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The odds of dying from...

The table below was prepared in response to frequent inquiries asking questions such as, "What are the odds of being killed by lightning?" or "What are the chances of dying in a plane crash?"

The odds given below are statistical averages over the whole U.S. population and do not necessarily reflect the chances of death for a particular person from a particular external cause. Any individual's odds of dying from various external causes are affected by the activities in which they participate, where they live and drive, what kind of work they do, and other factors.

The table has four columns. The first column gives the manner of injury such as motor-vehicle crash, fall, fire, etc. The second column gives the total number of deaths nationwide due to the manner of injury in 2005 (the latest year for which data are available). The third column gives the odds of dying in one year due to the manner of injury. The fourth column gives the lifetime odds of dying from the manner of injury. Statements about the odds or chances of dying from a given cause of death may be made as follows.

- The odds of dying from (manner of injury) in 2005 were 1 in (value given in the one-year odds column).
- The life-time odds of dying from (manner of injury) for a person born in 2005 were 1 in (value given in the lifetime odds column).

For example, referring to the first line of the table below:

- The odds of dying from an injury in 2005 were 1 in 1,681.
- The lifetime odds of dying from an injury for a person born in 2005 were 1 in 22.

Note: Odds based on less than 20 deaths are likely to be unstable from year to year – use with caution.

Source: National Safety Council estimates based on data from National Center for Health Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau. Deaths are classified on the basis of the Tenth Revision of the World Health Organization's ["The International Classification of Diseases"](#)(ICD). Numbers following titles refer to External Cause of Morbidity and Mortality classifications in ICD-10. One year odds are approximated by dividing the 2005 population (296,507,061) by the number of deaths. Lifetime odds are approximated by dividing the one-year odds by the life expectancy of a person born in 2005 (77.8 years).

Odds of Death Due to Injury, United States, 2005

Type of Accident or Manner of Injury	Deaths	One Year Odds	Lifetime Odds
All External Causes of Mortality, V01-Y89^a, *U01^b, *U03^b	176,406	1,681	22
Deaths Due to Unintentional (Accidental) Injuries, V01-X59, Y85-Y86	117,809	2,517	32
Transport Accidents, V01-V99, Y85	48,441	6,121	79
Motor-Vehicle Accidents, V02-V04, V09.0, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2	45,343	6,539	84
Pedestrian, V01-V09	6,074	48,816	627
Pedalcyclist, V10-V19	927	319,857	4,111
Motorcycle rider, V20-V29	4,387	67,588	869
Occupant of three-wheeled motor vehicle, V30-V39	5	59,301,412	762,229
Car occupant, V40-V49	14,584	20,331	261
Occupant of pick-up truck or van, V50-V59	3,797	78,090	1,004
Occupant of heavy transport vehicle, V60-V69	450	658,905	8,469
Bus occupant, V70-V79	59	5,025,543	64,596
Animal rider or occupant of animal-drawn vehicle, V80	120	2,470,892	31,760
Occupant of railway train or railway vehicle, V81	33	8,985,062	115,489
Occupant of streetcar, V82	0	----	---
Other and unspecified land transport accidents, V83-V89	16,148	18,362	236
Occupant of special industrial vehicle, V83	19	15,605,635	200,587
Occupant of special agricultural vehicle, V84	154	1,925,371	24,748
Occupant of special construction vehicle, V85	33	8,985,062	115,489
Occupant of all-terrain or other off-road motor vehicle, V86	1040	285,103	3,665
Other and unspecified person, V87-V89	14,902	19,897	256
Water transport accidents, V90-V94	523	566,935	7,287
Drowning, V90, V92	394	752,556	9,673
Other and unspecified injuries, V91, V93-V94	129	2,298,504	29,544
Air and space transport accidents, V95-V97	590	502,554	6,460
Other and unspecified transport accidents and sequelae, V98-V99, Y85	744	398,531	5,123
Other specified transport accidents, V98	2	148,253,531	1,905,572
Unspecified transport accident, V99	18	16,472,615	211,730
Nontransport Unintentional (Accidental) Injuries, W00-X59, Y86	69,368	4,274	55
Falls, W00-W19	19,656	15,085	194
Fall on same level from slipping, tripping, and stumbling, W01	698	424,795	5,460
Other fall on same level, W00, W02-W03, W18	5,224	56,759	730
Fall involving bed, chair, other furniture, W06-W08	899	329,819	4,239
Fall on and from stairs and steps, W10	1,690	175,448	2,255
Fall on and from ladder or scaffolding, W11-W12	477	621,608	7,990
Fall from out of or through building or structure, W13	533	556,298	7,150
Other fall from one level to another, W09, W14-W17	694	427,244	5,492
Other and unspecified fall, W04-W05, W19	9,441	31,406	404
Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, W20-W49	2,845	104,220	1,340
Struck by or striking against object, W20-W22	854	347,198	4,463
Caught between objects, W23	103	2,878,709	37,001
Contact with machinery, W24, W30-W31	755	392,725	5,048
Contact with sharp objects, W25-W29	85	3,488,318	44,837
Firearms discharge, W32-W34	789	375,801	4,830
Explosion and rupture of pressurized devices, W35-W38	26	11,404,118	146,582
Fireworks discharge, W39	4	74,126,765	952,786
Explosion of other materials, W40	147	2,017,055	25,926
Foreign body entering through skin or natural orifice, W44-W45	37	8,013,704	103,004
Other and unspecified inanimate mechanical forces, W41-W43, W49	45	6,589,046	84,692
Exposure to animate mechanical forces, W50-W64	161	1,841,659	23,672
Struck by or against another person, W50-W52	26	11,404,118	146,582
Bitten or struck by dog, W54	33	8,985,062	115,489
Bitten or struck by other mammals, W53, W55	80	3,706,338	47,639

	Bitten or stung by nonvenomous insect and other arthropods, W57	9	32,945,229	423,461
	Bitten or crushed by other reptiles, W59	0	---	---
	Other and unspecified animate mechanical forces, W56, W58, W60, W64	13	22,808,235	293,165
	Accidental drowning and submersion, W65-W74	3,582	82,777	1,064
	Drowning and submersion while in or falling into bath-tub, W65-W66	344	861,939	11,079
	Drowning and submersion while in or falling into swimming-pool, W67-W68	607	488,480	6,279
	Drowning and submersion while in or falling into natural water, W69-W70	1,603	184,970	2,378
	Other and unspecified drowning and submersion, W73-W74	1,028	288,431	3,707
Other	accidental threats to breathing, W75-W84	5,900	50,255	646
	Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed, W75	573	517,464	6,651
	Other accidental hanging and strangulation, W76	274	1,082,143	13,909
	Threat to breathing due to cave-in, falling earth and other substances, W77	50	5,930,141	76,223
	Inhalation of gastric contents, W78	333	890,412	11,445
	Inhalation and ingestion of food causing obstruction of respiratory tract, W79	864	343,179	4,411
	Inhalation and ingestion of other objects causing obstruction of respiratory tract, W80	3,189	92,978	1,195
	Confined to or trapped in a low-oxygen environment, W81	14	21,179,076	272,225
	Other and unspecified threats to breathing, W83-W84	603	491,720	6,320
	Exposure to electric current, radiation, temperature, and pressure, W85-W99	420	705,969	9,074
	Electric transmission lines, W85	105	2,823,877	36,297
	Other and unspecified electric current, W86-W87	293	1,011,969	13,007
	Radiation, W88-W91	0	---	---
	Excessive heat or cold of man-made origin, W92-W93	13	22,808,235	293,165
	High and low air pressure and changes in air pressure, W94	9	32,945,229	423,461
	Other and unspecified man-made environmental factors, W99	0	---	---
	Exposure to smoke, fire and flames, X00-X09	3,197	92,745	1,192
	Uncontrolled fire in building or structure, X00	2,617	113,300	1,456
	Uncontrolled fire not in building or structure, X01	52	5,702,059	73,291
	Controlled fire in building or structure, X02	28	10,589,538	136,112
	Controlled fire not in building or structure, X03	33	8,985,062	115,489
	Ignition of highly flammable material, X04	63	4,706,461	60,494
	Ignition or melting of nightwear, X05	6	49,417,844	635,191
	Ignition or melting of other clothing and apparel, X06	97	3,056,774	39,290
	Other and unspecified smoke fire and flames, X08-X09	301	985,073	12,662
	Contact with heat and hot substances, X10-X19	102	2,906,932	37,364
	Contact with hot tap-water, X11	43	6,895,513	88,631
	Other and unspecified heat and hot substances, X10, X12-X19	59	5,025,543	64,596
	Contact with venomous animals and plants, X20-X29	105	2,823,877	36,297
	Contact with venomous snakes and lizards, X20	7	42,358,152	544,449
	Contact with venomous spiders, X21	10	29,650,706	381,114
	Contact with hornets, wasps and bees, X23	82	3,615,940	46,477
	Contact with other and unspecified venomous animal or plant, X22, X24-X29	6	49,417,844	635,191
	Exposure to forces of nature, X30-X39	2,179	136,075	1,749
	Exposure to excessive natural heat, X30	466	636,281	8,178
	Exposure to excessive natural cold, X31	700	423,582	5,444
	Lightning, X33	48	6,177,230	79,399
	Earthquake and other earth movements, X34-X36	37	8,013,704	103,004
	Cataclysmic storm, X37	874	339,253	4,361
	Flood, X38	12	24,708,922	317,595
	Exposure to other and unspecified forces of nature, X32, X39	42	7,059,692	90,742
	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances, X40-X49	23,618	12,554	161
	Nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics, and antirheumatics, X40	226	1,311,978	16,863
	Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs n.e.c., X41	1,496	198,200	2,548
	Narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens] n.e.c., X42	11,050	26,833	345
	Other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biologicals, X43-X44	9,676	30,644	394

Alcohol, X45	346	856,957	11,015
Gases and vapours, X46-X47	703	421,774	5,421
Other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances, X48-X49	121	2,450,472	31,497
Overexertion, travel and privation, X50-X57	32	9,265,846	119,098
Accidental exposure to other and unspecified factors and sequelae, X58-X59, Y86	7,571	39,164	503
Intentional self-harm, X60-X84, Y87.0, *U03^b	32,637	9,085	117
Intentional self-poisoning, X60-X69	5,744	51,620	664
Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation, and suffocation, X70	7,248	40,909	526
Intentional self-harm by firearm, X72-X74	17,002	17,440	224
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, X71, X75-X84, Y87.0, *U03 ^b	2,643	112,186	1,442
Assault, X85-Y09, Y87.1, *U01^b	18,124	16,360	210
Assault by firearm, X93-X95	12,352	24,005	309
Assault by sharp object, X99	2,097	141,396	1,817
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, X85-X92, X96-X98, Y00-Y09, Y87.1, *U01 ^b	3,675	80,682	1,037
Event of undetermined intent, Y10-Y34, Y87.2, Y89.9	4,742	62,528	804
Poisoning, Y10-Y19	3,240	91,515	1,176
Hanging, strangulation, and suffocation, Y20	139	2,133,144	27,418
Drowning and submersion, Y21	242	1,225,236	15,749
Firearm discharge, Y22-Y24	221	1,341,661	17,245
Exposure to smoke, fire, and flames, Y26	120	2,470,892	31,760
Falling, jumping, or pushed from a high place, Y30	69	4,297,204	55,234
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, Y25, Y27-Y29, Y31-Y34, Y87.2, Y89.9	711	417,028	5,360
Legal intervention, Y35, Y89.0	441	716,201	9,206
Legal intervention involving firearm discharge, Y35.0	330	898,506	11,549
Legal execution, Y35.5	54	5,490,872	70,577
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, Y35.1-Y35.4, Y35.6-Y35.7, Y89.0	30	9,883,569	127,038
Operations of war and sequelae, Y36, Y89.1	27	10,981,743	141,154
Complications of medical and surgical care and sequelae, Y40-Y84, Y88.0-Y88.3	2,653	111,763	1,437

^aNumbers following titles refer to external cause of injury and poisoning classifications in the Tenth Revision of "The International Classification of Diseases" (ICD-10).

^bThe manner of injury for ICD-10 code *U01 is Assault by Terrorism; for code *U03 it is Intentional Self-Harm by Terrorism

Send an e-mail to rssdept@nsc.org with questions or for additional information.

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