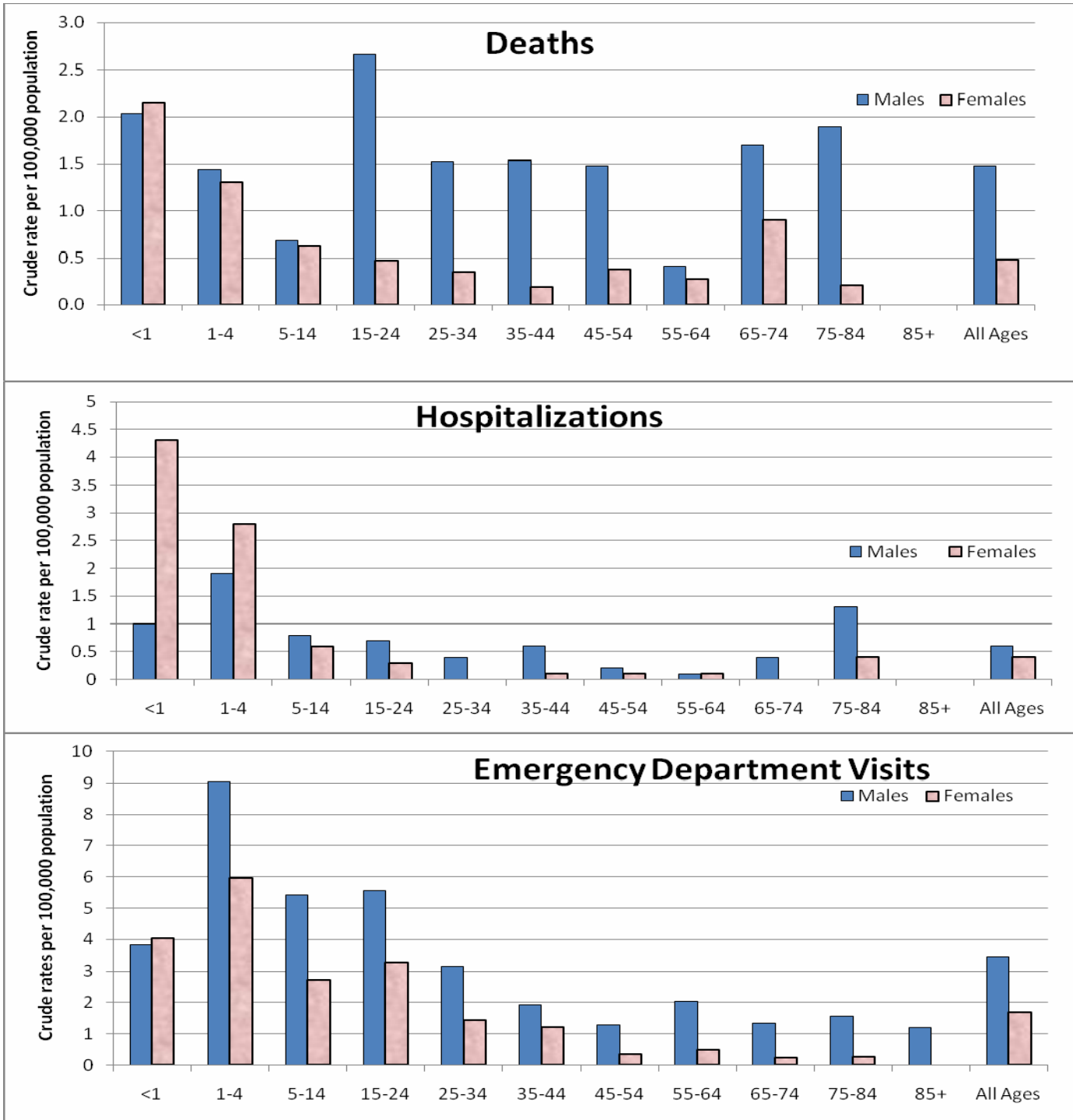


Indicators for drowning, Iowa, 2002-2006

Although drowning death rates are low in Iowa (1.0/100,000), lower than the national NCIPC states' 2004 average (1.3/100,000), it is still the 3rd leading cause of injury death for Iowans under the age of 14. This underlines the importance of prevention for unintentional drowning, particularly in infants and children.



- Over the five-year period of this report, drowning in Iowa resulted in an average of 29 deaths, 15 hospitalizations, and 63 ED visits per year.
- Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of injury death for Iowans under the age of 14, and the 5th leading cause of injury death in those aged 15 to 24.
- While there were few drowning-related hospitalizations in Iowa on average (15 cases/year), there was a larger number of deaths (29 cases/year), which demonstrates the severity of any drowning incidents.
- Although the annual average death rate for drowning in Iowa for 2002-2006 is low (1.0/100,000), lower than the 2004 national average of NCIPC states (1.3/100,000), it is an important cause of injury among certain age groups.
 - Because there are low numbers of drowning deaths in certain age groups (less than 5 in some groups), only general patterns from the resultant rates should be considered.
 - Under the age of 15, drowning death rates are similar between males and females. In Iowans 15 years and older, males were more than twice as likely as females to die from drowning.
 - The highest yearly average number of drowning deaths occurred among 15- to 24-year-old males (6 cases/year), resulting in a rate of 2.7 per 100,000; while only one drowning death was reported among the same age females, with a subsequent rate of 0.5 per 100,000.
- Iowa's drowning hospitalization rate (0.5/100,000) is slightly lower than the NCIPC states' average of 0.7 per 100,000, and varies by age and gender.
 - On average, from 2002-2006, there were nine males of all ages hospitalized for drowning per year and six females.
 - Under the age of five, drowning-related hospitalization rates are higher in girls (<1: 4.3/100,000, 1-4 years: 2.8/100,000) than boys (<1: 1.0/100,000, 1-4 years: 1.9/100,000).
 - In ages five and above, more males than females were hospitalized.
 - In many age/gender groups, there was less than one drowning-related hospitalization on average per year, while there were no drowning-related hospitalizations from 2002-2006 in women aged 25-34 and 65-74.
- Males had twice as many drowning-related ED visits as females (yearly average of 42 vs. 21 ED visits).
 - For every age group, except infants less than one year of age (males: 3.8/100,000, females: 4.0/100,000), males were anywhere from two to four times more likely than females to visit the ED for drowning-related injuries.
 - The majority of ED visits occurred among children and young adults, with the greatest number (average of 10 ED visits per year) in 15- to 24-year-old males. The highest rate of ED visits occurred in 1- to 4-year-old males (7.5/100,000).