



2024 Children's Camps Incident Summary Report

Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection

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In 2024, local health departments reported that 2,408 regulated children's camps operated in New York State. Of these, 454 were overnight camps and 1,954 were day camps, including 255 municipal day camps and 33 traveling summer day camps. It is estimated that over 900,000 children attend children's camps in New York State each year.

To assess health and safety at camps, a children's camp incident surveillance system is maintained. Camp operators are required to report serious injuries, illnesses, potential rabies exposures, administrations of epinephrine, and allegations of camper abuse to their local health department. These incidents are investigated by local health departments, and information is entered into the New York State Department of Health's Environmental Health Information and Permitting System. A total of 975 incidents (1,534 affected individuals) meeting the criteria for reportable incidents in section 7-2.8(d) of Subpart 7-2 of the New York State Sanitary Code were reported in 2024 (Figure 1), indicating that less than 2 out of 1,000 campers experienced injury and illness while at camp. Analysis of the data is used for injury prevention and control, to develop administrative guidance, and to determine if amendments are needed to Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code. The following summarizes the reportable incidents at regulated children's camps in New York State during 2024.

Injuries:

There were 565 reported injuries to 550 individuals reported during the 2024 camp season (an individual may experience more than one reportable injury in a single incident). This represents a 3.5% percent increase compared to the number reported in 2023 and a 20% percent decrease compared to the 15-year average of reportable injuries occurring at children's camps (Figure 2). Figures 3 through 16 provide details as to the types of injuries sustained and activities at the time of injury. Injuries reported are those that meet the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code:

- Camper injuries that result in:
 - Death or require resuscitation;
 - Admission to a hospital (treatment in the emergency room is not considered admission to a hospital);
 - Eye, head, neck, or spine injuries which require referral to a hospital or other facility for medical treatment;
 - Bone fractures or dislocations;
 - Lacerations that require sutures, staples, or medical glue; or
 - Second or third degree burns to five percent or more of the body.
- Staff injuries which result in death, require resuscitation, or admission to a hospital (treatment in the emergency room is not considered admission to a hospital).

Illnesses and Illness Outbreaks:

Camp operators are required to report to their local health department all camper and staff illnesses suspected of being water-, food-, or air-borne, or spread by contact. There were 258 individual illnesses and 99 illness outbreaks reported during the 2024 camp season (Figures 17 and 18). Illness outbreaks are detailed in the table below.

| Outbreak Type | | Number of Outbreaks | Number III |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Mandated Reportable Communicable Disease (per Part 2) | COVID-19 | 32 | 146 |
| | Influenza | 2 | 4 |
| | Pertussis (Whooping Cough) | 2 | 13 |
| | Staph | 1 | 3 |
| | Salmonella | 1 | 4 |
| | Varicella (Chicken Pox) | 1 | 2 |
| Acute Illness or Disease | Impetigo | 7 | 51 |
| | Coxsackie Virus (Hand, Foot, Mouth) | 14 | 74 |
| | Fever (Unspecified) | 1 | 9 |
| Parasitic | Pediculosis (Head Lice) | 15 | 54 |
| Respiratory Infection | Respiratory Infection | 1 | 14 |
| | Strep Throat | 8 | 42 |
| | Viral Pneumonia | 1 | 36 |
| Eye Infection | Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) | 5 | 81 |
| Gastrointestinal | Gastroenteritis | 7 | 69 |
| | Norovirus | 1 | 38 |
| Total | | 99 | 640 |

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System

Epinephrine Administrations:

There were 21 incidents in which epinephrine was administered during the 2024 camp season (Figure 19). Of these, 11 administrations were for food allergies, 7 were for insect stings, and 3 were for an unknown allergen.

Of the total administrations, 13 epinephrine auto-injectors were from the camp's supply, 4 were from the patient's supply, and 4 were from EMS Providers or hospital-administered.

Potential Rabies Exposures:

There were 12 reported exposure incidents resulting in 45 campers and staff potentially exposed to rabies in the 2024 camping season (Figure 20). 10 of the 12 incidents involved exposure to a bat. In 8 of these incidents, the bat was not captured, which resulted in 41 individuals being recommended for rabies post exposure prophylaxis. 23 individuals received post exposure prophylaxis treatment and 18 refused treatment. In two incidents, the bat was captured and tested negative for rabies, which resulted in post exposure prophylaxis treatment being avoided for two individuals. In addition to the bat exposures, two incidents involved a potential rabies exposure from dog bites. The dogs were unable to be identified and tested. Post exposure prophylaxis treatment was recommended for two individuals; both received this treatment.

Allegations of Physical and Sexual Abuse:

There were 14 allegations of physical or sexual abuse of campers reported during the 2024 camp season. Of these incidents, three involved alleged physical abuse, nine involved alleged sexual abuse, and two involved both alleged physical and sexual abuse. The alleged perpetrator was another camper in nine incidents, a counselor in three incidents, and unknown in two incidents.

An allegation of abuse is investigated by law enforcement when there may be a violation of Penal Law. The local health department investigates all allegations to determine if the camp complied with supervision, staffing and other policies and procedures required by Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code.

Justice Center Reportable Incidents:

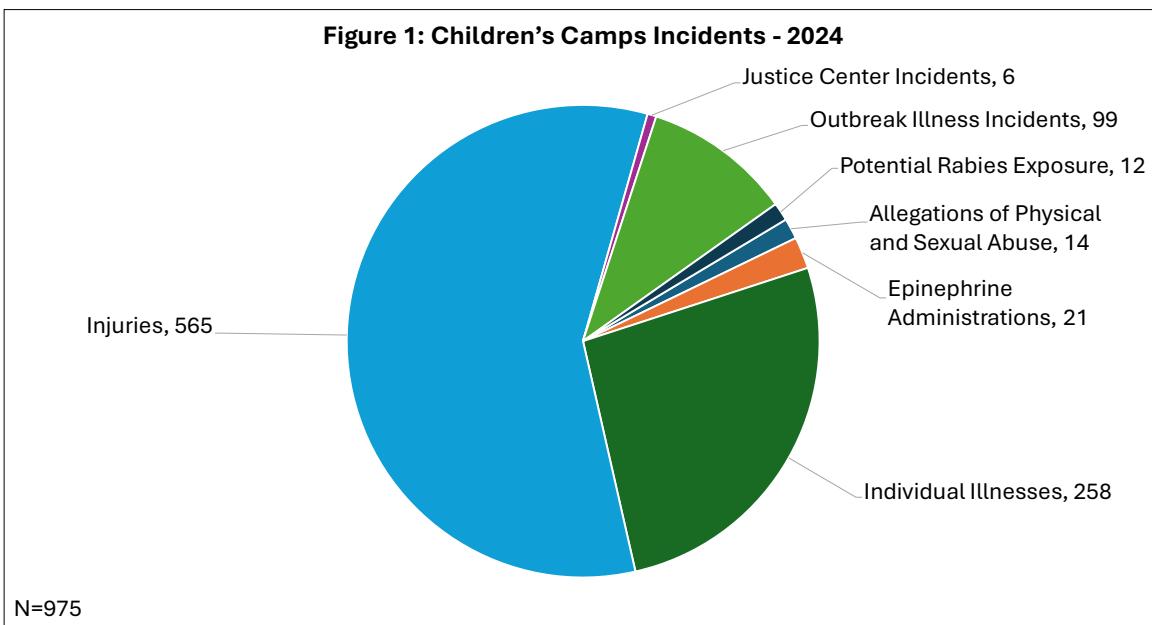
In 2024, there were six incidents at Camps for Children with Developmental Disabilities (enrollment of 20% or more campers with a developmental disability) reported to the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center). Two reports were classified as unsubstantiated abuse/neglect. Four reports were classified by the Justice Center as Significant Incidents and were investigated by local health departments for compliance with Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code. Of these, two allegations involved lack of proper medical care and two involved lack of proper supervision/care provided by the camp. (Figure 21).

Incidents required to be reported to the Justice Center include Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Deliberate Misuse of Restraint, Aversive Conditioning, Neglect, Controlled Substances, Obstruction, and Significant Incidents. Significant Incidents include conduct between campers with developmental disabilities that would constitute abuse and improper treatment/care by camp staff which impairs or creates a reasonably foreseeable potential to impair the health, safety, or welfare of a disabled camper, including but not limited to unauthorized seclusion, unauthorized use of time-out, improper medication administration (prescribed or over the counter), and inappropriate use of restraints.

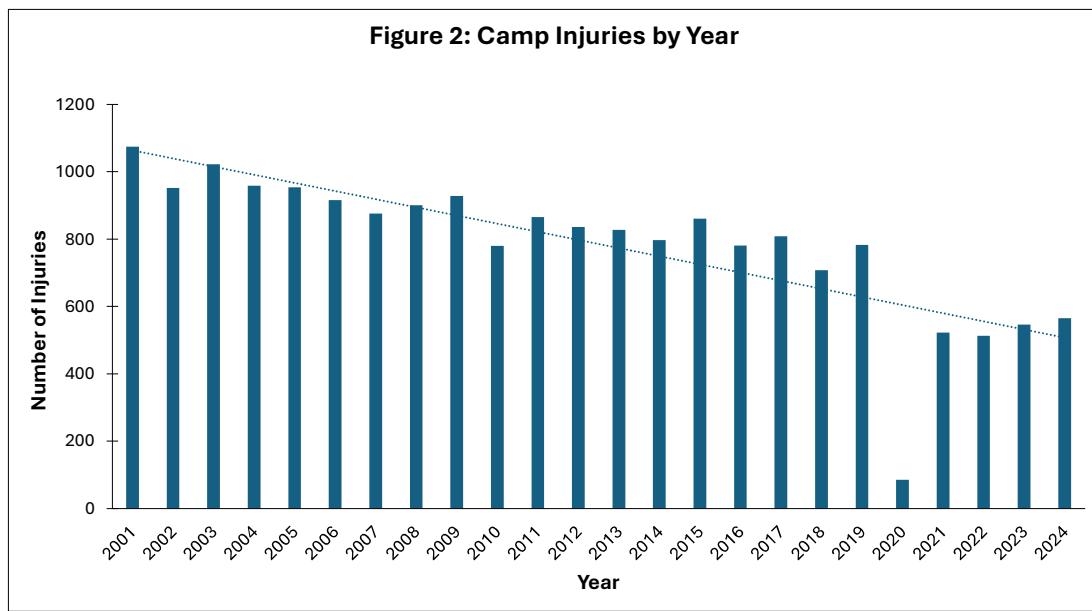
For this summary report, a Justice Center incident may also be included in other categories, such as an injury, illness, or incident of alleged physical and sexual abuse if the incident also met the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code for a reportable incident.

Fatalities:

There were no fatalities reported at regulated children's camps during the 2024 camp season.

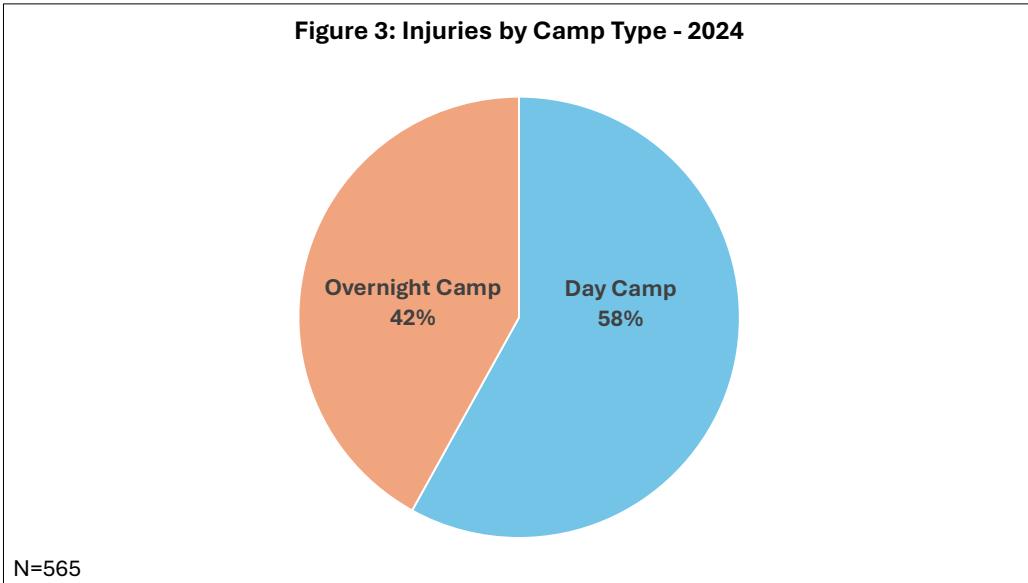


Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)



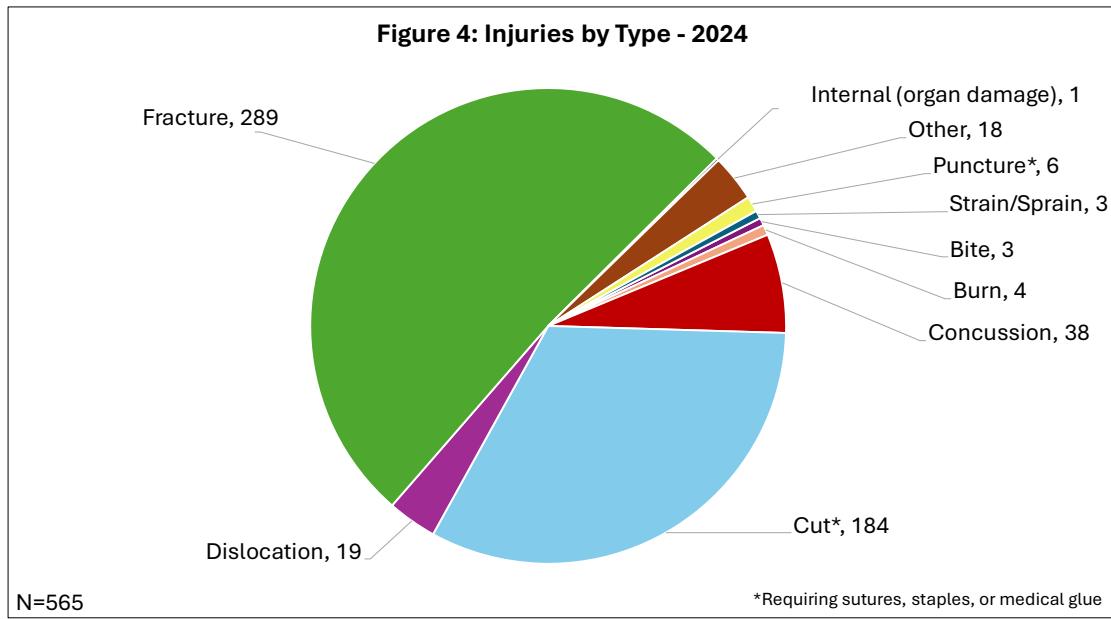
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

Figure 3: Injuries by Camp Type - 2024

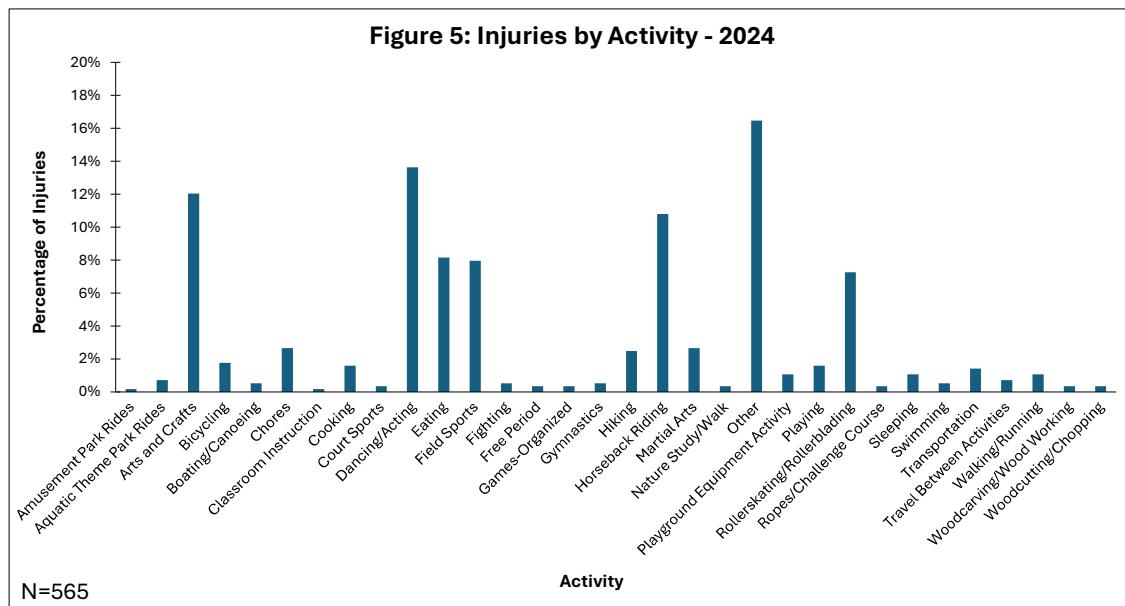


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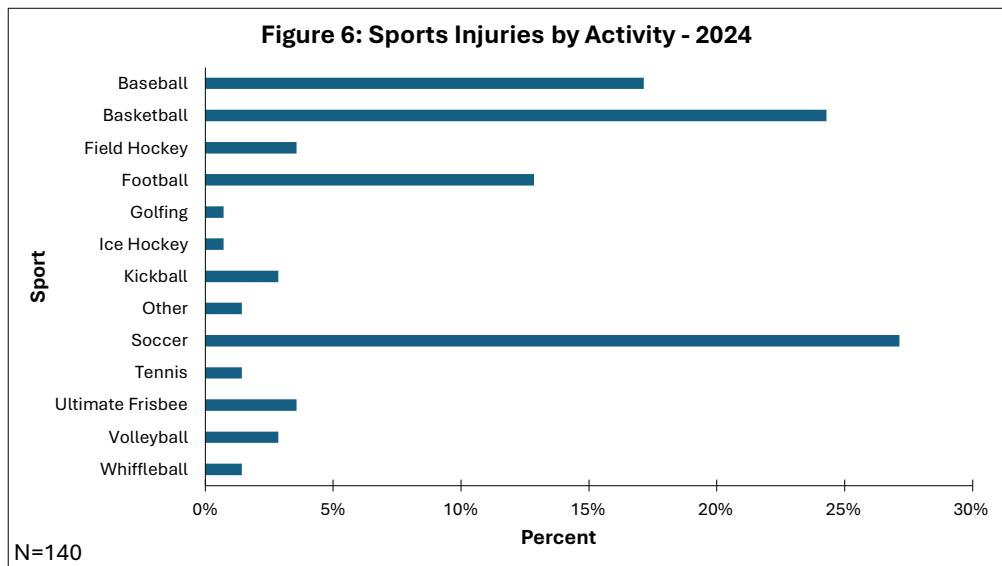
Figure 4: Injuries by Type - 2024



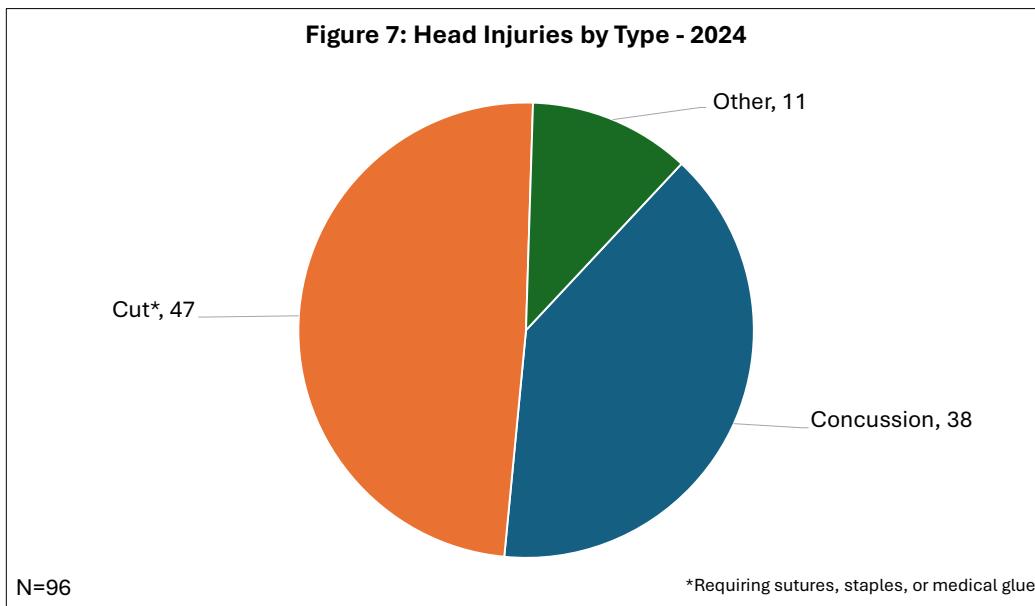
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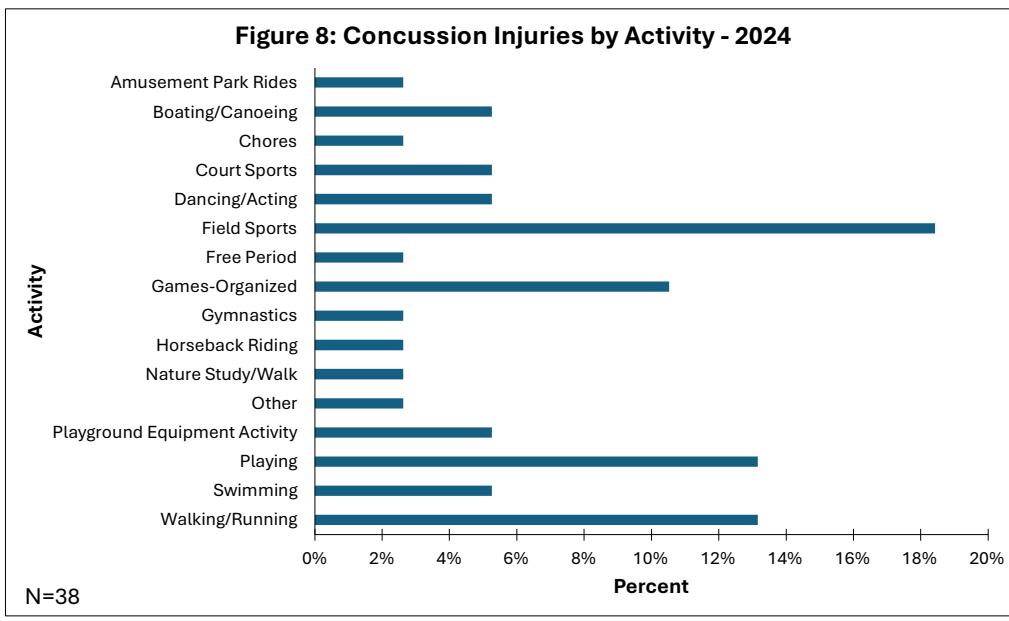
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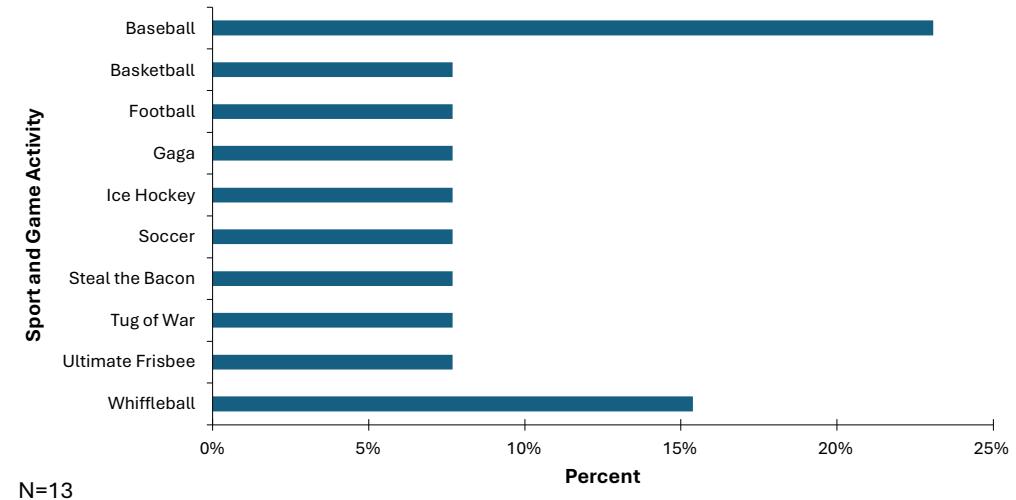


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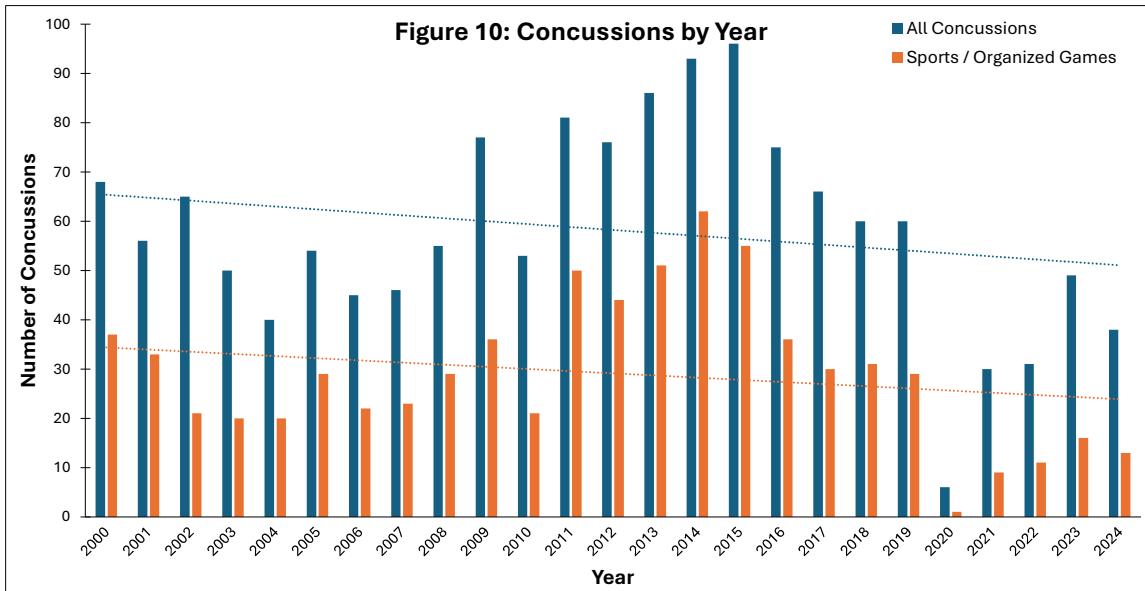
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

Figure 9: Concussion Injuries by Sport and Game Activity - 2024

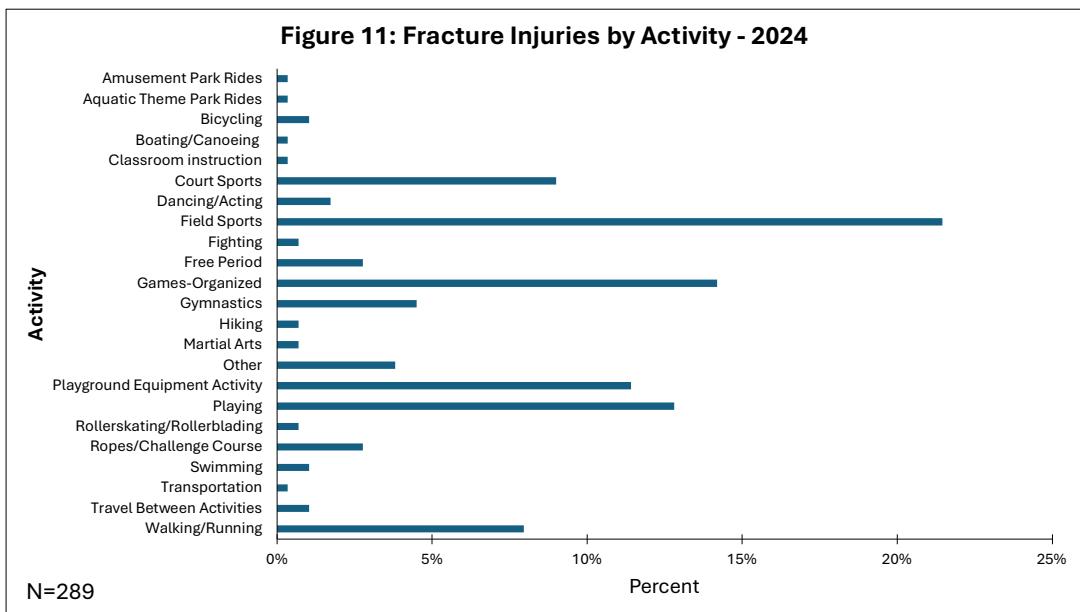


Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

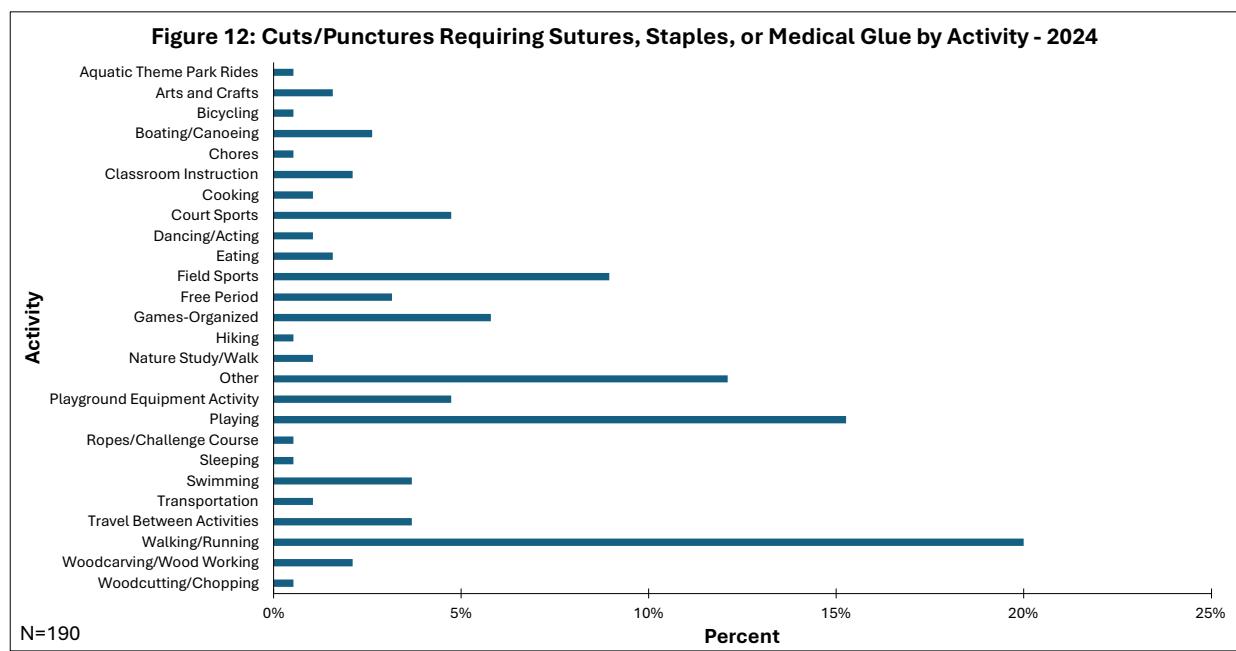
Figure 10: Concussions by Year



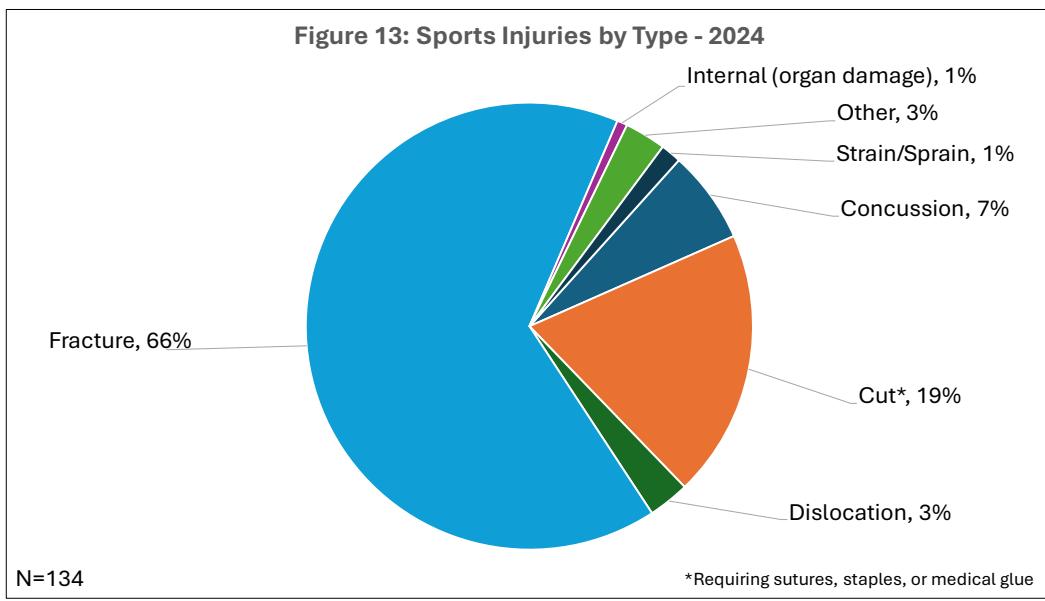
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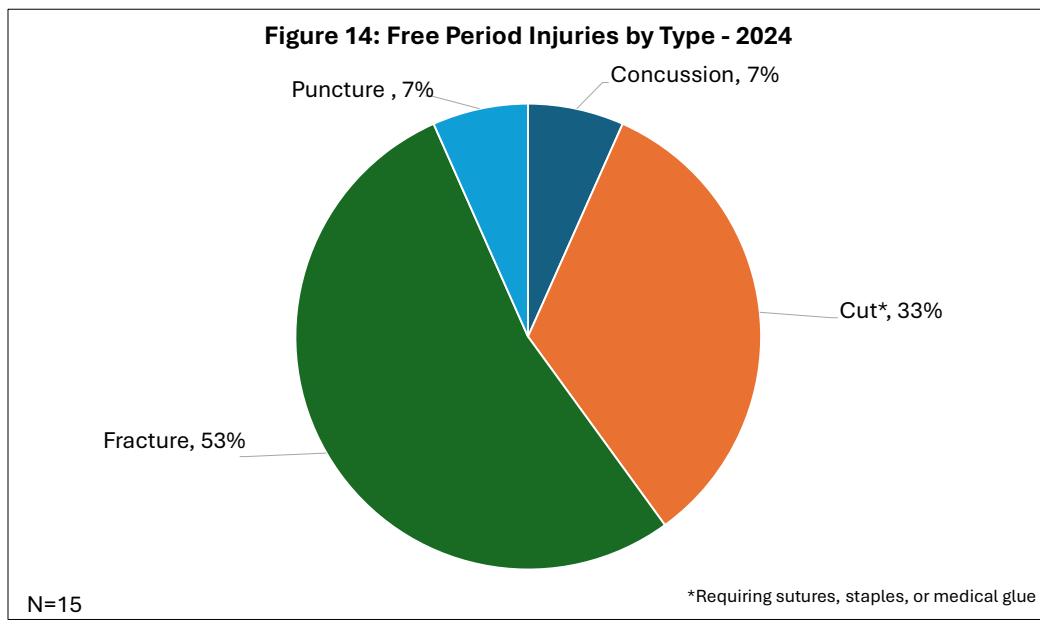
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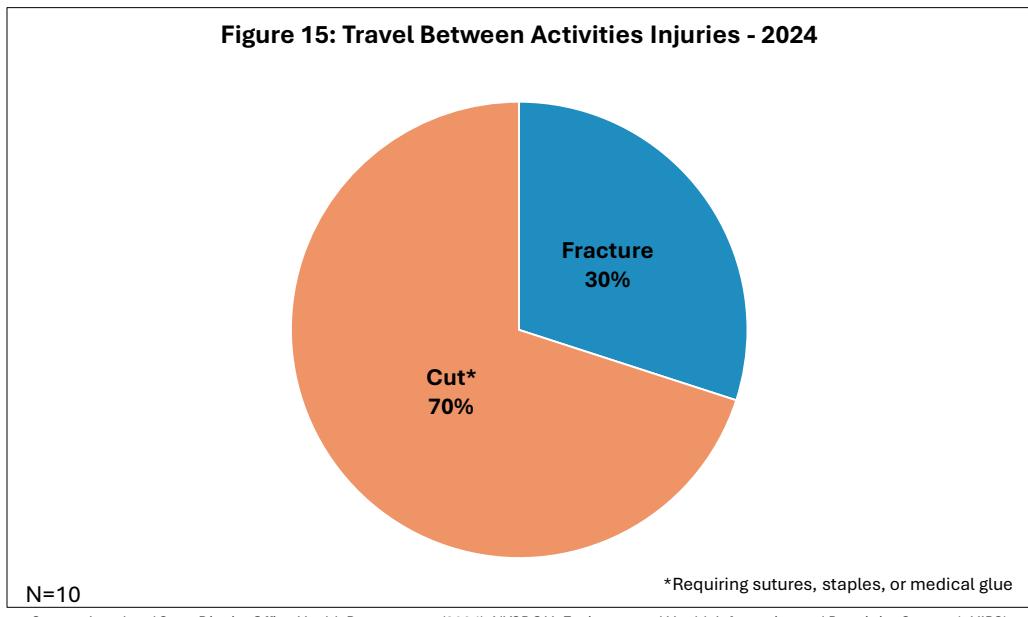


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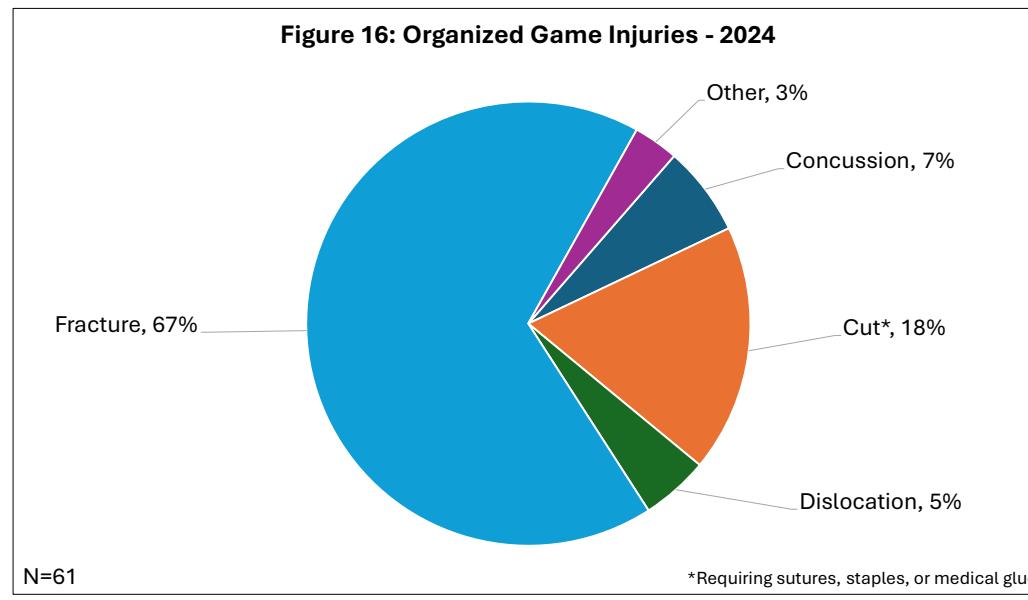
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

Figure 15: Travel Between Activities Injuries - 2024

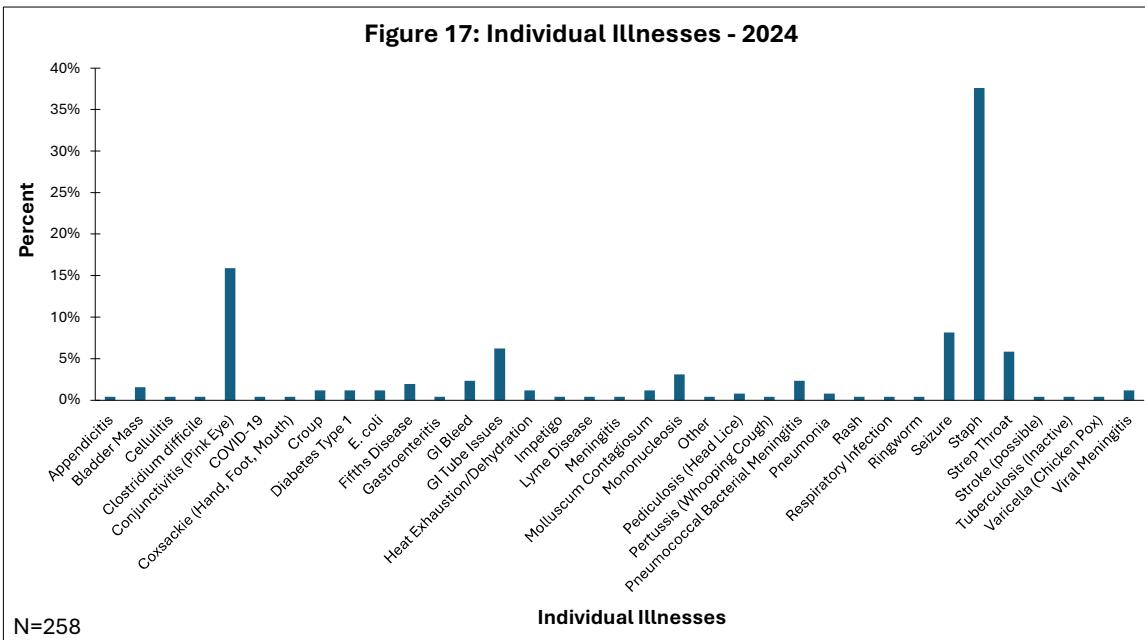


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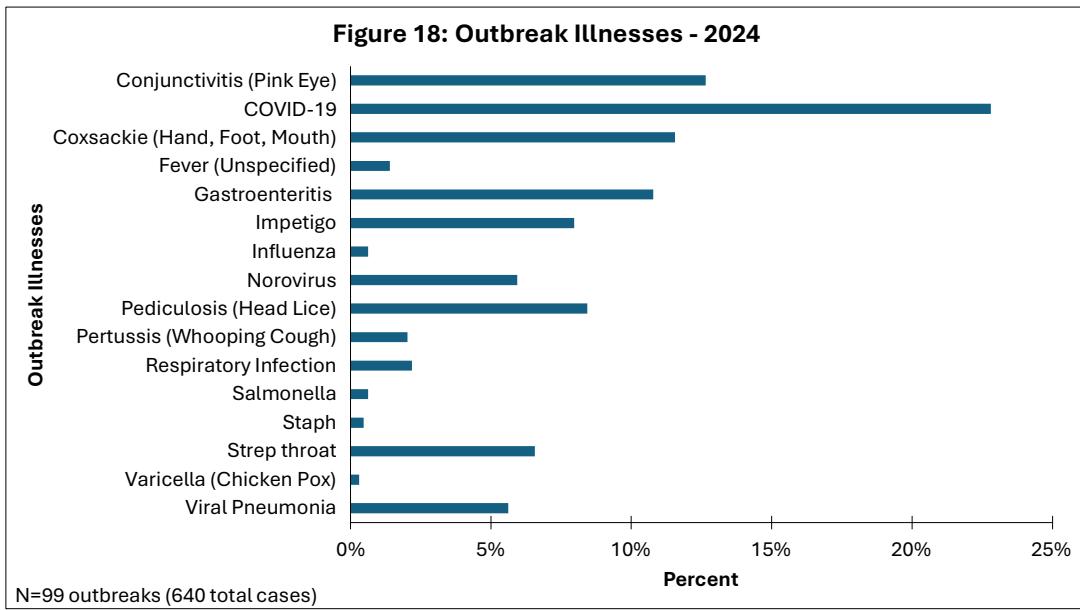
Figure 16: Organized Game Injuries - 2024



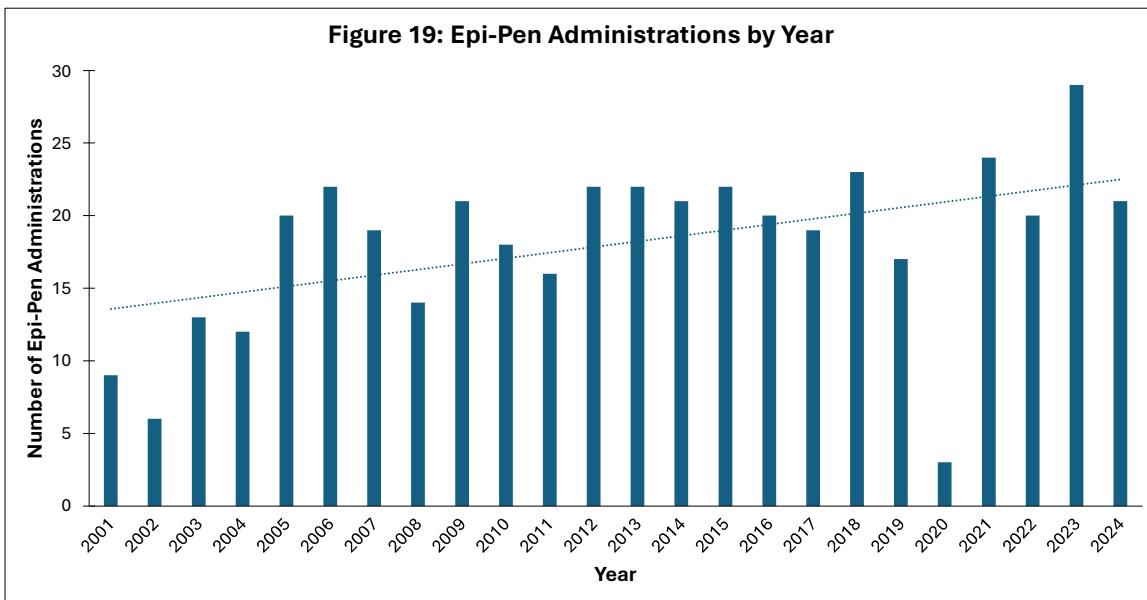
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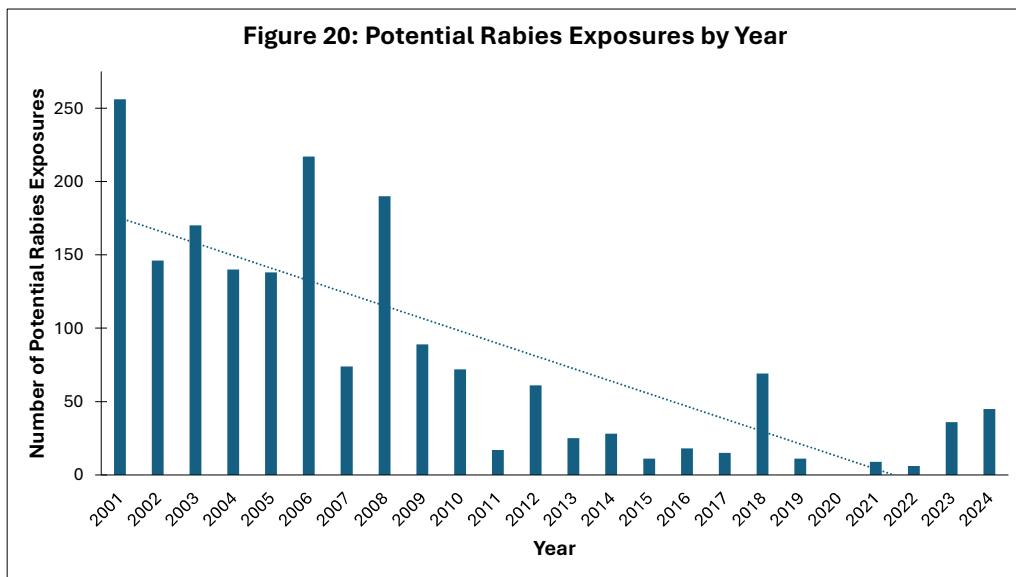
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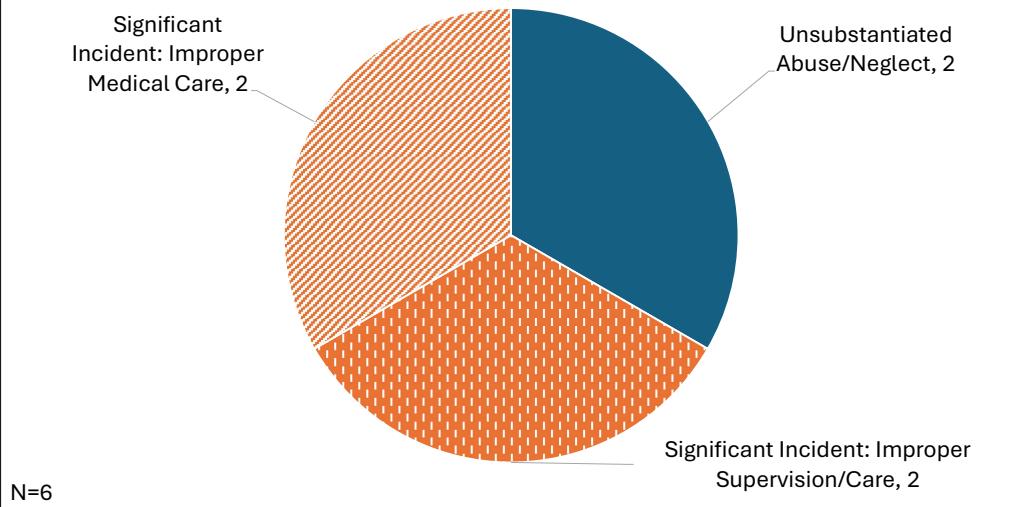


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Figure 21: Justice Center Reportable Incidents - 2024



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2024). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)