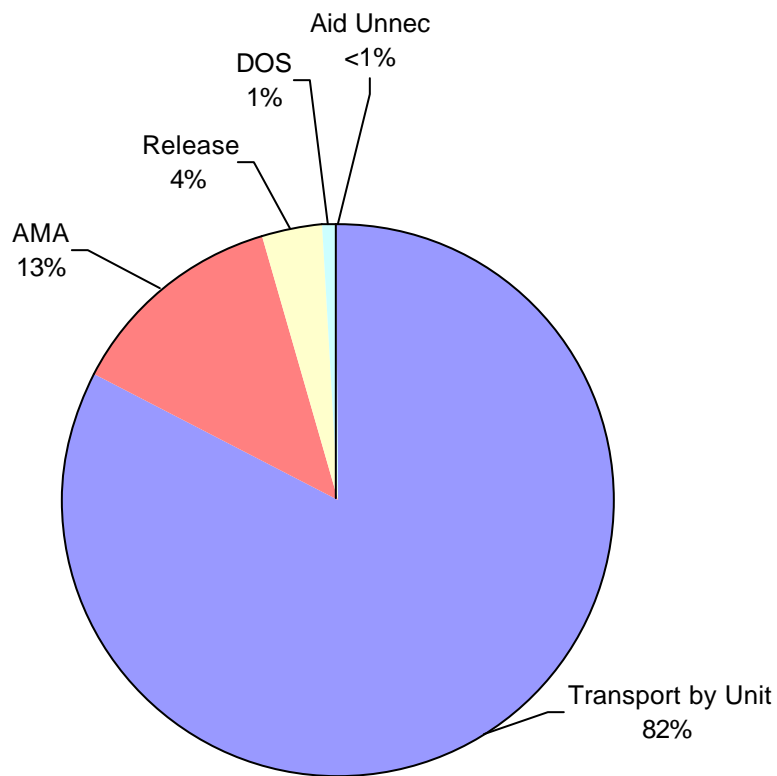
As seen in Figure 3.17, 83% of injured patients with a known cause of injury were reported to be in mild status. The causes of injury associated with the highest percentages of patients in acute status include suffocation (53%), firearm (36%), and drown-submersion (32%). (See Table 5.11 for complete listing)



### Cause of Injury by Run Outcome

Eighty-two percent of patients with a documented cause of injury were transported by ambulance. Causes of injury with a high probability of the patient leaving AMA included motor vehicle occupant crashes (18%), blunt trauma (17%), cut/pierce (16%), and fire-burn (15%). (See Table 5.12 for complete listing)

**Figure 3.18:  
Run Outcome:  
Emergency Patients with Cause of Injury Indicated**



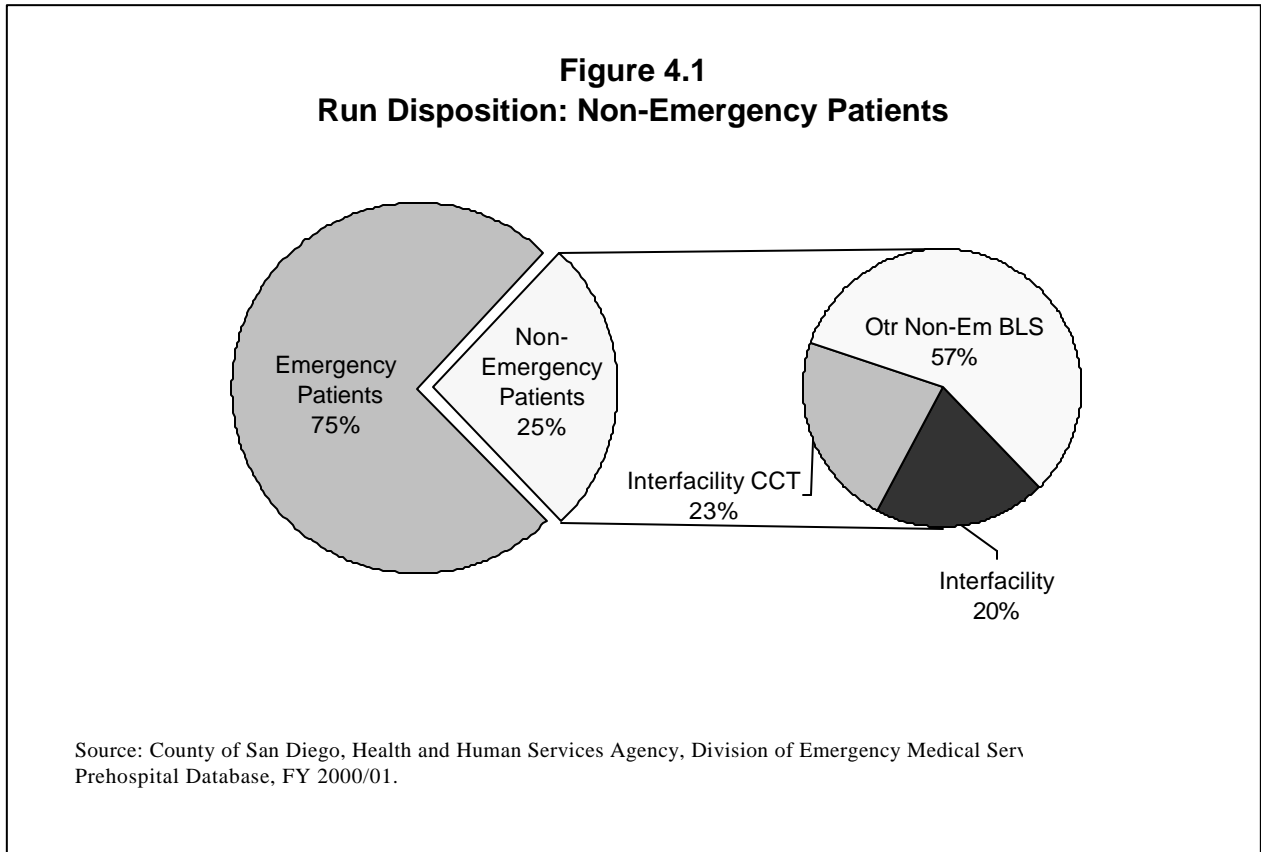
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

## **Section 4**

# **Non-Emergency Patients**

## Prehospital Activity: Non-Emergency Patients

During fiscal year 2000-01, 25% of prehospital patients were classified as non-emergency according to their ambulance run outcomes. The outcomes that are defined as non-emergency include interfacility transfer (20%), interfacility CCT (23%), and other non-emergency BLS (57%).



## Non-Emergency Patients by Subregional Areas

Many of the subregional areas in the county with the highest rates of non-emergency patient transports were those with proportionally older populations (La Mesa, Elliott-Navajo, Harbison Crest; Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1 Ambulance Utilization by San Diego County Subregional Areas: Non-Emergency Patients**

Subregional Area	Agency Type				Total*	Population	Rate per 100,000
	ALS	BLS	AIR	Other/ Unk			
Alpine	3	28	0	1	32	13,933	230
Anza-Borrego Springs	0	64	0	0	64	4,395	1,456
Carlsbad	16	150	0	0	166	101,028	164
Central San Diego	47	8,741	2	3	8,793	170,240	5,165
Chula Vista	24	4,876	2	0	4,902	108,209	4,530
Coastal	14	3,464	0	0	3,478	82,222	4,230
Coronado	1	636	0	0	637	25,572	2,491
Del Mar-Mira Mesa	5	305	0	0	310	148,357	209
El Cajon	9	938	0	0	947	123,602	766
Elliott-Navajo	11	5,825	0	1	5,837	95,771	6,095
Escondido	9	4,503	3	0	4,515	146,959	3,072
Fallbrook	72	295	0	0	367	45,780	802
Harbison Crest	3	465	0	0	468	16,154	2,897
Jamul	2	51	0	0	53	13,854	383
Kearny Mesa	143	5,658	0	2	5,803	154,207	3,763
La Mesa	25	4,450	1	1	4,477	61,944	7,227
Laguna-Pine Valley	3	16	0	0	19	5,779	329
Lakeside	1	49	0	0	50	58,069	86
Lemon Grove	0	204	0	0	204	31,097	656
Mid-City	4	1,054	0	2	1,060	161,149	658
Miramar	0	32	0	0	32	5,603	571
Mountain Empire	0	56	0	0	56	6,640	843
National City	9	1,962	0	0	1,971	55,686	3,539
North San Diego	7	772	0	0	779	92,534	842
Oceanside	91	3,236	5	0	3,332	155,324	2,145
Palomar-Julian	0	27	1	0	28	6,617	423
Pauma	0	5	0	0	5	5,969	84
Pendleton	0	140	1	0	141	38,492	366
Peninsula	6	273	0	0	279	64,768	431
Poway	10	1,560	7	1	1,578	85,945	1,836
Ramona	0	78	0	0	78	35,242	221
San Dieguito	4	1,758	0	0	1,762	90,989	1,936
San Marcos	0	123	0	0	123	69,850	176
Santee	12	121	0	0	133	58,463	227
South Bay	1	286	1	0	288	134,487	214
Southeast San Diego	4	377	0	0	381	160,919	237
Spring Valley	5	144	0	0	149	84,959	175
Sweetwater	1	77	1	0	79	83,730	94
University	1	685	0	0	686	53,432	1,284
Valley Center	1	25	1	0	27	21,021	128
Vista	9	1,002	0	0	1,011	94,878	1,066
Out of County	1	34	19	0	54	---	---
Unknown	26	415	6	1	448	---	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>54,960</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55,602</b>	<b>2,973,869</b>	<b>1,868</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

Rates not calculated if area = unknown or out of county

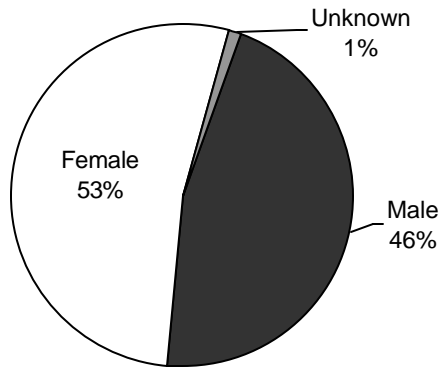
\* Out of county runs omitted from total rate calculation

## Gender of Non-Emergency Patients

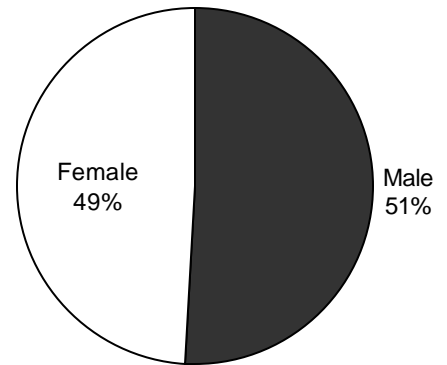
Females made up 53% of non-emergency prehospital patients, but only 49% of the county's overall population (Figure 4.2). This difference was primarily due to the very high proportion of females in the oldest age groups (57% of patients ages 55 and older), who made up 68% of non-emergency patients (Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.2: Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Gender**

Gender of Prehospital Non-Emergency Response Patients



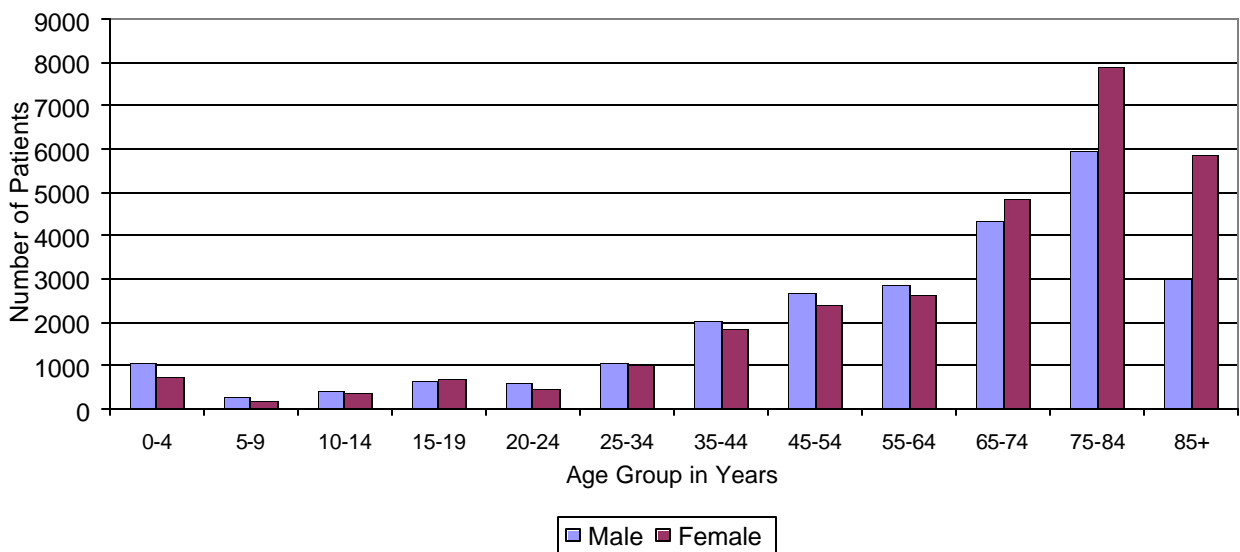
Gender of San Diego County Population



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

**Figure 4.3: Age Group by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients**

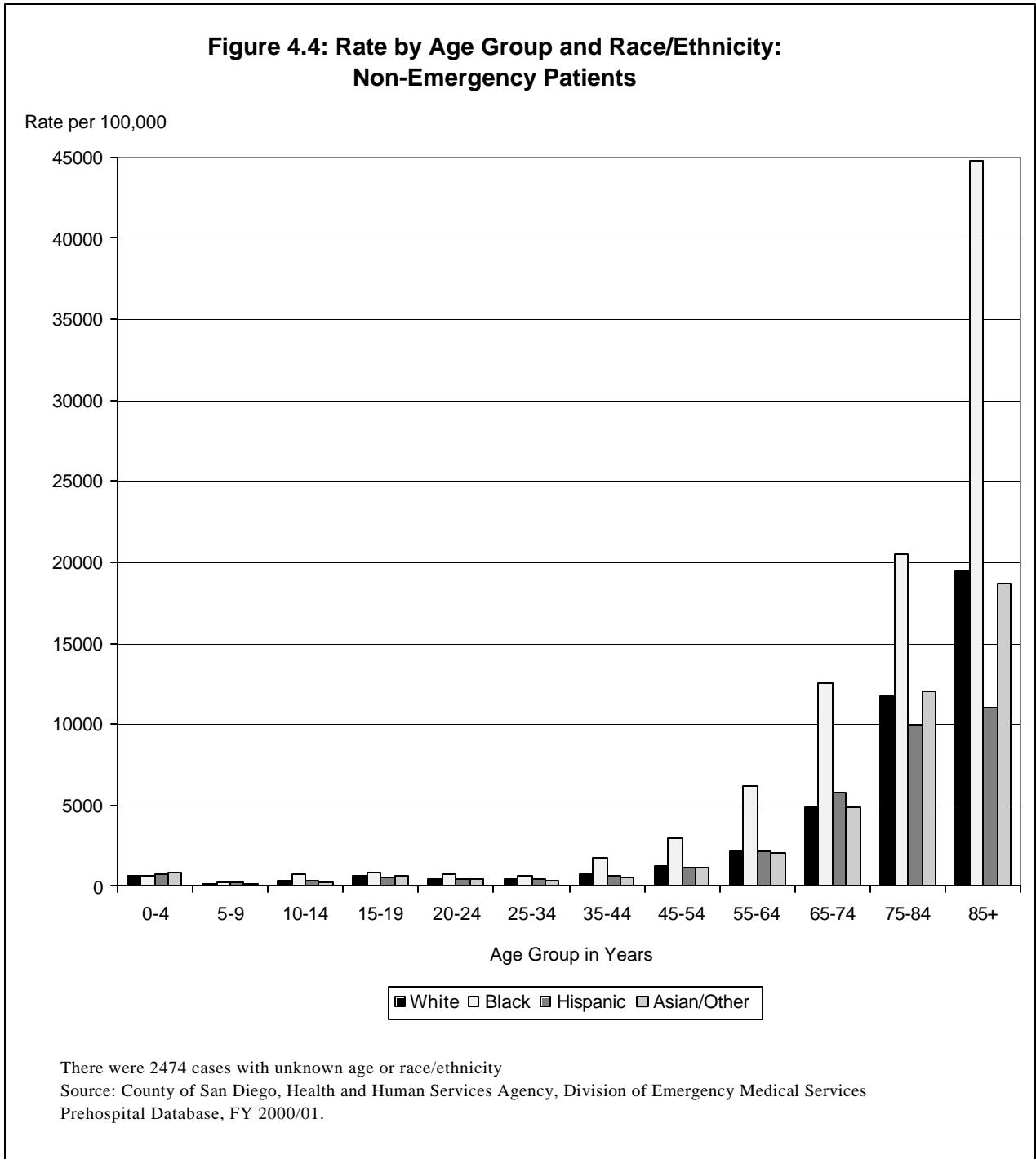


This figure does not include 667 cases with unknown gender

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

## Run Rates by Age and Race/Ethnicity

Similar to what was seen for emergency patients, Blacks had the highest rates of ambulance transports for non-emergency reasons. Ambulance response rates also increased markedly in the older populations, to over 19,300 per 100,000 for patients 85 years and older.

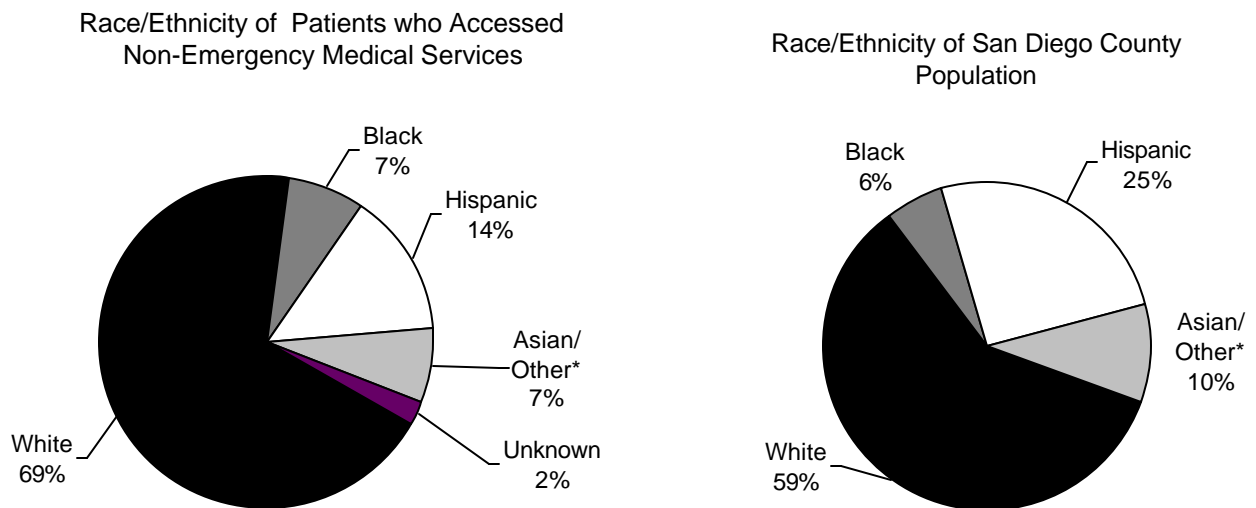




## Race/Ethnicity of Non-Emergency Patients

While Blacks had the highest rates of ambulance utilization, White patients still accounted for 69% of non-emergency patients. Hispanics made up a far lower number of non-emergency patients, with 14% of the total, despite comprising 25% of the population.

**Figure 4.5: Comparison of Non-Emergency Patients with Overall County Population by Race/Ethnicity**



County EMS collected information on a wider range of race/ethnic groups than the U.S. Census. Race/ethnic groups were combined in the Asian/Other category for comparison purposes, with the following distribution: 58% Asian, 4% Native American, 38% Other.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

Population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

The distribution of non-emergency ambulance patient transports by age, gender and race/ethnicity is similar to that for emergency patients. Males had higher rates in the youngest age groups, while female rates were higher in the oldest age groups. The highest rate (44,815/100,000) was in Black women 85 and older.

**Table 4.2 Annual Rate of Ambulance Calls by Age Group, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population: Non-Emergency Patients**

Age Group in Years		White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other		Total*	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
0-4	Male	391	761	63	752	424	905	121	1,014	1,073	905
	Female	244	500	45	565	324	681	69	616	730	632
	Total	638	637	110	673	753	798	192	830	1,847	789
5-9	Male	115	214	30	368	108	253	18	159	291	251
	Female	57	113	16	205	71	179	17	157	177	163
	Total	173	166	47	295	180	219	35	158	478	213
10-14	Male	204	389	59	792	109	291	29	260	424	391
	Female	153	306	54	747	114	325	25	233	360	349
	Total	358	349	115	784	224	309	54	247	791	374
15-19	Male	334	651	54	653	151	476	61	559	620	607
	Female	361	720	77	1,133	184	642	62	593	699	727
	Total	699	689	134	890	340	563	128	599	1,340	676
20-24	Male	320	445	58	528	147	438	54	441	596	463
	Female	216	409	72	1,077	113	400	47	430	461	468
	Total	539	433	131	742	263	426	102	440	1,066	469
25-34	Male	567	434	104	645	253	389	89	392	1,037	442
	Female	568	500	86	627	250	445	83	351	1,006	485
	Total	1,138	466	190	637	507	418	175	377	2,062	467
35-44	Male	1,289	832	255	1,694	336	580	120	563	2,044	820
	Female	1,077	746	250	1,872	326	629	145	572	1,835	781
	Total	2,372	792	509	1,792	664	605	267	572	3,911	808
45-54	Male	1,741	1,348	339	3,419	398	1,113	175	1,100	2,694	1,412
	Female	1,481	1,222	232	2,485	410	1,155	218	1,106	2,377	1,280
	Total	3,243	1,295	577	2,997	815	1,144	400	1,123	5,140	1,365
55-64	Male	1,861	2,250	291	5,918	414	2,290	266	2,655	2,874	2,484
	Female	1,664	1,988	330	6,404	402	2,002	209	1,604	2,630	2,156
	Total	3,536	2,125	627	6,226	825	2,162	482	2,091	5,558	2,338
65-74	Male	2,949	4,809	288	11,198	700	7,050	325	5,341	4,331	5,420
	Female	3,375	4,846	399	13,585	590	4,656	404	4,420	4,836	5,123
	Total	6,350	4,849	691	12,543	1,302	5,761	737	4,840	9,244	5,303
75-84	Male	4,834	12,269	188	17,679	519	9,895	314	10,605	5,949	12,223
	Female	6,194	11,206	342	22,286	721	9,861	567	12,769	7,911	11,539
	Total	11,070	11,693	533	20,516	1,245	9,915	888	11,998	13,965	11,912
85+	Male	2,427	19,359	152	54,559	188	9,515	173	18,432	2,983	18,964
	Female	4,901	19,470	239	39,648	381	11,812	272	18,534	5,875	19,283
	Total	7,355	19,505	395	44,815	571	10,978	449	18,660	8,922	19,313
Unknown	Male	362	---	35	---	73	---	22	---	515	---
	Female	438	---	42	---	82	---	27	---	607	---
	Total	803	---	78	---	157	---	50	---	1,278	---
Total	Male	17,394	1,951	1,916	2,058	3,820	989	1,767	1,285	25,431	1,686
	Female	20,729	2,395	2,184	2,627	3,968	1,084	2,145	1,421	29,504	2,013
	Total	38,274	2,179	4,137	2,347	7,846	1,043	3,959	1,372	55,602	1,870

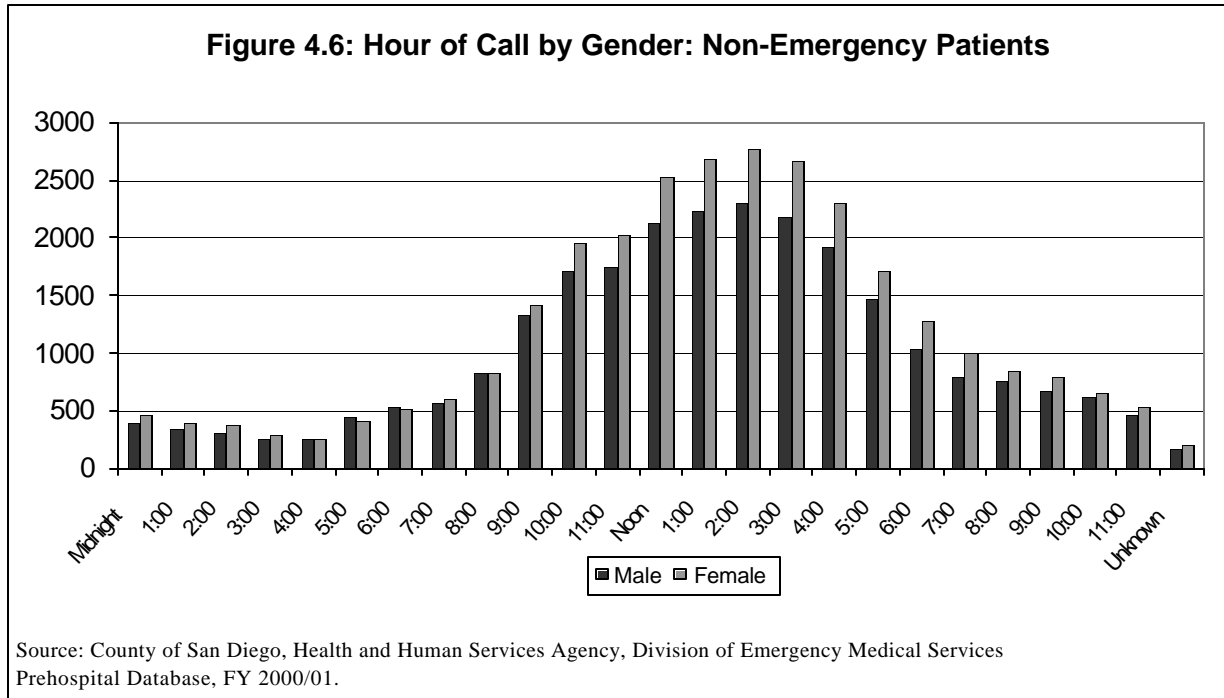
\*Totals include cases with unknown age and/or race/ethnicity.

This table does not include 667 cases with an unknown gender.

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01.

## Hour of Call

Prehospital agencies responded to 70% of non-emergency patients between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm. The majority of patients during this time interval were female (53%).



## Chief Complaint by Age Group

Non-emergency patient transports followed recognizable patterns by chief complaint according to age. Patients with complaints involving chronic conditions (e.g., COPD, hemodialysis, CHF) were predominantly elderly, while younger adults made up the majority of OB/GYN, psychiatric, OD poison and substance abuse calls. A few categories of complaints (respiratory distress, fever/flu/rash) were more common in both the very young and the elderly, but less so in the middle aged.

**Table 4.3. Chief Complaint by Age Group: Non-Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Age Group in Years													Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Unk	
AB Pain	32	49	49	29	35	110	140	160	116	200	297	150	18	1,385
Airway Obstr	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	5	2	0	29
Aller Reac	2	1	1	0	1	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	0	23
Alt Neuro (Diab)	0	1	3	2	3	5	4	7	5	14	32	11	2	89
Alt Neuro (Med)	9	2	3	7	7	12	26	59	61	119	223	239	11	778
Asthma	37	31	20	5	3	11	12	12	11	4	9	2	3	160
Birth	15	0	0	5	3	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	32
Burn	22	3	2	4	4	20	8	10	5	8	5	1	0	92
Chest Pain Card	3	2	2	6	4	31	231	533	646	800	826	206	83	3,373
Chest Pain Otr	2	0	2	6	3	10	35	66	57	82	113	48	13	437
CHF	3	0	0	0	1	1	7	30	61	150	265	191	15	724
COPD	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	12	49	109	188	66	9	436
CPR Med	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	1	12
CPR Med Bystnd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
CVA	1	5	0	1	5	10	32	90	141	293	532	299	40	1,449
Drown/Diving	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Environ	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
ETOH/Sub Abuse	0	0	4	17	6	14	47	32	14	13	2	0	4	153
Extrm Pain Med	3	0	4	2	7	7	31	46	75	127	195	124	4	625
Fever Flu Rash	59	10	6	11	5	5	16	17	17	28	61	35	7	277
GI/GU	17	5	1	6	7	9	27	56	52	121	228	164	21	714
Haz Mat Tox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Headache Med	3	1	1	9	5	21	30	23	20	15	20	11	3	162
Hemodialysis	0	0	0	0	0	1	53	160	352	270	172	119	16	1,143
Neck Back Med	0	0	1	2	11	22	56	47	45	69	98	50	5	406
OB/GYN	8	0	0	32	43	73	36	2	1	2	2	1	3	203
OD Poison	21	2	12	55	18	24	30	39	20	14	15	12	11	273
Otr Med	790	124	151	313	273	638	1,558	2,212	2,735	5,163	7,928	5,184	651	27,720
Palpitations	0	0	0	1	0	2	7	4	8	10	13	4	1	50
Psychiatric	5	68	364	658	397	691	1,046	902	355	269	259	126	142	5,282
Seizure	118	22	11	10	14	34	55	46	33	32	61	22	6	464
Resp Distress	455	45	33	19	10	32	60	102	166	390	554	318	34	2,218
Syncope	1	0	4	4	3	5	4	25	39	80	174	103	12	454
CPR Trauma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPR Trauma Bystnd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trauma Extrm	29	44	45	43	44	66	82	106	104	231	495	478	25	1,792
Trauma Head/Neck	44	25	33	29	60	72	62	58	48	55	137	121	23	767
Trauma Torso	0	9	10	14	31	32	39	38	40	54	163	157	14	601
Other Trauma	5	5	7	23	41	46	62	51	56	89	238	212	29	864
Unknown	144	21	21	25	22	49	108	189	220	428	647	462	70	2,406
Total	1,847	478	791	1,340	1,066	2,062	3,911	5,140	5,558	9,244	13,965	8,922	1,278	55,602

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

## Chief Complaint by Gender

Chief complaints for non-emergency patients are listed below. Females outnumbered males in most chief complaint categories, although some of the categories including psychiatric complaints, ETOH/substance abuse, and chest pain, had more males. Overall (excluding other medical) psychiatric, chest pain cardiac, and respiratory distress had the highest rates.

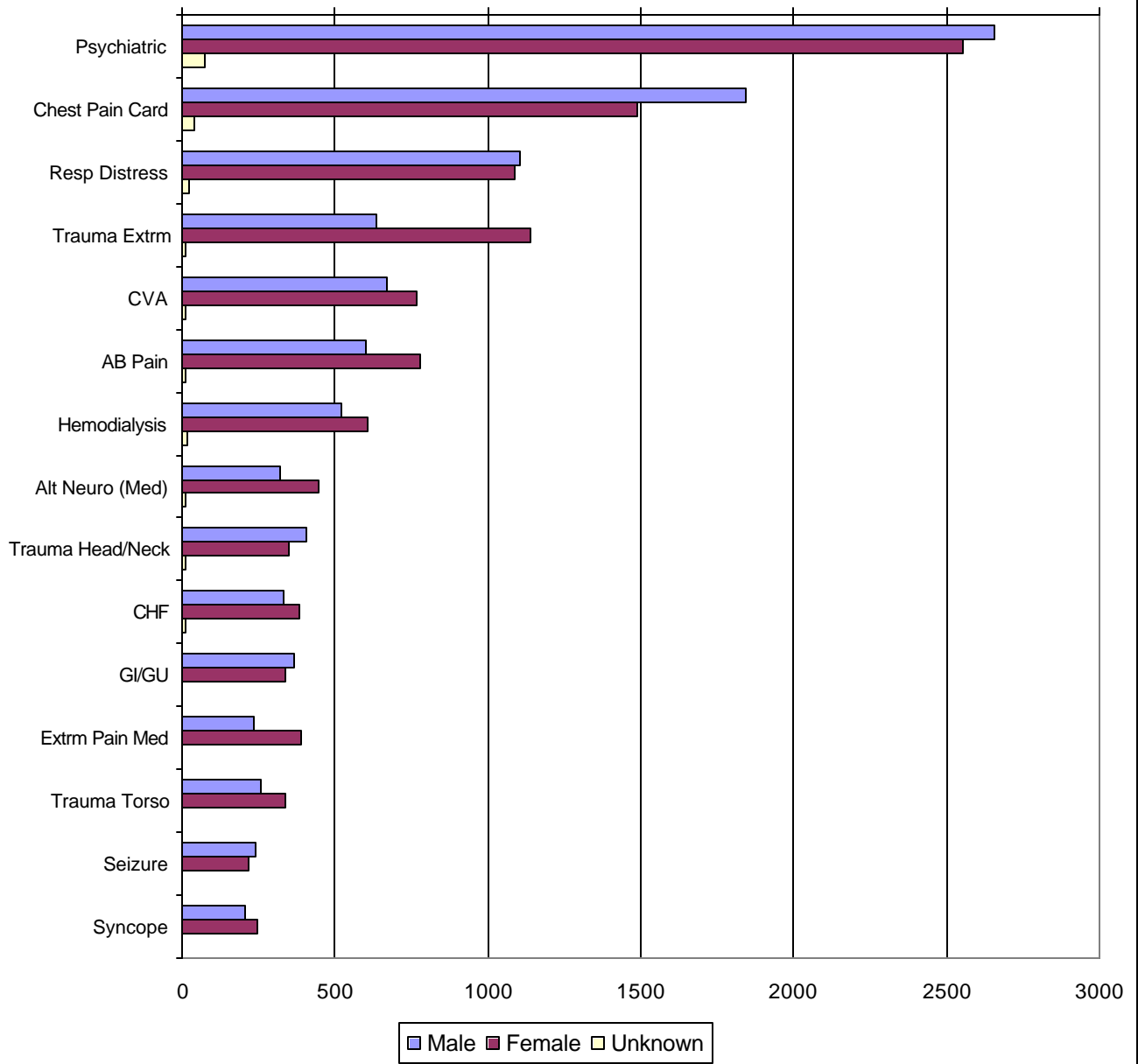
**Table 4.4: Chief Complaint by Gender: Non-Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
AB Pain	599	39.71	777	53.02	9	1,385	46.57
Airway Obstr	19	1.26	9	0.61	1	29	0.98
Aller Reac	11	0.73	11	0.75	1	23	0.77
Alt Neuro (Diab)	42	2.78	47	3.21	0	89	2.99
Alt Neuro (Med)	323	21.42	446	30.43	9	778	26.16
Asthma	80	5.30	79	5.39	1	160	5.38
Birth	13	0.86	18	1.23	1	32	1.08
Burn	63	4.18	28	1.91	1	92	3.09
Chest Pain Card	1,842	122.13	1,491	101.73	40	3,373	113.42
Chest Pain Otr	190	12.60	243	16.58	4	437	14.69
CHF	330	21.88	383	26.13	11	724	24.35
COPD	178	11.80	252	17.19	6	436	14.66
CPR Med	6	0.40	5	0.34	1	12	0.40
CPR Med Bystnd	1	*	0	0.00	0	1	*
CVA	670	44.42	766	52.26	13	1,449	48.72
Drown/Diving	4	*	1	*	0	5	0.17
Environ	1	*	1	*	0	2	*
ETOH/Sub Abuse	99	6.56	53	3.62	1	153	5.14
Extrm Pain Med	234	15.51	388	26.47	3	625	21.02
Fever Flu Rash	143	9.48	132	9.01	2	277	9.31
GI/GU	368	24.40	338	23.06	8	714	24.01
Haz Mat Tox	0	0.00	1	*	0	1	*
Headache Med	59	3.91	101	6.89	2	162	5.45
Hemodialysis	521	34.54	605	41.28	17	1,143	38.43
Neck Back Med	164	10.87	240	16.38	2	406	13.65
OB/GYN	9	0.60	193	13.17	1	203	6.83
OD Poison	100	6.63	167	11.39	6	273	9.18
Otr Med	12,407	822.61	15,008	1,024.01	305	27,720	932.12
Palpitations	22	1.46	28	1.91	0	50	1.68
Psychiatric	2,655	176.03	2,553	174.19	74	5,282	177.61
Seizure	241	15.98	217	14.81	6	464	15.60
Resp Distress	1,104	73.20	1,090	74.37	24	2,218	74.58
Syncope	207	13.72	244	16.65	3	454	15.27
CPR Trauma	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
CPR Trauma Bystnd	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
Trauma Extrm	638	42.30	1,140	77.78	14	1,792	60.26
Trauma Head/Neck	407	26.98	350	23.88	10	767	25.79
Trauma Torso	255	16.91	340	23.20	6	601	20.21
Other Trauma	361	23.93	491	33.50	12	864	29.05
Unknown	1,065	70.61	1,268	86.52	73	2,406	80.90
Total	25,431	1,686.12	29,504	2,013.08	667	55,602	1,869.69

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

\*Rates not calculated on fewer than five incidents

**Figure 4.7: Leading Chief Complaints by Gender:  
Non-Emergency Patients\***



\*15 leading chief complaints

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Database, FY 2000/01.

## **Section 5**

### **Detail Tables**

**Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Age Group									
	0-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
AB Pain	63	26.91	91	40.52	107	50.54	360	181.53	583	256.56
Airway Obstr	199	85.01	27	12.02	7	3.31	10	5.04	3	*
Aller Reac	53	22.64	35	15.58	39	18.42	59	29.75	60	26.40
Alt Neuro (Diab)	10	4.27	13	5.79	15	7.08	30	15.13	70	30.80
Alt Neuro (Med)	75	32.04	25	11.13	48	22.67	143	72.11	171	75.25
Asthma	48	20.50	73	32.50	69	32.59	57	28.74	48	21.12
Birth	32	13.67	0	0.00	0	0.00	23	11.60	33	14.52
Burn	66	28.19	23	10.24	16	7.56	38	19.16	43	18.92
Chest Pain Card	10	4.27	2	*	9	4.25	37	18.66	88	38.73
Chest Pain Otr	3	*	15	6.68	25	11.81	119	60.01	179	78.77
CHF	0	0.00	1	*	1	*	0	0.00	0	0.00
COPD	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
CPR Med	37	15.81	4	*	1	*	6	3.03	7	3.08
CPR Med Bystnd	9	3.84	0	0.00	1	*	6	3.03	4	*
CVA	1	*	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	*
Drown/Diving	41	17.51	16	7.12	3	*	10	5.04	8	3.52
Environ	18	7.69	16	7.12	23	10.86	35	17.65	31	13.64
ETOH/Sub Abuse	0	0.00	1	*	57	26.92	317	159.85	315	138.62
Extrm Pain Med	4	*	7	3.12	11	5.20	17	8.57	22	9.68
Fever Flu Rash	357	152.50	104	46.31	53	25.03	83	41.85	68	29.92
GI/GU	39	16.66	11	4.90	11	5.20	33	16.64	46	20.24
Haz Mat Tox	11	4.70	5	2.23	5	2.36	6	3.03	17	7.48
Headache Med	3	*	13	5.79	20	9.45	56	28.24	72	31.68
Hemodialysis	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Neck Back Med	2	*	3	*	12	5.67	30	15.13	65	28.60
OB/GYN	11	4.70	0	0.00	7	3.31	178	89.76	320	140.82
OD Poison	140	59.80	12	5.34	89	42.04	419	211.29	388	170.75
Otr Med	899	384.02	261	116.21	286	135.09	632	318.69	942	414.54
Palpitations	1	*	1	*	2	*	8	4.03	13	5.72
Psychiatric	0	0.00	53	23.60	203	95.88	377	190.11	397	174.71
Seizure	1,217	519.86	237	105.52	200	94.47	338	170.44	382	168.11
Resp Distress	750	320.38	188	83.71	147	69.43	197	99.34	241	106.06
Syncope	17	7.26	31	13.80	56	26.45	210	105.89	214	94.17
CPR Trauma	2	*	3	*	1	*	6	3.03	13	5.72
CPR Trauma Bystnd	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	2.52	4	*
Trauma Extrm	273	116.62	410	182.55	796	375.97	1,204	607.13	1,176	517.52
Trauma Head/Neck	1,019	435.28	814	362.43	847	400.06	1,858	936.92	2,099	923.70
Trauma Torso	80	34.17	188	83.71	262	123.75	702	353.99	846	372.30
Other Trauma	272	116.19	137	61.00	158	74.63	426	214.82	469	206.39
Unknown	140	59.80	51	22.71	43	20.31	159	80.18	144	63.37
Total	5,902	2,521.14	2,871	1,278.29	3,630	1,714.55	8,194	4,131.91	9,584	4,217.60

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents



**Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)**

Chief Complaint	Age Group									
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
AB Pain	1,045	236.59	1,216	251.10	1,032	274.09	648	272.60	800	458.97
Airway Obstr	16	3.62	27	5.58	22	5.84	15	6.31	34	19.51
Aller Reac	137	31.02	195	40.27	138	36.65	86	36.18	49	28.11
Alt Neuro (Diab)	281	63.62	423	87.35	506	134.39	439	184.68	587	336.77
Alt Neuro (Med)	388	87.85	666	137.53	883	234.52	773	325.19	1,220	699.93
Asthma	136	30.79	156	32.21	109	28.95	81	34.08	66	37.87
Birth	54	12.23	10	2.06	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Burn	83	18.79	61	12.60	51	13.55	22	9.26	10	5.74
Chest Pain Card	273	61.81	952	196.58	1,607	426.81	1,583	665.94	1,875	1,075.72
Chest Pain Otr	391	88.52	518	106.97	513	136.25	270	113.58	233	133.68
CHF	3	*	11	2.27	24	6.37	71	29.87	201	115.32
COPD	0	0.00	8	1.65	25	6.64	84	35.34	150	86.06
CPR Med	47	10.64	114	23.54	170	45.15	213	89.61	364	208.83
CPR Med Bystnd	13	2.94	44	9.09	47	12.48	83	34.92	111	63.68
CVA	18	4.08	67	13.84	163	43.29	235	98.86	483	277.11
Drown/Diving	13	2.94	12	2.48	5	1.33	2	*	1	*
Environ	37	8.38	58	11.98	33	8.76	24	10.10	11	6.31
ETOH/Sub Abuse	470	106.41	854	176.35	834	221.51	292	122.84	129	74.01
Extrm Pain Med	66	14.94	120	24.78	158	41.96	144	60.58	171	98.11
Fever Flu Rash	147	33.28	200	41.30	188	49.93	148	62.26	233	133.68
GI/GU	137	31.02	242	49.97	265	70.38	228	95.92	339	194.49
Haz Mat Tox	27	6.11	21	4.34	18	4.78	5	2.10	1	*
Headache Med	178	40.30	224	46.26	221	58.70	139	58.48	112	64.26
Hemodialysis	1	*	13	2.68	51	13.55	94	39.54	85	48.77
Neck Back Med	176	39.85	264	54.52	251	66.66	125	52.59	131	75.16
OB/GYN	453	102.56	203	41.92	20	5.31	5	2.10	9	5.16
OD Poison	606	137.20	756	156.11	537	142.62	136	57.21	54	30.98
Otr Med	1,924	435.60	3,040	627.75	3,425	909.66	2,941	1,237.23	4,406	2,527.80
Palpitations	32	7.24	62	12.80	47	12.48	33	13.88	50	28.69
Psychiatric	746	168.90	1,060	218.89	861	228.68	371	156.07	239	137.12
Seizure	883	199.92	1,276	263.49	908	241.16	362	152.29	264	151.46
Resp Distress	521	117.96	772	159.42	973	258.42	1,216	511.55	2,014	1,155.47
Syncope	332	75.17	364	75.16	395	104.91	361	151.87	588	337.35
CPR Trauma	24	5.43	21	4.34	19	5.05	5	2.10	10	5.74
CPR Trauma Bystnd	6	1.36	3	*	5	1.33	2	*	3	*
Trauma Extrm	1,836	415.68	1,737	358.68	1,428	379.27	978	411.43	1,144	656.33
Trauma Head/Neck	2,702	611.75	2,572	531.11	1,990	528.53	1,051	442.14	898	515.20
Trauma Torso	1,227	277.80	1,256	259.36	957	254.17	554	233.06	495	283.99
Other Trauma	636	143.99	619	127.82	465	123.50	248	104.33	321	184.16
Unknown	155	35.09	191	39.44	168	44.62	119	50.06	161	92.37
Total	16,220	3,672.28	20,408	4,214.19	19,512	5,182.29	14,186	5,967.83	18,052	10,356.74

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.1: Chief Complaint by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)**

Chief Complaint	Age Group					Total	
	75-84		85+		Unknown		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
AB Pain	1,049	894.82	642	1,389.68	61	7,697	258.82
Airway Obstr	54	46.06	34	73.60	5	453	15.23
Aller Reac	50	42.65	20	43.29	9	930	31.27
Alt Neuro (Diab)	649	553.61	225	487.04	27	3,275	110.13
Alt Neuro (Med)	2,212	1,886.88	1,662	3,597.57	54	8,320	279.77
Asthma	57	48.62	27	58.44	5	932	31.34
Birth	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	159	5.35
Burn	10	8.53	8	17.32	2	433	14.56
Chest Pain Card	2,430	2,072.84	1,128	2,441.67	57	10,051	337.98
Chest Pain Otr	273	232.87	168	363.65	33	2,740	92.14
CHF	346	295.15	246	532.49	10	914	30.73
COPD	152	129.66	61	132.04	4	484	16.28
CPR Med	437	372.77	285	616.91	26	1,711	57.53
CPR Med Bystnd	115	98.10	55	119.05	5	493	16.58
CVA	929	792.46	566	1,225.17	24	2,489	83.70
Drown/Diving	1	*	0	0.00	1	113	3.80
Environ	12	10.24	2	*	5	305	10.26
ETOH/Sub Abuse	23	19.62	7	15.15	26	3,325	111.81
Extrm Pain Med	318	271.26	188	406.95	9	1,235	41.53
Fever Flu Rash	384	327.56	225	487.04	22	2,212	74.38
GI/GU	535	456.37	375	811.73	10	2,271	76.37
Haz Mat Tox	3	*	0	0.00	0	119	4.00
Headache Med	123	104.92	58	125.55	11	1,230	41.36
Hemodialysis	31	26.44	23	49.79	1	299	10.05
Neck Back Med	265	226.05	158	342.01	14	1,496	50.30
OB/GYN	5	4.27	10	21.65	10	1,231	41.39
OD Poison	52	44.36	17	36.80	20	3,226	108.48
Otr Med	7,337	6,258.62	4,880	10,563.27	458	31,431	1,056.91
Palpitations	38	32.41	20	43.29	2	309	10.39
Psychiatric	278	237.14	160	346.34	99	4,844	162.89
Seizure	234	199.61	106	229.45	49	6,456	217.09
Resp Distress	2,897	2,471.20	1,726	3,736.11	68	11,710	393.76
Syncope	1,064	907.61	649	1,404.83	35	4,316	145.13
CPR Trauma	8	6.82	1	*	3	116	3.90
CPR Trauma Bystnd	6	5.12	0	0.00	1	35	1.18
Trauma Extrm	1,926	1,642.92	1,620	3,506.66	125	14,653	492.73
Trauma Head/Neck	1,427	1,217.26	948	2,052.05	146	18,371	617.75
Trauma Torso	791	674.74	605	1,309.59	60	8,023	269.78
Other Trauma	578	493.05	434	939.44	114	4,877	164.00
Unknown	328	279.79	230	497.86	668	2,557	85.98
Total	27,427	23,395.81	17,569	38,029.95	2,286	165,841	5,576.61

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.2: Chief Complaint by Gender: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
AB Pain	2,972	197.05	4,691	320.07	34	7,697	258.82
Airway Obstr	211	13.99	240	16.38	2	453	15.23
Aller Reac	349	23.14	580	39.57	1	930	31.27
Alt Neuro (Diab)	1,769	117.29	1,497	102.14	9	3,275	110.13
Alt Neuro (Med)	3,841	254.67	4,459	304.24	20	8,320	279.77
Asthma	355	23.54	576	39.30	1	932	31.34
Birth	16	1.06	142	9.69	1	159	5.35
Burn	264	17.50	168	11.46	1	433	14.56
Chest Pain Card	4,904	325.14	5,119	349.27	28	10,051	337.98
Chest Pain Otr	1,288	85.40	1,438	98.12	14	2,740	92.14
CHF	381	25.26	526	35.89	7	914	30.73
COPD	222	14.72	258	17.60	4	484	16.28
CPR Med	1,009	66.90	696	47.49	6	1,711	57.53
CPR Med Bystnd	315	20.89	175	11.94	3	493	16.58
CVA	1,092	72.40	1,377	93.95	20	2,489	83.70
Drown/Diving	78	5.17	33	2.25	2	113	3.80
Environ	187	12.40	114	7.78	4	305	10.26
ETOH/Sub Abuse	2,349	155.74	961	65.57	15	3,325	111.81
Extrm Pain Med	507	33.62	719	49.06	9	1,235	41.53
Fever Flu Rash	1,036	68.69	1,163	79.35	13	2,212	74.38
GI/GU	1,164	77.18	1,097	74.85	10	2,271	76.37
Haz Mat Tox	67	4.44	52	3.55	0	119	4.00
Headache Med	379	25.13	844	57.59	7	1,230	41.36
Hemodialysis	159	10.54	136	9.28	4	299	10.05
Neck Back Med	624	41.37	861	58.75	11	1,496	50.30
OB/GYN	19	1.26	1,207	82.35	5	1,231	41.39
OD Poison	1,513	100.31	1,705	116.33	8	3,226	108.48
Otr Med	13,989	927.50	17,157	1,170.64	285	31,431	1,056.91
Palpitations	110	7.29	198	13.51	1	309	10.39
Psychiatric	2,394	158.73	2,376	162.12	74	4,844	162.89
Seizure	3,787	251.08	2,657	181.29	12	6,456	217.09
Resp Distress	5,173	342.98	6,498	443.36	39	11,710	393.76
Syncope	1,881	124.71	2,421	165.19	14	4,316	145.13
CPR Trauma	86	5.70	30	2.05	0	116	3.90
CPR Trauma Bystnd	26	1.72	9	0.61	0	35	1.18
Trauma Extrm	7,292	483.47	7,319	499.38	42	14,653	492.73
Trauma Head/Neck	10,243	679.13	8,063	550.14	65	18,371	617.75
Trauma Torso	4,024	266.80	3,972	271.01	27	8,023	269.78
Other Trauma	2,393	158.66	2,424	165.39	60	4,877	164.00
Unknown	1,014	67.23	929	63.39	614	2,557	85.98
Total	79,482	5,269.80	84,887	5,791.91	1,472	165,841	5,576.61

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.3: Chief Complaint by Race/Ethnicity, Number and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Race/Ethnicity								Total	
	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other			
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
AB Pain	3,964	225.63	870	493.65	1,265	168.16	541	187.53	7,697	258.82
Airway Obstr	221	12.58	49	27.80	76	10.10	19	6.59	453	15.23
Aller Reac	551	31.36	67	38.02	117	15.55	56	19.41	930	31.27
Alt Neuro (Diab)	1,775	101.03	360	204.27	444	59.02	210	72.79	3,275	110.13
Alt Neuro (Med)	4,970	282.89	567	321.72	807	107.27	528	183.02	8,320	279.77
Asthma	401	22.82	206	116.89	138	18.34	66	22.88	932	31.34
Birth	35	1.99	27	15.32	59	7.84	10	3.47	159	5.35
Burn	203	11.55	42	23.83	90	11.96	33	11.44	433	14.56
Chest Pain Card	5,963	339.41	673	381.87	958	127.35	587	203.47	10,051	337.98
Chest Pain Otr	1,442	82.08	376	213.35	414	55.03	187	64.82	2,740	92.14
CHF	611	34.78	59	33.48	85	11.30	52	18.02	914	30.73
COPD	375	21.34	29	16.45	13	1.73	23	7.97	484	16.28
CPR Med	1,023	58.23	103	58.44	123	16.35	99	34.32	1,711	57.53
CPR Med Bystnd	317	18.04	30	17.02	25	3.32	40	13.87	493	16.58
CVA	1,653	94.09	155	87.95	224	29.78	164	56.85	2,489	83.70
Drown/Diving	56	3.19	4	*	16	2.13	16	5.55	113	3.80
Environ	145	8.25	12	6.81	48	6.38	22	7.63	305	10.26
ETOH/Sub Abuse	2,073	117.99	207	117.45	526	69.92	113	39.17	3,325	111.81
Extrm Pain Med	775	44.11	117	66.39	113	15.02	66	22.88	1,235	41.53
Fever Flu Rash	1,099	62.55	224	127.10	386	51.31	232	80.42	2,212	74.38
GI/GU	1,344	76.50	157	89.08	208	27.65	154	53.38	2,271	76.37
Haz Mat Tox	51	2.90	5	2.84	26	3.46	10	3.47	119	4.00
Headache Med	642	36.54	125	70.93	210	27.92	98	33.97	1,230	41.36
Hemodialysis	46	2.62	80	45.39	122	16.22	46	15.94	299	10.05
Neck Back Med	958	54.53	87	49.36	157	20.87	75	26.00	1,496	50.30
OB/GYN	394	22.43	251	142.42	346	45.99	92	31.89	1,231	41.39
OD Poison	1,743	99.21	263	149.23	540	71.78	181	62.74	3,226	108.48
Otr Med	19,531	1,111.70	2,595	1,472.42	3,786	503.27	2,108	730.69	31,431	1,056.91
Palpitations	210	11.95	37	20.99	23	3.06	32	11.09	309	10.39
Psychiatric	3,055	173.89	514	291.65	650	86.40	304	105.38	4,844	162.89
Seizure	3,025	172.18	693	393.21	1,337	177.73	419	145.24	6,456	217.09
Resp Distress	6,795	386.77	960	544.71	1,204	160.05	797	276.26	11,710	393.76
Syncope	2,637	150.10	264	149.80	438	58.22	311	107.80	4,316	145.13
CPR Trauma	44	2.50	12	6.81	19	2.53	6	2.08	116	3.90
CPR Trauma Bystnd	26	1.48	3	*	4	*	1	*	35	1.18
Trauma Extrm	8,650	492.36	999	566.84	2,156	286.60	822	284.93	14,653	492.73
Trauma Head/Neck	9,428	536.64	1,394	790.97	3,392	450.90	1,443	500.19	18,371	617.75
Trauma Torso	4,075	231.95	545	309.24	1,515	201.39	658	228.08	8,023	269.78
Other Trauma	2,538	144.46	355	201.43	774	102.89	285	98.79	4,877	164.00
Unknown	1,191	67.79	158	89.65	268	35.63	137	47.49	2,557	85.98
Total	94,035	5,352.45	13,674	7,758.74	23,102	3,070.94	11,043	3,827.82	165,841	5,576.61

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Total includes 23,987 cases with an unknown race/ethnicity

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.4: Chief Complaint by Incident Location: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Incident Location									
	Home		Street Highway		Public Bldg		Industry		School	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
AB Pain	4,824	62.67%	451	5.86%	455	5.91%	114	1.48%	42	0.55%
Airway Obstr	309	68.21%	3	0.66%	49	10.82%	2	0.44%	2	0.44%
Aller Reac	480	51.61%	44	4.73%	141	15.16%	20	2.15%	25	2.69%
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2,324	70.96%	190	5.80%	195	5.95%	54	1.65%	24	0.73%
Alt Neuro (Med)	5,153	61.94%	510	6.13%	525	6.31%	92	1.11%	56	0.67%
Asthma	596	63.95%	54	5.79%	70	7.51%	7	0.75%	30	3.22%
Birth	99	62.26%	11	6.92%	9	5.66%	0	0.00%	1	0.63%
Burn	205	47.34%	35	8.08%	41	9.47%	23	5.31%	7	1.62%
Chest Pain Card	6,053	60.22%	304	3.02%	682	6.79%	189	1.88%	47	0.47%
Chest Pain Otr	1,404	51.24%	319	11.64%	232	8.47%	63	2.30%	26	0.95%
CHF	601	65.75%	7	0.77%	6	0.66%	3	0.33%	0	0.00%
COPD	289	59.71%	7	1.45%	7	1.45%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CPR Med	1,313	76.74%	49	2.86%	41	2.40%	9	0.53%	1	0.06%
CPR Med Bystnd	273	55.38%	37	7.51%	30	6.09%	6	1.22%	3	0.61%
CVA	1,574	63.24%	42	1.69%	83	3.33%	14	0.56%	2	0.08%
Drown/Diving	33	29.20%	3	2.65%	9	7.96%	0	0.00%	2	1.77%
Environ	96	31.48%	44	14.43%	37	12.13%	10	3.28%	14	4.59%
ETOH/Sub Abuse	992	29.83%	1,185	35.64%	292	8.78%	15	0.45%	46	1.38%
Extrm Pain Med	733	59.35%	94	7.61%	49	3.97%	6	0.49%	4	0.32%
Fever Flu Rash	1,530	69.17%	56	2.53%	71	3.21%	9	0.41%	12	0.54%
GI/GU	1,469	64.69%	69	3.04%	79	3.48%	15	0.66%	9	0.40%
Haz Mat Tox	34	28.57%	14	11.76%	23	19.33%	27	22.69%	7	5.88%
Headache Med	768	62.44%	61	4.96%	98	7.97%	28	2.28%	14	1.14%
Hemodialysis	34	11.37%	0	0.00%	3	1.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Neck Back Med	1,007	67.31%	84	5.61%	70	4.68%	26	1.74%	5	0.33%
OB/GYN	734	59.63%	98	7.96%	92	7.47%	10	0.81%	7	0.57%
OD Poison	2,126	65.90%	312	9.67%	198	6.14%	11	0.34%	48	1.49%
Otr Med	15,360	48.87%	1,339	4.26%	1,448	4.61%	289	0.92%	160	0.51%
Palpitations	195	63.11%	19	6.15%	22	7.12%	12	3.88%	6	1.94%
Psychiatric	1,637	33.79%	334	6.90%	228	4.71%	34	0.70%	40	0.83%
Seizure	3,509	54.35%	580	8.98%	738	11.43%	153	2.37%	146	2.26%
Resp Distress	7,802	66.63%	312	2.66%	386	3.30%	69	0.59%	84	0.72%
Syncope	2,022	46.85%	162	3.75%	865	20.04%	147	3.41%	83	1.92%
CPR Trauma	23	19.83%	75	64.66%	0	0.00%	2	1.72%	0	0.00%
CPR Trauma Bystnd	12	34.29%	15	42.86%	0	0.00%	1	2.86%	1	2.86%
Trauma Extrm	5,169	35.28%	4,595	31.36%	1,008	6.88%	322	2.20%	302	2.06%
Trauma Head/Neck	3,908	21.27%	9,285	50.54%	1,180	6.42%	220	1.20%	323	1.76%
Trauma Torso	1,850	23.06%	4,340	54.09%	287	3.58%	120	1.50%	109	1.36%
Other Trauma	1,449	29.71%	2,042	41.87%	241	4.94%	56	1.15%	56	1.15%
Unknown	828	32.38%	834	32.62%	102	3.99%	11	0.43%	12	0.47%
Total	78,817	47.53%	28,015	16.89%	10,092	6.09%	2,189	1.32%	1,756	1.06%

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.4: Chief Complaint by Incident Location: Emergency Patients (Continued)**

Chief Complaint	Incident Location								Total Number
	Rec/Public Area		Med Facility		Other		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	116	1.51%	1,057	13.73%	527	6.85%	111	1.44%	7,697
Airway Obstr	6	1.32%	46	10.15%	30	6.62%	6	1.32%	453
Aller Reac	28	3.01%	97	10.43%	89	9.57%	6	0.65%	930
Alt Neuro (Diab)	49	1.50%	222	6.78%	178	5.44%	39	1.19%	3,275
Alt Neuro (Med)	117	1.41%	1,184	14.23%	572	6.88%	111	1.33%	8,320
Asthma	22	2.36%	89	9.55%	51	5.47%	13	1.39%	932
Birth	3	1.89%	16	10.06%	16	10.06%	4	2.52%	159
Burn	29	6.70%	34	7.85%	54	12.47%	5	1.15%	433
Chest Pain Card	144	1.43%	1,791	17.82%	720	7.16%	121	1.20%	10,051
Chest Pain Otr	63	2.30%	337	12.30%	261	9.53%	35	1.28%	2,740
CHF	2	0.22%	239	26.15%	34	3.72%	22	2.41%	914
COPD	2	0.41%	145	29.96%	20	4.13%	14	2.89%	484
CPR Med	27	1.58%	159	9.29%	82	4.79%	30	1.75%	1,711
CPR Med Bystnd	26	5.27%	77	15.62%	37	7.51%	4	0.81%	493
CVA	21	0.84%	591	23.74%	108	4.34%	54	2.17%	2,489
Drown/Diving	33	29.20%	4	3.54%	27	23.89%	2	1.77%	113
Environ	21	6.89%	8	2.62%	69	22.62%	6	1.97%	305
ETOH/Sub Abuse	239	7.19%	106	3.19%	393	11.82%	57	1.71%	3,325
Extrm Pain Med	22	1.78%	252	20.40%	51	4.13%	24	1.94%	1,235
Fever Flu Rash	15	0.68%	386	17.45%	105	4.75%	28	1.27%	2,212
GI/GU	12	0.53%	449	19.77%	130	5.72%	39	1.72%	2,271
Haz Mat Tox	2	1.68%	1	0.84%	9	7.56%	2	1.68%	119
Headache Med	27	2.20%	143	11.63%	74	6.02%	17	1.38%	1,230
Hemodialysis	1	0.33%	250	83.61%	7	2.34%	4	1.34%	299
Neck Back Med	19	1.27%	175	11.70%	79	5.28%	31	2.07%	1,496
OB/GYN	16	1.30%	124	10.07%	132	10.72%	18	1.46%	1,231
OD Poison	64	1.98%	158	4.90%	273	8.46%	36	1.12%	3,226
Otr Med	474	1.51%	9,575	30.46%	2,051	6.53%	735	2.34%	31,431
Palpitations	5	1.62%	33	10.68%	15	4.85%	2	0.65%	309
Psychiatric	84	1.73%	1,989	41.06%	324	6.69%	174	3.59%	4,844
Seizure	222	3.44%	391	6.06%	642	9.94%	75	1.16%	6,456
Resp Distress	94	0.80%	2,241	19.14%	572	4.88%	150	1.28%	11,710
Syncope	205	4.75%	350	8.11%	428	9.92%	54	1.25%	4,316
CPR Trauma	7	6.03%	0	0.00%	9	7.76%	0	0.00%	116
CPR Trauma Bystnd	3	8.57%	2	5.71%	1	2.86%	0	0.00%	35
Trauma Extrm	851	5.81%	1,024	6.99%	1,167	7.96%	215	1.47%	14,653
Trauma Head/Neck	924	5.03%	868	4.72%	1,346	7.33%	317	1.73%	18,371
Trauma Torso	243	3.03%	482	6.01%	479	5.97%	113	1.41%	8,023
Other Trauma	116	2.38%	450	9.23%	348	7.14%	119	2.44%	4,877
Unknown	34	1.33%	337	13.18%	120	4.69%	279	10.91%	2,557
Total	4,388	2.65%	25,882	15.61%	11,630	7.01%	3,072	1.85%	165,841

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.5: Chief Complaint by Patient Status: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Patient Status/Acuity								Total Number
	Mild		Moderate		Acute		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	6,761	87.84%	791	10.28%	75	0.97%	68	0.88%	7,697
Airway Obstr	382	84.33%	41	9.05%	20	4.42%	10	2.21%	453
Aller Reac	663	71.29%	221	23.76%	39	4.19%	7	0.75%	930
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2,237	68.31%	931	28.43%	77	2.35%	29	0.89%	3,275
Alt Neuro (Med)	5,608	67.40%	2,137	25.69%	508	6.11%	57	0.69%	8,320
Asthma	549	58.91%	295	31.65%	82	8.80%	5	0.54%	932
Birth	118	74.21%	30	18.87%	9	5.66%	2	1.26%	159
Burn	283	65.36%	103	23.79%	43	9.93%	3	0.69%	433
Chest Pain Card	6,256	62.24%	3,319	33.02%	401	3.99%	70	0.70%	10,051
Chest Pain Otr	2,468	90.07%	223	8.14%	14	0.51%	33	1.20%	2,740
CHF	261	28.56%	395	43.22%	246	26.91%	11	1.20%	914
COPD	303	62.60%	147	30.37%	25	5.17%	9	1.86%	484
CPR Med	44	2.57%	8	0.47%	1,618	94.56%	33	1.93%	1,711
CPR Med Bystnd	8	1.62%	5	1.01%	475	96.35%	3	0.61%	493
CVA	1,422	57.13%	861	34.59%	174	6.99%	32	1.29%	2,489
Drown/Diving	51	45.13%	27	23.89%	34	30.09%	1	0.88%	113
Environ	242	79.34%	47	15.41%	12	3.93%	4	1.31%	305
ETOH/Sub Abuse	3,034	91.25%	232	6.98%	20	0.60%	20	0.60%	3,325
Extrm Pain Med	1,180	95.55%	39	3.16%	1	0.08%	15	1.21%	1,235
Fever Flu Rash	2,049	92.63%	135	6.10%	6	0.27%	21	0.95%	2,212
GI/GU	1,794	79.00%	390	17.17%	59	2.60%	28	1.23%	2,271
Haz Mat Tox	112	94.12%	6	5.04%	1	0.84%	0	0.00%	119
Headache Med	1,133	92.11%	67	5.45%	13	1.06%	16	1.30%	1,230
Hemodialysis	283	94.65%	9	3.01%	3	1.00%	4	1.34%	299
Neck Back Med	1,420	94.92%	55	3.68%	4	0.27%	17	1.14%	1,496
OB/GYN	992	80.58%	197	16.00%	29	2.36%	12	0.97%	1,231
OD Poison	2,301	71.33%	718	22.26%	175	5.42%	30	0.93%	3,226
Otr Med	27,995	89.07%	2,198	6.99%	568	1.81%	657	2.09%	31,431
Palpitations	221	71.52%	77	24.92%	8	2.59%	3	0.97%	309
Psychiatric	4,657	96.14%	88	1.82%	3	0.06%	96	1.98%	4,844
Seizure	5,331	82.57%	939	14.54%	139	2.15%	43	0.67%	6,456
Resp Distress	6,999	59.77%	3,574	30.52%	1,038	8.86%	97	0.83%	11,710
Syncope	3,501	81.12%	721	16.71%	55	1.27%	36	0.83%	4,316
CPR Trauma	1	0.86%	0	0.00%	109	93.97%	6	5.17%	116
CPR Trauma Bystnd	2	5.71%	1	2.86%	32	91.43%	0	0.00%	35
Trauma Extrm	13,484	92.02%	908	6.20%	129	0.88%	123	0.84%	14,653
Trauma Head/Neck	15,022	81.77%	2,264	12.32%	916	4.99%	150	0.82%	18,371
Trauma Torso	6,029	75.15%	1,468	18.30%	446	5.56%	67	0.84%	8,023
Other Trauma	4,343	89.05%	315	6.46%	89	1.82%	123	2.52%	4,877
Unknown	1,483	58.00%	39	1.53%	45	1.76%	990	38.72%	2,557
Total	131,022	79.00%	24,021	14.48%	7,740	4.67%	2,931	1.77%	165,841

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.6: Chief Complaint by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients**

Chief Complaint	Incident Outcome										Total Number
	Trans by Unit		AMA		Release		DOS		Aid Unnec		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
AB Pain	7,353	95.53%	273	3.55%	69	0.90%	0	0.00%	2	0.03%	7,697
Airway Obstr	284	62.69%	128	28.26%	40	8.83%	0	0.00%	1	0.22%	453
Aller Reac	844	90.75%	70	7.53%	16	1.72%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	930
Alt Neuro (Diab)	2,179	66.53%	1,064	32.49%	32	0.98%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3,275
Alt Neuro (Med)	8,030	96.51%	263	3.16%	22	0.26%	2	0.02%	3	0.04%	8,320
Asthma	861	92.38%	66	7.08%	5	0.54%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	932
Birth	156	98.11%	3	1.89%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	159
Burn	348	80.37%	64	14.78%	20	4.62%	0	0.00%	1	0.23%	433
Chest Pain Card	9,885	98.35%	157	1.56%	5	0.05%	4	0.04%	0	0.00%	10,051
Chest Pain Otr	2,469	90.11%	231	8.43%	35	1.28%	2	0.07%	3	0.11%	2,740
CHF	913	99.89%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.11%	0	0.00%	914
COPD	466	96.28%	16	3.31%	2	0.41%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	484
CPR Med	782	45.70%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	927	54.18%	2	0.12%	1,711
CPR Med Bystnd	271	54.97%	0	0.00%	1	0.20%	221	44.83%	0	0.00%	493
CVA	2,477	99.52%	9	0.36%	3	0.12%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2,489
Drown/Diving	106	93.81%	4	3.54%	1	0.88%	2	1.77%	0	0.00%	113
Environ	208	68.20%	72	23.61%	24	7.87%	0	0.00%	1	0.33%	305
ETOH/Sub Abuse	3,110	93.53%	153	4.60%	46	1.38%	0	0.00%	16	0.48%	3,325
Extrm Pain Med	1,179	95.47%	41	3.32%	15	1.21%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1,235
Fever Flu Rash	1,994	90.14%	172	7.78%	46	2.08%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2,212
GI/GU	2,181	96.04%	73	3.21%	16	0.70%	0	0.00%	1	0.04%	2,271
Haz Mat Tox	91	76.47%	18	15.13%	9	7.56%	0	0.00%	1	0.84%	119
Headache Med	1,128	91.71%	78	6.34%	21	1.71%	0	0.00%	3	0.24%	1,230
Hemodialysis	298	99.67%	1	0.33%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	299
Neck Back Med	1,425	95.25%	48	3.21%	19	1.27%	0	0.00%	4	0.27%	1,496
OB/GYN	1,195	97.08%	28	2.27%	7	0.57%	0	0.00%	1	0.08%	1,231
OD Poison	3,014	93.43%	181	5.61%	21	0.65%	8	0.25%	2	0.06%	3,226
Otr Med	27,983	89.03%	2,294	7.30%	617	1.96%	451	1.43%	86	0.27%	31,431
Palpitations	276	89.32%	31	10.03%	2	0.65%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	309
Psychiatric	4,562	94.18%	185	3.82%	80	1.65%	2	0.04%	15	0.31%	4,844
Seizure	6,003	92.98%	420	6.51%	31	0.48%	0	0.00%	2	0.03%	6,456
Resp Distress	11,092	94.72%	505	4.31%	96	0.82%	7	0.06%	10	0.09%	11,710
Syncope	3,821	88.53%	454	10.52%	39	0.90%	0	0.00%	2	0.05%	4,316
CPR Trauma	43	37.07%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	73	62.93%	0	0.00%	116
CPR Trauma Bystnd	12	34.29%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	23	65.71%	0	0.00%	35
Trauma Extrm	12,133	82.80%	1,936	13.21%	575	3.92%	2	0.01%	7	0.05%	14,653
Trauma Head/Neck	15,425	83.96%	2,305	12.55%	541	2.94%	91	0.50%	9	0.05%	18,371
Trauma Torso	7,174	89.42%	706	8.80%	110	1.37%	32	0.40%	1	0.01%	8,023
Other Trauma	3,374	69.18%	1,016	20.83%	407	8.35%	31	0.64%	49	1.00%	4,877
Unknown	1,031	40.32%	577	22.57%	246	9.62%	143	5.59%	560	21.90%	2,557
Total	146,176	88.14%	13,642	8.23%	3,219	1.94%	2,022	1.22%	782	0.47%	165,841

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01



**Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Age Group									
	0-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
MVC	332	141.82	468	208.37	486	229.55	2,025	1,021.13	2,005	882.33
Motorcycle	0	0.00	8	3.56	30	14.17	82	41.35	176	77.45
ATV	0	0.00	9	4.01	16	7.56	17	8.57	21	9.24
Pedalcycle	15	6.41	74	32.95	193	91.16	96	48.41	60	26.40
Pedestrian	64	27.34	93	41.41	94	44.40	80	40.34	82	36.09
MVC Oth	7	2.99	7	3.12	12	5.67	25	12.61	27	11.88
Other Trans	30	12.82	67	29.83	125	59.04	96	48.41	85	37.41
Fire-Burn	42	17.94	19	8.46	13	6.14	43	21.68	33	14.52
Firearm	4	*	4	*	8	3.78	84	42.36	97	42.69
Stab	53	22.64	46	20.48	64	30.23	210	105.89	280	123.22
Blunt	41	17.51	66	29.39	103	48.65	386	194.64	472	207.71
Fall	754	322.08	364	162.07	453	213.96	369	186.07	443	194.95
Assault-Batt	4	*	2	*	7	3.31	10	5.04	17	7.48
Poison-bite-sting	37	15.81	19	8.46	24	11.34	41	20.67	42	18.48
Suffocation	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	3.53	5	2.20
Drown-Sub	8	3.42	4	*	2	*	5	2.52	4	*
Other Str-Hit-Kick	28	11.96	21	9.35	70	33.06	57	28.74	40	17.60
Other	135	57.67	75	33.39	93	43.93	239	120.52	290	127.62
Unknown	27	11.53	20	8.90	7	3.31	61	30.76	80	35.21
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>675.35</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>608.20</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>850.19</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>1,983.26</b>	<b>4,259</b>	<b>1,874.25</b>
No Cause Indicated	4,321	1,845.79	1,505	670.09	1,830	864.36	4,261	2,148.66	5,325	2,343.36
Total	5,902	2,521.14	2,871	1,278.29	3,630	1,714.55	8,194	4,131.91	9,584	4,217.60

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Age Group									
	25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
MVO	2,503	566.69	2,216	457.60	1,590	422.30	830	349.17	596	341.94
Motorcycle	262	59.32	189	39.03	113	30.01	50	21.03	9	5.16
ATV	41	9.28	19	3.92	11	2.92	4	*	3	*
Pedalcycle	144	32.60	163	33.66	111	29.48	42	17.67	23	13.20
Pedestrian	128	28.98	143	29.53	128	34.00	65	27.34	56	32.13
MVC Oth	26	5.89	23	4.75	17	4.52	3	*	10	5.74
Other Trans	116	26.26	113	23.33	84	22.31	31	13.04	18	10.33
Fire-Burn	71	16.07	58	11.98	28	7.44	20	8.41	14	8.03
Firearm	93	21.06	69	14.25	48	12.75	20	8.41	10	5.74
Stab	377	85.35	292	60.30	178	47.28	73	30.71	33	18.93
Blunt	572	129.50	532	109.86	338	89.77	110	46.28	50	28.69
Fall	822	186.10	1,095	226.11	1,298	344.74	1,095	460.65	1,576	904.18
Assault-Batt	16	3.62	17	3.51	14	3.72	1	*	2	*
Poison-bite-sting	61	13.81	63	13.01	62	16.47	18	7.57	5	2.87
Suffocation	7	1.58	8	1.65	4	*	1	*	1	*
Drown-Sub	6	1.36	1	*	3	*	1	*	2	*
Other Str-Hit-Kick	52	11.77	47	9.71	29	7.70	16	6.73	9	5.16
Other	349	79.02	344	71.03	273	72.51	185	77.83	223	127.94
Unknown	88	19.92	93	19.20	93	24.70	44	18.51	80	45.90
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>5,734</b>	<b>1,298.20</b>	<b>5,485</b>	<b>1,132.63</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>1,174.46</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,097.57</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>1,560.51</b>
No Cause Indicated	10,486	2,374.08	14,923	3,081.55	15,090	4,007.83	11,577	4,870.26	15,332	8,796.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,220</b>	<b>3,672.28</b>	<b>20,408</b>	<b>4,214.19</b>	<b>19,512</b>	<b>5,182.29</b>	<b>14,186</b>	<b>5,967.83</b>	<b>18,052</b>	<b>10,356.74</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.7: Cause of Injury by Age Group: Emergency Patients (Continued)**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Age Group					Total	
	75-84		85+		Unknown		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
MVO	440	375.33	139	300.88	179	13,809	464.34
Motorcycle	3	*	4	*	12	938	31.54
ATV	1	*	0	0.00	1	143	4.81
Pedalcycle	9	7.68	4	*	8	942	31.68
Pedestrian	38	32.41	22	47.62	9	1,002	33.69
MVC Oth	6	5.12	2	*	1	166	5.58
Other Trans	17	14.50	5	10.82	7	794	26.70
Fire-Burn	14	11.94	4	*	3	362	12.17
Firearm	12	10.24	2	*	11	462	15.54
Stab	24	20.47	17	36.80	17	1,664	55.95
Blunt	37	31.56	23	49.79	17	2,747	92.37
Fall	3,174	2,707.49	2,615	5,660.44	105	14,163	476.25
Assault-Batt	2	*	2	*	1	95	3.19
Poison-bite-sting	6	5.12	5	10.82	5	388	13.05
Suffocation	0	0.00	2	*	1	36	1.21
Drown-Sub	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	37	1.24
Other Str-Hit-Kick	10	8.53	3	*	0	382	12.85
Other	209	178.28	134	290.06	36	2,585	86.92
Unknown	146	124.54	115	248.93	23	877	29.49
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>3,538.33</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>6,705.95</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>41,592</b>	<b>1,398.58</b>
No Cause Indicated	23,279	19,857.48	14,471	31,324.00	1,849	124,249	4,178.03
Total	27,427	23,395.81	17,569	38,029.95	2,286	165,841	5,576.61

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Note: "No Cause Indicated" includes all records for which a cause was not specified.

\*Rates not calculated for fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.8: Cause of Injury by Gender: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Gender					Total	
	Male		Female		Unknown		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate
MVO	6,450	427.65	7,302	498.22	57	13,809	464.34
Motorcycle	825	54.70	110	7.51	3	938	31.54
ATV	121	8.02	21	1.43	1	143	4.81
Pedalcycle	750	49.73	191	13.03	1	942	31.68
Pedestrian	607	40.25	389	26.54	6	1,002	33.69
MVC Oth	90	5.97	75	5.12	1	166	5.58
Other Trans	500	33.15	290	19.79	4	794	26.70
Fire-Burn	228	15.12	132	9.01	2	362	12.17
Firearm	373	24.73	85	5.80	4	462	15.54
Stab	1,187	78.70	470	32.07	7	1,664	55.95
Blunt	1,932	128.10	802	54.72	13	2,747	92.37
Fall	6,159	408.35	7,963	543.32	41	14,163	476.25
Assault-Batt	24	1.59	71	4.84	0	95	3.19
Poison-bite-sting	208	13.79	179	12.21	1	388	13.05
Suffocation	26	1.72	10	0.68	0	36	1.21
Drown-Sub	23	1.52	12	0.82	2	37	1.24
Other Str-Hit-Kick	287	19.03	95	6.48	0	382	12.85
Other	1,477	97.93	1,093	74.58	15	2,585	86.92
Unknown	476	31.56	394	26.88	7	877	29.49
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>21,743</b>	<b>1,441.60</b>	<b>19,684</b>	<b>1,343.05</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>41,592</b>	<b>1,398.58</b>
No Cause Indicated	57,739	3,828.20	65,203	4,448.85	1,307	124,249	4,178.03
Total	79,482	5,269.80	84,887	5,791.91	1,472	165,841	5,576.61

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.9: Cause of Injury by Race/Ethnicity, Number and Rate per 100,000: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Race/Ethnicity								Total	
	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian/Other			
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
MVO	6,094	346.87	1,049	595.21	2,931	389.62	1,521	527.22	13,809	464.34
Motorcycle	582	33.13	39	22.13	62	8.24	48	16.64	938	31.54
ATV	90	5.12	11	6.24	19	2.53	10	3.47	143	4.81
Pedalcycle	512	29.14	59	33.48	143	19.01	48	16.64	942	31.68
Pedestrian	378	21.52	107	60.71	227	30.18	94	32.58	1,002	33.69
MVC Oth	56	3.19	21	11.92	32	4.25	6	2.08	166	5.58
Other Trans	447	25.44	46	26.10	133	17.68	40	13.87	794	26.70
Fire-Burn	164	9.33	31	17.59	82	10.90	23	7.97	362	12.17
Firearm	147	8.37	80	45.39	100	13.29	24	8.32	462	15.54
Stab	737	41.95	183	103.84	401	53.30	101	35.01	1,664	55.95
Blunt	1,257	71.55	319	181.00	621	82.55	181	62.74	2,747	92.37
Fall	9,329	531.00	640	363.14	1,510	200.72	567	196.54	14,163	476.25
Assault-Batt	50	2.85	12	6.81	19	2.53	5	1.73	95	3.19
Poison-bite-sting	241	13.72	47	26.67	62	8.24	32	11.09	388	13.05
Suffocation	20	1.14	4	*	4	*	3	*	36	1.21
Drown-Sub	22	1.25	3	*	1	*	7	2.43	37	1.24
Other Str-Hit-Kick	151	8.59	15	8.51	72	9.57	15	5.20	382	12.85
Other	1,523	86.69	301	170.79	438	58.22	192	66.55	2,585	86.92
Unknown	587	33.41	85	48.23	118	15.69	64	22.18	877	29.49
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>22,387</b>	<b>1,274.26</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>1,731.73</b>	<b>6,975</b>	<b>927.18</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>1,033.30</b>	<b>41,592</b>	<b>1,398.58</b>
No Cause Indicated	71,648	4,078.19	10,622	6,027.01	16,127	2,143.76	8,062	2,794.52	124,249	4,178.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,035</b>	<b>5,352.45</b>	<b>13,674</b>	<b>7,758.74</b>	<b>23,102</b>	<b>3,070.94</b>	<b>11,043</b>	<b>3,827.82</b>	<b>165,841</b>	<b>5,576.61</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

Total includes 23,987 cases with an unknown race/ethnicity

\* Rates not calculated on fewer than five incidents

**Table 5.10: Cause of Injury by Incident Location: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Location									
	Home		Street Highway		Public Building		Industry		School	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MVO	151	1.09%	12,911	93.50%	67	0.49%	20	0.14%	86	0.62%
Motorcycle	28	2.99%	748	79.74%	11	1.17%	4	0.43%	3	0.32%
ATV	12	8.39%	70	48.95%	8	5.59%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Pedalcycle	78	8.28%	706	74.95%	19	2.02%	0	0.00%	15	1.59%
Pedestrian	62	6.19%	759	75.75%	28	2.79%	9	0.90%	12	1.20%
MVC Oth	14	8.43%	123	74.10%	4	2.41%	1	0.60%	1	0.60%
Other Trans	118	14.86%	254	31.99%	51	6.42%	12	1.51%	9	1.13%
Fire-Burn	187	51.66%	30	8.29%	31	8.56%	25	6.91%	2	0.55%
Firearm	211	45.67%	131	28.35%	20	4.33%	5	1.08%	15	3.25%
Stab	808	48.56%	264	15.87%	143	8.59%	67	4.03%	17	1.02%
Blunt	842	30.65%	758	27.59%	298	10.85%	79	2.88%	73	2.66%
Fall	7,201	50.84%	1,506	10.63%	1,405	9.92%	303	2.14%	326	2.30%
Assault-Batt	40	42.11%	21	22.11%	10	10.53%	1	1.05%	2	2.11%
Poison-bite-sting	183	47.16%	59	15.21%	17	4.38%	10	2.58%	11	2.84%
Suffocation	21	58.33%	1	2.78%	5	13.89%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Drown-Sub	6	16.22%	0	0.00%	3	8.11%	0	0.00%	2	5.41%
Other Str-Hit-Kick	106	27.75%	34	8.90%	38	9.95%	32	8.38%	35	9.16%
Other	1,019	39.42%	236	9.13%	231	8.94%	89	3.44%	71	2.75%
Unknown	286	32.61%	72	8.21%	64	7.30%	10	1.14%	16	1.82%
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>11,373</b>	<b>27.34%</b>	<b>18,683</b>	<b>44.92%</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>5.90%</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1.60%</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
No Cause Indicated	67,444	54.28%	9,332	7.51%	7,639	6.15%	1,522	1.22%	1,060	0.85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,817</b>	<b>47.53%</b>	<b>28,015</b>	<b>16.89%</b>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>6.09%</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>1.32%</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1.06%</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.10: Cause of Injury by Location: Emergency Patients (Continued)**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Location								Total
	Rec Public Area		Medical Facility		Other		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
MVO	36	0.26%	88	0.64%	267	1.93%	183	1.33%	13,809
Motorcycle	38	4.05%	33	3.52%	57	6.08%	16	1.71%	938
ATV	9	6.29%	11	7.69%	32	22.38%	1	0.70%	143
Pedalcycle	45	4.78%	15	1.59%	52	5.52%	12	1.27%	942
Pedestrian	23	2.30%	24	2.40%	60	5.99%	25	2.50%	1,002
MVC Oth	3	1.81%	4	2.41%	11	6.63%	5	3.01%	166
Other Trans	168	21.16%	13	1.64%	153	19.27%	16	2.02%	794
Fire-Burn	17	4.70%	24	6.63%	43	11.88%	3	0.83%	362
Firearm	9	1.95%	20	4.33%	48	10.39%	3	0.65%	462
Stab	79	4.75%	76	4.57%	186	11.18%	24	1.44%	1,664
Blunt	255	9.28%	57	2.07%	337	12.27%	48	1.75%	2,747
Fall	783	5.53%	1,147	8.10%	1,281	9.04%	211	1.49%	14,163
Assault-Batt	5	5.26%	5	5.26%	11	11.58%	0	0.00%	95
Poison-bite-sting	45	11.60%	28	7.22%	32	8.25%	3	0.77%	388
Suffocation	1	2.78%	4	11.11%	2	5.56%	2	5.56%	36
Drown-Sub	19	51.35%	1	2.70%	5	13.51%	1	2.70%	37
Other Str-Hit-Kick	60	15.71%	13	3.40%	56	14.66%	8	2.09%	382
Other	226	8.74%	455	17.60%	237	9.17%	21	0.81%	2,585
Unknown	29	3.31%	323	36.83%	58	6.61%	19	2.17%	877
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>4.45%</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>5.63%</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>7.04%</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1.44%</b>	<b>41,592</b>
No Cause Indicated	2,538	2.04%	23,541	18.95%	8,702	7.00%	2,471	1.99%	124,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>2.65%</b>	<b>25,882</b>	<b>15.61%</b>	<b>11,630</b>	<b>7.01%</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>1.85%</b>	<b>165,841</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

**Table 5.11: Cause of Injury by Patient Status: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Patient Status/Acuity								Total Number
	Mild		Moderate		Acute		Unknown/Missing		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
MVO	11,286	81.73%	1,730	12.53%	600	4.34%	193	1.40%	13,809
Motorcycle	566	60.34%	255	27.19%	104	11.09%	13	1.39%	938
ATV	64	44.76%	59	41.26%	18	12.59%	2	1.40%	143
Pedalcycle	712	75.58%	172	18.26%	48	5.10%	10	1.06%	942
Pedestrian	639	63.77%	199	19.86%	156	15.57%	8	0.80%	1,002
MVC Oth	119	71.69%	37	22.29%	8	4.82%	2	1.20%	166
Other Trans	603	75.94%	136	17.13%	47	5.92%	8	1.01%	794
Fire-Burn	236	65.19%	88	24.31%	32	8.84%	6	1.66%	362
Firearm	200	43.29%	80	17.32%	168	36.36%	14	3.03%	462
Stab	1,331	79.99%	230	13.82%	93	5.59%	10	0.60%	1,664
Blunt	2,376	86.49%	294	10.70%	62	2.26%	15	0.55%	2,747
Fall	12,498	88.24%	1,282	9.05%	257	1.81%	126	0.89%	14,163
Assault-Batt	91	95.79%	3	3.16%	1	1.05%	0	0.00%	95
Poison-bite-sting	331	85.31%	40	10.31%	13	3.35%	4	1.03%	388
Suffocation	10	27.78%	5	13.89%	19	52.78%	2	5.56%	36
Drown-Sub	22	59.46%	2	5.41%	12	32.43%	1	2.70%	37
Other Str-Hit-Kick	287	75.13%	70	18.32%	18	4.71%	7	1.83%	382
Other	2,200	85.11%	276	10.68%	93	3.60%	16	0.62%	2,585
Unknown	709	80.84%	97	11.06%	64	7.30%	7	0.80%	877
<b>Total Causes Indicated</b>	<b>34,280</b>	<b>82.42%</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>12.15%</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>4.36%</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1.07%</b>	<b>41,592</b>
No Cause Indicated	96,742	77.86%	18,966	15.26%	5,927	4.77%	2,614	2.10%	124,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,022</b>	<b>79.00%</b>	<b>24,021</b>	<b>14.48%</b>	<b>7,740</b>	<b>4.67%</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>1.84%</b>	<b>165,841</b>

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01



**Table 5.12: Cause of Injury by Run Outcome: Emergency Patients**  
(Includes both Medical and Trauma Patients)

Cause of Injury	Run Outcome										
	Trans by Unit		AMA		Release		DOS		Aid Unnec		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
MVO	10,612	76.85%	2,583	18.71%	539	3.90%	56	0.41%	19	0.14%	13,809
Motorcycle	796	84.86%	108	11.51%	13	1.39%	21	2.24%	0	0.00%	938
ATV	125	87.41%	15	10.49%	2	1.40%	1	0.70%	0	0.00%	143
Pedalcycle	777	82.48%	132	14.01%	31	3.29%	2	0.21%	0	0.00%	942
Pedestrian	851	84.93%	100	9.98%	20	2.00%	31	3.09%	0	0.00%	1,002
MVC Oth	140	84.34%	14	8.43%	12	7.23%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	166
Other Trans	661	83.25%	86	10.83%	39	4.91%	7	0.88%	1	0.13%	794
Fire-Burn	287	79.28%	55	15.19%	18	4.97%	0	0.00%	2	0.55%	362
Firearm	337	72.94%	48	10.39%	15	3.25%	61	13.20%	1	0.22%	462
Stab	1,282	77.04%	259	15.56%	111	6.67%	9	0.54%	3	0.18%	1,664
Blunt	2,086	75.94%	473	17.22%	176	6.41%	5	0.18%	7	0.25%	2,747
Fall	12,694	89.63%	1,108	7.82%	333	2.35%	17	0.12%	11	0.08%	14,163
Assault-Batt	68	71.58%	12	12.63%	15	15.79%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	95
Poison-bite-sting	304	78.35%	54	13.92%	28	7.22%	2	0.52%	0	0.00%	388
Suffocation	23	63.89%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	13	36.11%	0	0.00%	36
Drown-Sub	33	89.19%	4	10.81%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	37
Other Str-Hit-Kick	319	83.51%	40	10.47%	22	5.76%	1	0.26%	0	0.00%	382
Other	2,174	84.10%	249	9.63%	137	5.30%	21	0.81%	4	0.15%	2,585
Unknown	791	90.19%	30	3.42%	23	2.62%	32	3.65%	1	0.11%	877
<b>Total Causes</b>	<b>34,360</b>	<b>82.61%</b>	<b>5,370</b>	<b>12.91%</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>3.69%</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>0.67%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0.12%</b>	<b>41,592</b>
No Cause Indicated	111,816	89.99%	8,272	6.66%	1,685	1.36%	1,743	1.40%	733	0.59%	124,249
Total	146,176	88.14%	13,642	8.23%	3,219	1.94%	2,022	1.22%	782	0.47%	165,841

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Prehospital Database FY 2000/01

# **Technical Notes**

## Denominators

The following table identifies the appropriate numbers for the use with data contained in this report:

	Denominator	Definition/Outcomes
Calls (Section 1)	236,000	All outcomes
Patients (Section 2)	221,443	Transport by unit Against medical advice (AMA) Released Dead on scene (DOS) Aid unnecessary Interfacility Interfacility CCT Other non-emergent BLS
Emergency Patients (Section 3)	165,841	Transport by unit Against medical advice (AMA) Released Dead on scene (DOS) Aid unnecessary
Chief Complaints	163,284	
Cause of Injury	41,592	
Non-Emergency Patients (Section 4)	55,602	Interfacility Interfacility CCT Other non-emergent BLS
Other Outcomes (Section 1)	14,557	Transport by other unit Transport rendezvous Call cancelled Unknown

Note: Emergency patient chief complaints and cause of injuries are not mutually exclusive.

**Advanced Life Support (ALS):** Advanced Life Support means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency care, including, but not limited to, CPR, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medical preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by personnel under the direct supervision of a base hospital as part of a local EMS system, at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during interfacility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital. (Health and Safety Code 1797.52)

**Age Group:** Age is reported in 5 and 10-year groupings. Between 0-24 ages are in 5 year groupings and over age 25 are in 10-year groupings.

0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54
55-64	65-74	75-84	85+

**Basic Life Support (BLS):** Basic Life Support means emergency first aid and CPR procedures which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of CPR to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until advanced life support is available. (Health and Safety Code 1797.60)

**Cause of Injury intentional and unintentional**

Motor Vehicle Occupant (MVO)	Motorcycle	ATV (All Terrain Vehicle)
Pedalcycle	Pedestrian	Motor Vehicle Crash (MVC) Other
Other Transportation	Fire-Burn	Firearm
Cut/Pierce	Blunt	Fall
Assault-Battery	Poison-Bite-Sting	Suffocation
Drown-Submersion	Other Struck-Hit-Kick	Other
Unknown		

## Chief Complaint

AB Pain	Airway Obstruction	Allergic Reaction
Altered Neurologic (Diabetes)	Altered Neurologic (Medical)	Asthma
Birth	Burn	Chest Pain Cardiac Chest
Pain Other	CHF	COPD
CPR Medical	CPR Medical Bystander	CVA
Drown/Diving	Environmental	ETOH/Sub Abuse
Extreme Pain Medical	Fever Flu Rash	GI/GU
Hazardous Material/Toxic	Headache Medical	Hemodialysis
Neck Back Medical	OB/GYN	OD Poison
Other Medical	Palpitations	Psychiatric
Seizure	Respiratory Distress	Syncope
CPR Trauma	CPR Trauma Bystander	Trauma Extremity
Trauma Head/Neck	Trauma Torso	Other Trauma

**Geographic Areas:** The geographic areas used in the analysis of the data are the major statistical areas and the subregional areas of County of San Diego as defined by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). See Figures T.1 and T.2.

## Outcome:

*Transport by Unit* – applied when EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient, provided assistance to the patient, and transported a patient to the Emergency Department (ED) of a receiving hospital (except those defined as an interfacility transfer – see below). These also included emergency patients that would ordinarily go to the ED but were transported to a specialty unit, such as Labor and Delivery, under special instructions by the Base Hospital.

*Transport by Other Unit* – applied if EMS personnel who responded to a scene, encountered a patient or potential patient, and may have provided assistance to the patient, but the patient was transported by another ambulance.

*Transport Rendezvous* - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient, and transported the patient to a meeting point to turn the patient over to another agency for transportation to the hospital.

*Against Medical Advice (AMA)* - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient who had a chief complaint or a suspected chief complaint, but was refusing to be treated and/or transported to the hospital against the medical advice of personnel on scene or on the radio.

*Release* - applied if EMS personnel responded to a scene, encountered a patient who had a chief complaint or a suspected chief complaint, but who did not require or want transportation to an emergency department and was released to his/her care, law enforcement or other caretaker.

*Dead on Scene* – applied if the patient was found to meet the County of San Diego EMS criteria of obviously dead, or in those situations when the patient was pronounced dead on scene and not transported.

*Aid Unnecessary* – applied if that the person for whom the medical aid call was dispatched did not require any treatment or transport, and was not transported to a medical facility.

*Call Cancelled* – applied when EMS personnel were dispatched and began to respond, but were cancelled before encountering a patient or potential patient.

*Interfacility Transfer* – applied if patient was transported from one acute care hospital to another acute care hospital. Used by ALS and BLS personnel only

*Interfacility Critical Care Transport (CCT)* – Used by CCT personnel only.

*Other Non-Emergency BLS* – applied whenever BLS personnel transported a patient to a non-hospital setting or whenever a patient was transferred from a non-hospital setting to someplace other than a hospital's ED.

**Patient Status:** While on scene, EMS personnel assign a patient status or level of acuity. Below is a description of the levels of status/acuity.

Mild – patient with stable vital signs and no apparent threat to life or limb

Moderate – patient with suspected threat to life or limb needing immediate evaluation by medical personnel

Acute – patient with apparent need for immediate intervention to protect life or limb

**Race/Ethnicity:** Race/ethnicity is calculated for this report as Hispanic, non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian/Other based on population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census).

**Rate:** Calculated as incidents per 100,000 population. Rates were calculated using January 2001 population estimates calculated from SANDAG estimates and forecasts (does not reflect 2000 census). Rates were not calculated for categories with less than five occurrences, due to instability.

$$\text{Rate} = (\text{Incidents/Population}) \times 100,000$$

**SANDAG:** San Diego Association of Governments.

**Response Time:** Defined as the time EMS personnel received the dispatch call to the time that they arrived on scene.

**Source of Data:** All incidence data is from the County of San Diego Prehospital Database Fiscal Year 2000/01.

Figure T.1

# San Diego County Major Statistical Areas

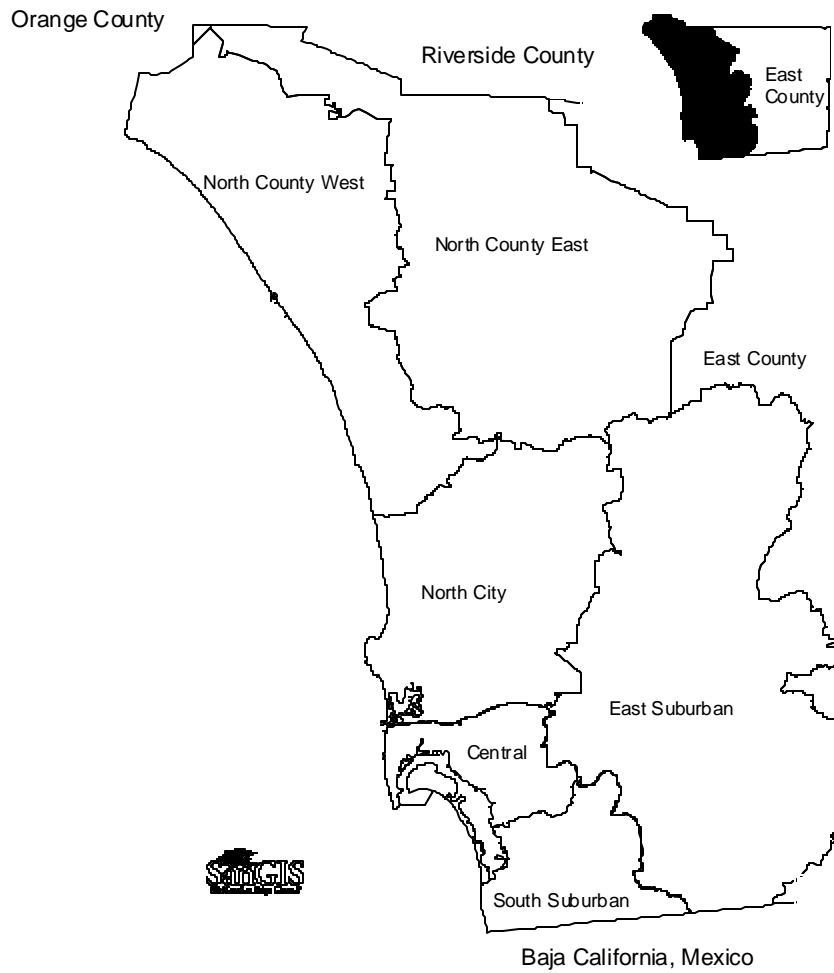




Figure T.2

# San Diego County Subregional Areas

