Data Source: WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Data

**Description:** The Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) is an interactive, online database system that provides nonfatal and fatal injury data and cost of injury data at the national, regional, and state levels. This sheet focuses on the nonfatal injury data.

**Sponsoring institution:** National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**Data:**
- Nonfatal injury reports providing national estimates of injuries treated in hospital emergency departments. The suicide attempt data are included under the category “self-harm” but cannot be distinguished from non-intentional self-harm. All of the nonfatal injury data are only available at the national level, not the state level.
- Leading cause of nonfatal injury reports, which rank the leading causes of nonfatal injuries treated in emergency departments
- Cost of self-harm events

**Variables:**
- Self-harm data can be separated out by mechanism (cause), geographic region/state, race/ethnicity, sex, age, and release date from the emergency department (i.e., patient was hospitalized, moved for specialized care, or treated and released).
- Cost of injury reports include both medical (treatment and rehabilitation) and work-loss costs (lost wages, benefits, and self-reported household services).

**Source of data:**
- The data come from a national sample of emergency department visits via the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System—All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP) operated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission with CDC’s NCIPC.

**Strengths:**
- Standardized national data on nonfatal injuries, including self-harm, can be compared across demographic groups and by mechanism (cause).
- WISQARS is one of the few sources of national cost data.
- Annual reports are generally available 10–11 months after the end of the calendar year.

**Limitations:**
- Self-harm data are only available at the national level.
- Suicide attempts cannot be differentiated from non-suicidal self-harm.
- There are large confidence intervals around the estimates; therefore the data are not a reliable indicator for tracking trends over the short term as estimates vary a great deal from year to year.

**Access:**
- WISQARS’ Nonfatal Injury Data webpage can be found at [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html).
- The WISQARS website has a menu-driven interface that allows users to choose how the data is presented, for example, as a table, bar graph, or map or downloaded into a spreadsheet or statistical analysis program.