

# Number of children hospitalized for E-scooter injuries surge from 2011-2020

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Standing electric scooters, commonly referred to as e-scooters, have been increasing in popularity across the country over the past decade. According to a new research abstract presented during the 2022

American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition, e-scooter injuries are becoming much more common and increasingly severe.

Authors of the abstract, "National Trends in Pediatric e-Scooter Injury," found hundreds of e-scooter injuries between 2011-2020. The rate of hospital admittance for patients increased from fewer than 1 out of every 20 e-scooter injuries in 2011 to 1 out of every 8 requiring admittance into a hospital for care in 2020.

"The number of annual e-scooter injuries has increased from 2011 to 2020, likely due in some part to the rise in popularity of rideshare e-scooter apps," said lead author Harrison Hayward, MD, Emergency Medicine fellow at Children's National Hospital. "Our study has characterized the spectrum of injuries that occur in children, which helps [emergency room doctors](#) prepare for taking care of them and helps parents and families to practice better safety."

Researchers examined a national database of pediatric e-scooter injuries that were seen in emergency departments at over 100 US hospitals from 2011-2020 to find out what kinds of injuries children were sustaining and if any trends existed. Over 10% of all patients had a head injury, including a concussion, skull fractures, and internal bleeding. The most common injuries were arm fractures (27%), followed by minor abrasions (22%) and lacerations needing stitches (17%). The average age was 11.1 years and 59% of patients were male. Admittance to a hospital rose from 4.2% in 2011 to 12.9% in 2020.

"Parents whose children are riding e-scooters need to know how best to be safe. To that end, helmets are a must, since over 10% of the reported cases were [head injuries](#)," said Dr. Hayward. "Children should absolutely be wearing helmets while riding an [e-scooter](#). Research has broadly demonstrated that helmets save lives for bicycle riders, and we should

think similarly about e-scooters."

**More information:** National trends in Pediatric E-scooter Injury, 2022 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition

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