



2025 Children’s Camp Incident Summary Report
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In 2025, local health departments reported that 2,465 regulated children's camps operated in New York State. Of these, 467 were overnight camps and 1,998 were day camps, including 257 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 1,112 incidents (1,612 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 statewide in 2025 (Figure 1), indicating that less than 2 out of 1,000 campers experienced a reportable injury or 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 2025.

Injuries:

There were 702 injuries to 675 individuals reported during the 2025 camp season (an individual may experience more than one reportable injury in a single incident). This represents a 24.3% percent increase compared to 2024, and a 2.3% percent increase 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 (does not include emergency room visits);
 - 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).

There were three camper nonfatal drownings reported in 2025. All involved young campers who were designated as non-swimmers. The local health department investigation of each incident identified one or more deficiencies related to compliance with camp swimming requirements and bather supervision.

- The first incident involved a 5-year-old camper and occurred during an open swim session. The camper was observed floating face-down in approximately three-and-a-half feet deep water by a patron not associated with the camp. The patron brought the camper onto the pool deck and initiated CPR. The camper vomited and regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital for overnight observation.
- The second incident involved a 4-year-old camper and occurred during an open swim session. The camper was found floating face-up underwater in the non-swimmer area of the camp's beach in water roughly two feet deep a few minutes after the swim session started. Other campers gathered around the camper which caught the lifeguard's attention. A counselor pulled the camper out of the water and CPR was initiated. The camper was resuscitated, transported to the hospital, and kept overnight for observation.
- The third incident involved a 3-year-old camper during a swim lesson. Staff were escorting a group of nearly 40 campers out of a shallow pool after swim lessons and a counselor noticed the camper face-up in water three feet deep. They initially thought the camper didn't want to exit the pool. When the camper's head sank into the water, a lifeguard responded. CPR was initiated. The camper regained consciousness, was transported to the hospital, and released later that day.

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 a total of 231 individual illnesses and 97 illness outbreaks reported during the 2025 camp season (Figures 17-18). Illness outbreaks are detailed in the table on page 3.

Outbreak Type		Number of Outbreaks	Number Ill
Mandated Reportable Communicable Disease (per Part 2)	COVID-19	5	12
	Salmonella	1	2
Acute Illness or Disease	Cellulitis	2	14
	Coxsackie virus	38	227
	Ear Infection	1	9
	Impetigo	8	89
	Fever (Unspecified)	1	2
	Fifth's Disease	1	2
	Molluscum Contagiosum	1	4
Parasitic	Pediculosis (Head Lice)	19	64
	Scabies	1	32
Respiratory Infection	Respiratory Infection	6	56
	Strep Throat	6	28
Eye Infection	Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	4	20
Gastrointestinal	Gastroenteritis (Unspecified)	3	6
Total		97	567

Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System

Epinephrine Administrations:

There were 40 incidents in which epinephrine was administered during the 2025 camp season (Figure 19). Of these, 20 administrations were for food allergies, 12 administrations were for insect stings, 1 administration was for a latex allergy, and 7 administrations were for an unknown allergen.

Of the total administrations, 18 epinephrine auto-injectors were from the patient's supply, 14 were from the camp's supply, 4 were from EMS providers or hospital-administrated, and the source was not specified for the remaining 4.

Rabies Exposures:

There were 25 reported incidents resulting in 68 campers and staff potentially exposed to rabies during the 2025 camp season (Figure 20). 21 of the 25 incidents involved exposure to a bat. In 18 of these incidents, the bat was not captured (17 incidents) or was captured and submitted for analysis but not able to be analyzed (1 incident), which resulted in 55 individuals being recommended for rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatment. 52 individuals received rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatment and 3 declined treatment. In three incidents, the bat was captured and tested negative for rabies, which resulted in rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatment being avoided for seven individuals.

The remaining four incidents involved exposure to a cat, a dog, a horse, and a raccoon, respectively. In each, a camper or staff member was bitten or scratched. The horse and dog both had up-to-date rabies vaccinations, and the raccoon tested negative, so rabies postexposure

prophylaxis treatment was not necessary for three individuals. The cat tested positive, and rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatment was recommended to and received by 10 exposed individuals.

Allegations of Physical and Sexual Abuse:

There were six allegations of physical or sexual abuse of campers reported during the 2025 camp season. Of these incidents, two involved alleged physical abuse and four involved alleged sexual abuse. The alleged perpetrator was another camper in one incident, a counselor in four incidents, and other staff in one incident.

An allegation of abuse is investigated by law enforcement when there may be a violation of the 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 the Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code.

Justice Center Reportable Incidents:

In 2025, there were seven 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 substantiated neglect and one as unsubstantiated 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, one allegation involved lack of proper medical care, two involved inappropriate camper-to-camper contact, and one involved inappropriate staff to camper contact (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 abuse allegation if the incident also met the criteria in Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code for a reportable incident.

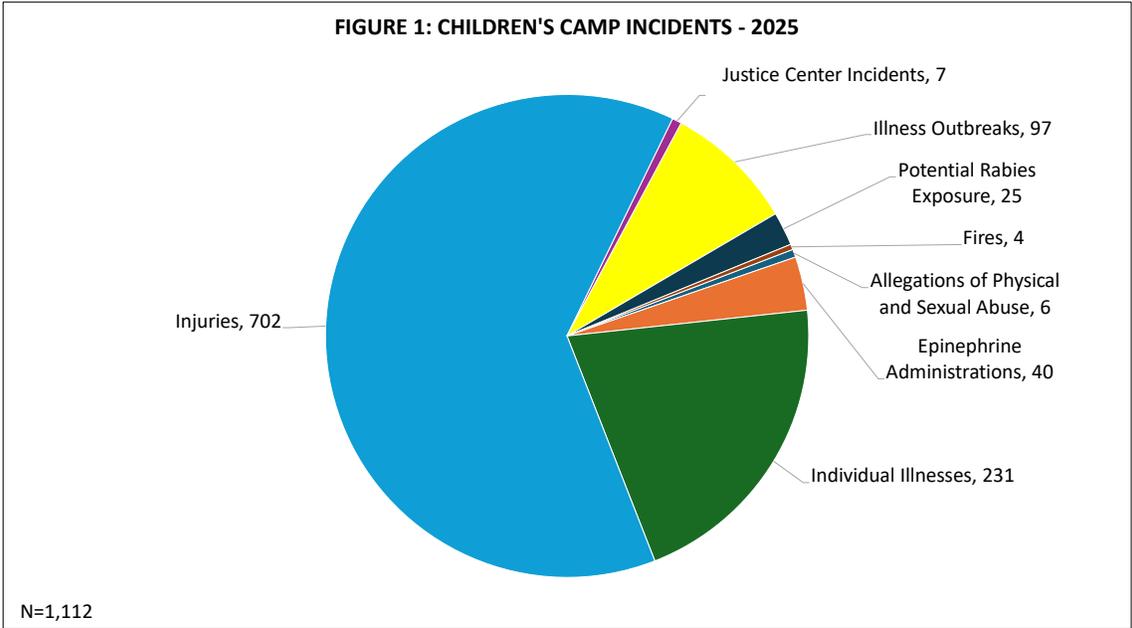
Fires:

There were four reported fires at children's camps in 2025. Three of the four incidents occurred when no campers were on-site. No injuries were reported for any of the fires.

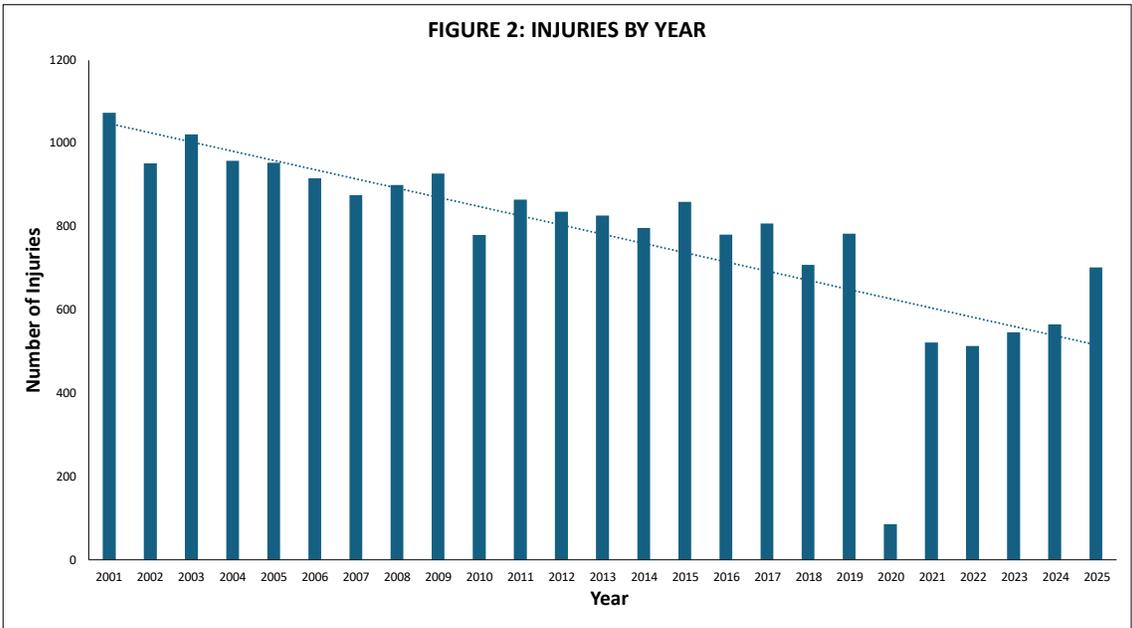
- The first fire occurred in an arts and crafts building at a day camp a few days before camp started. It spread to a second building containing the kitchen and mess hall. The arts and crafts building needed to be demolished. The other building had minimal damage and was put back into use after cleaning and sanitizing. It is unknown how the fire started.
- The second fire occurred in an arts and crafts building at an overnight camp between camp sessions. It resulted in the building needing to be demolished and cancellation of the camp's final session. It was determined that the fire was caused by an electrical issue.
- The third fire occurred overnight at a facility that hosted a day camp. The camp was able to merge with another permitted day camp nearby so that campers could continue to attend. It is unknown how the fire started.
- The fourth fire occurred in a two-story dorm building at an overnight camp. 12 campers were in the building at the time of the incident but safely evacuated when the smoke detectors went off. No medical attention was needed for any campers or staff. Campers were able to be housed in an adjacent dorm after the fire. The cause of fire remains under investigation but is thought to have been due to an electrical issue.

Fatalities:

In 2025, there was one reported fatality of a camper due to electrocution. The incident occurred at a private residence on the camp property. The local health department did not identify any deficiencies related to camper supervision during their incident investigation. Additional details will not be included in this report to ensure privacy and due to ongoing investigation.

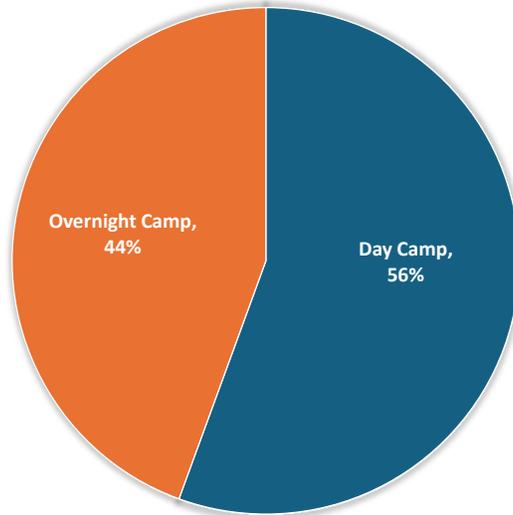


Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)



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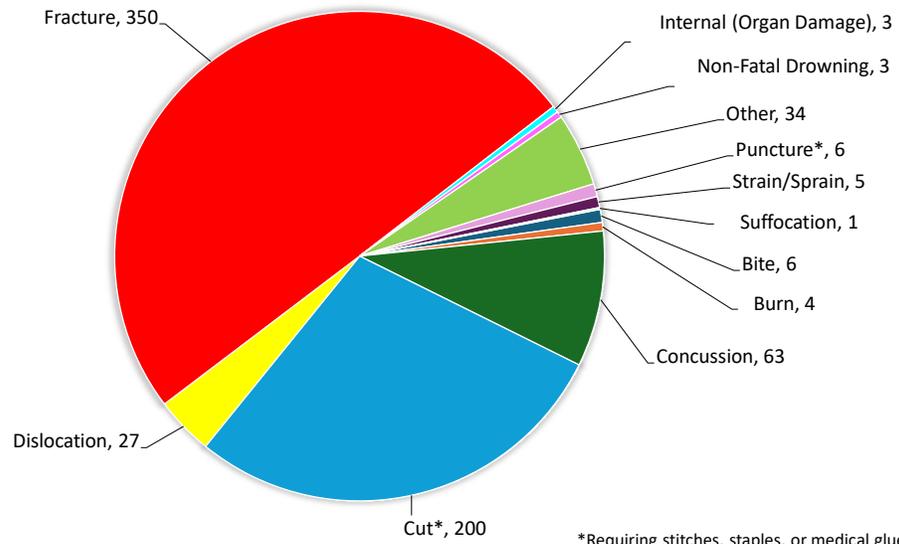
FIGURE 3: INJURIES BY CAMP TYPE - 2025



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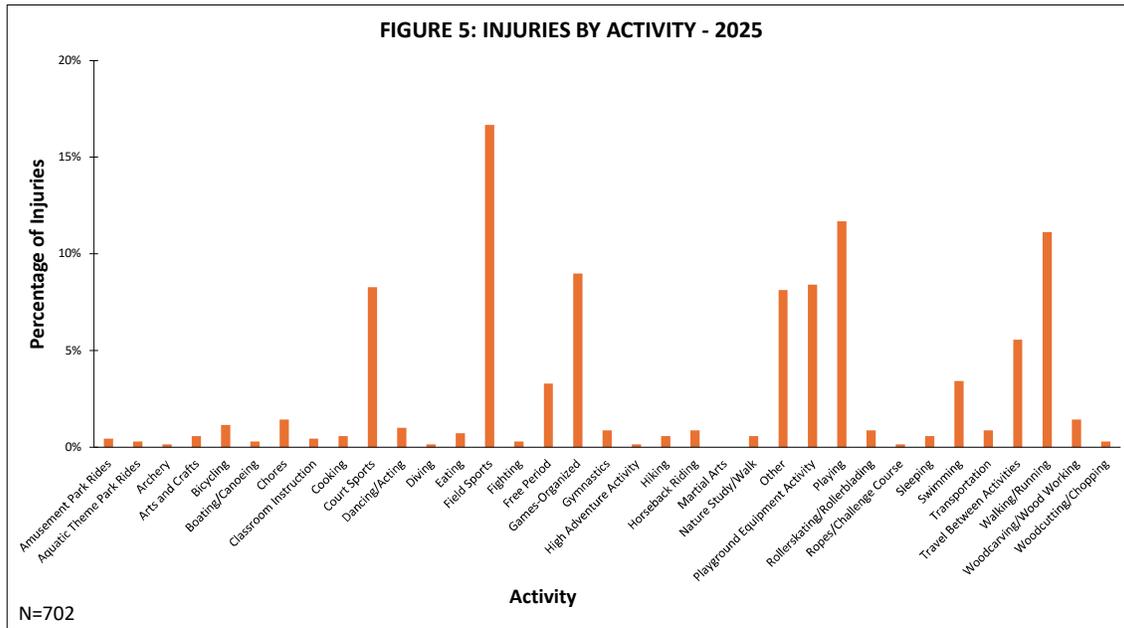
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

FIGURE 4: INJURIES BY TYPE - 2025

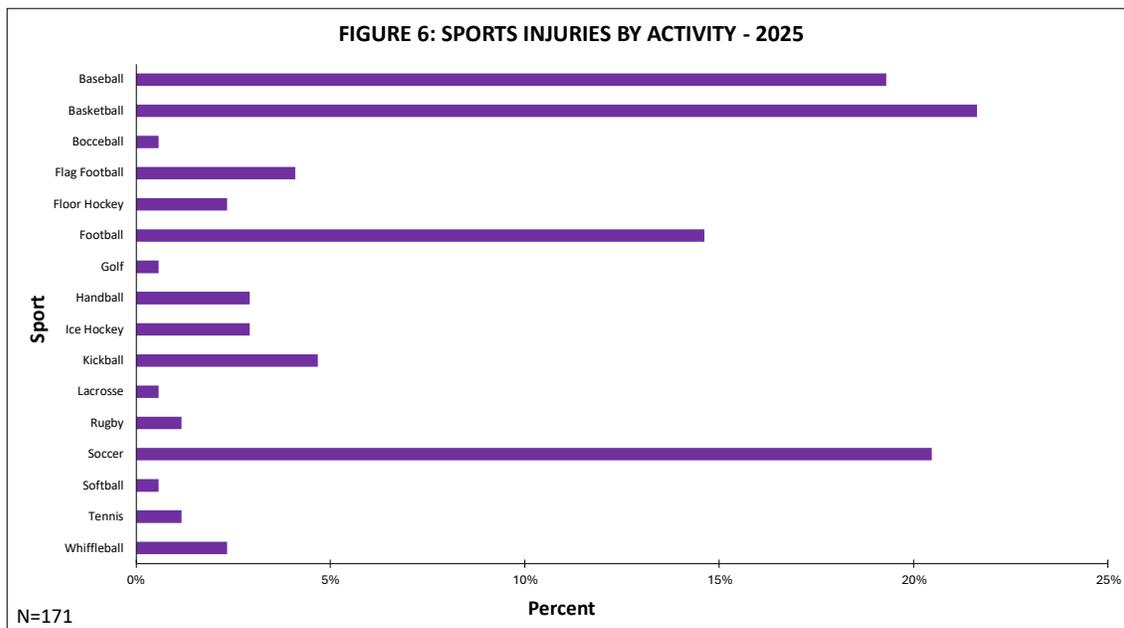


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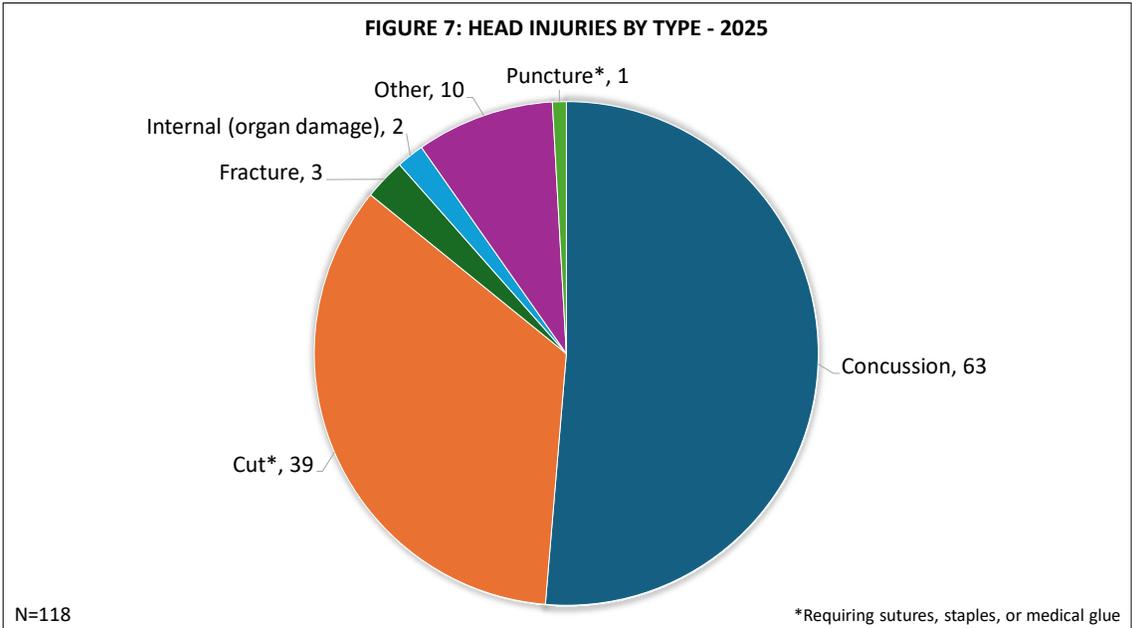
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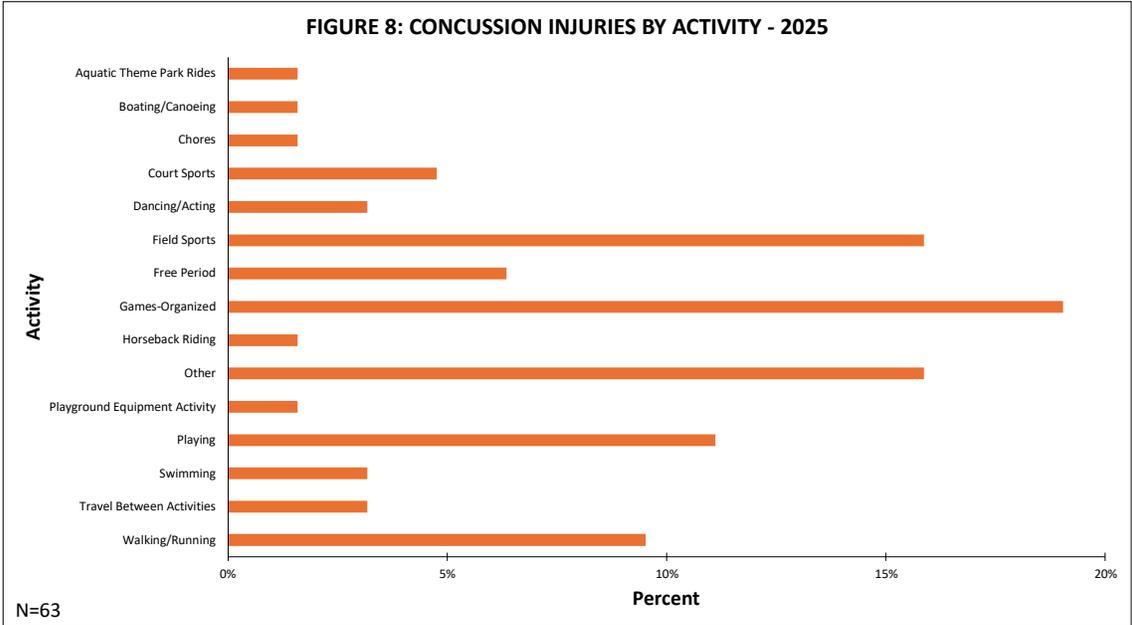
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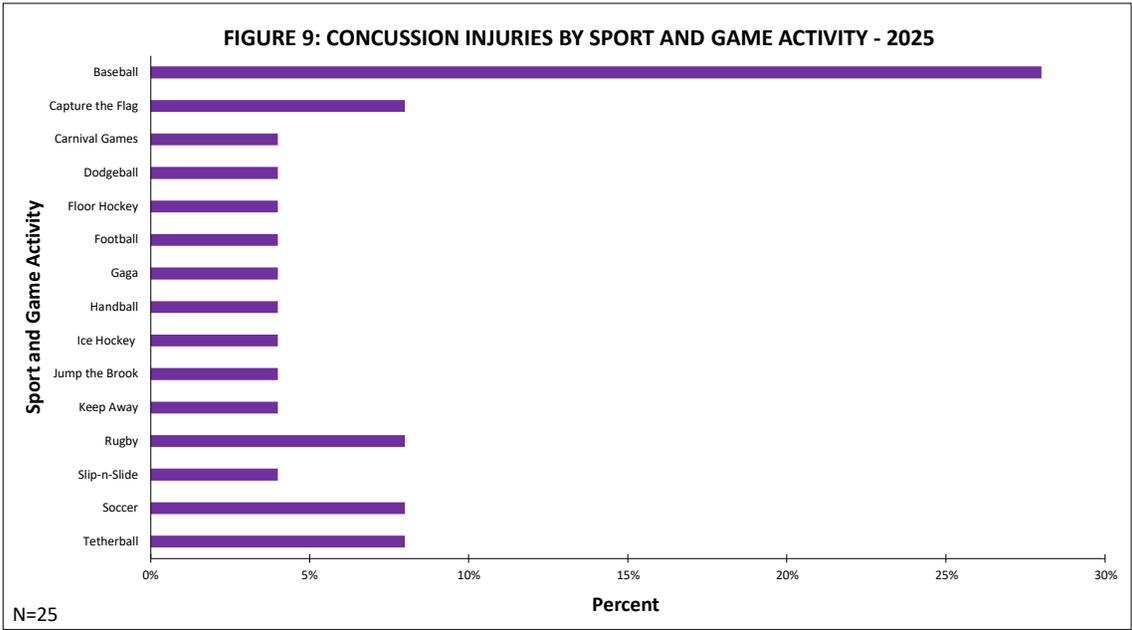
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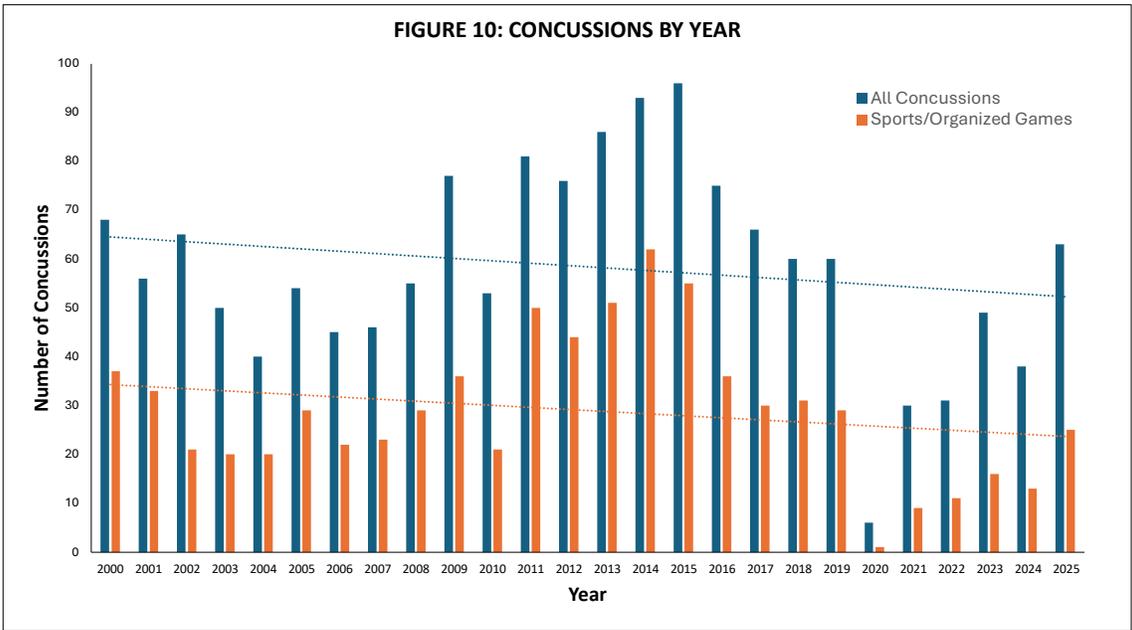
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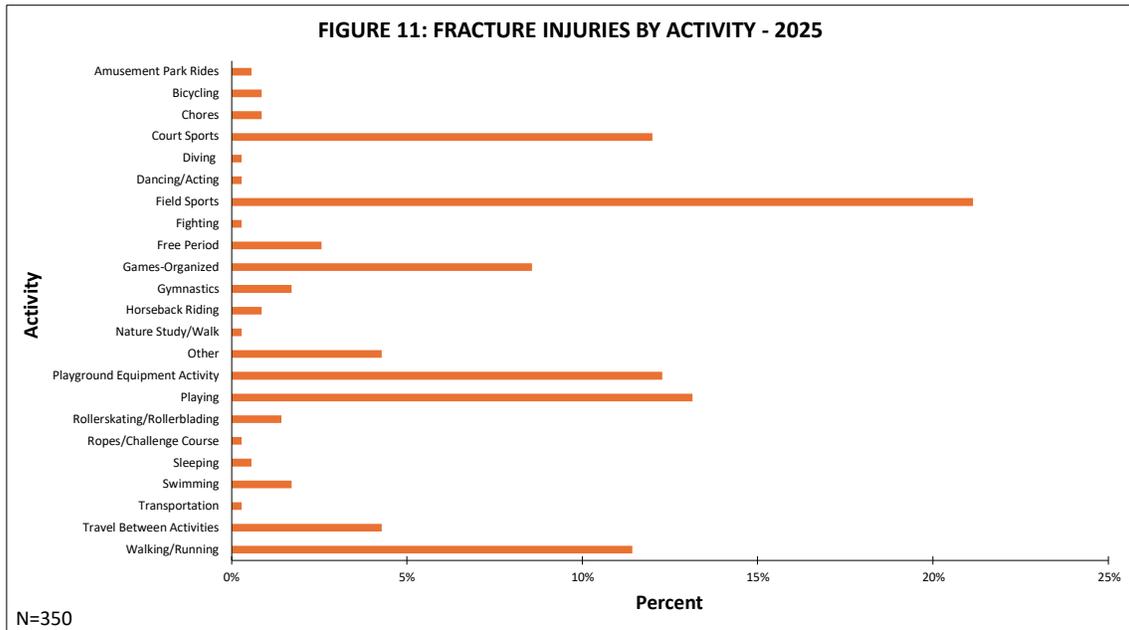
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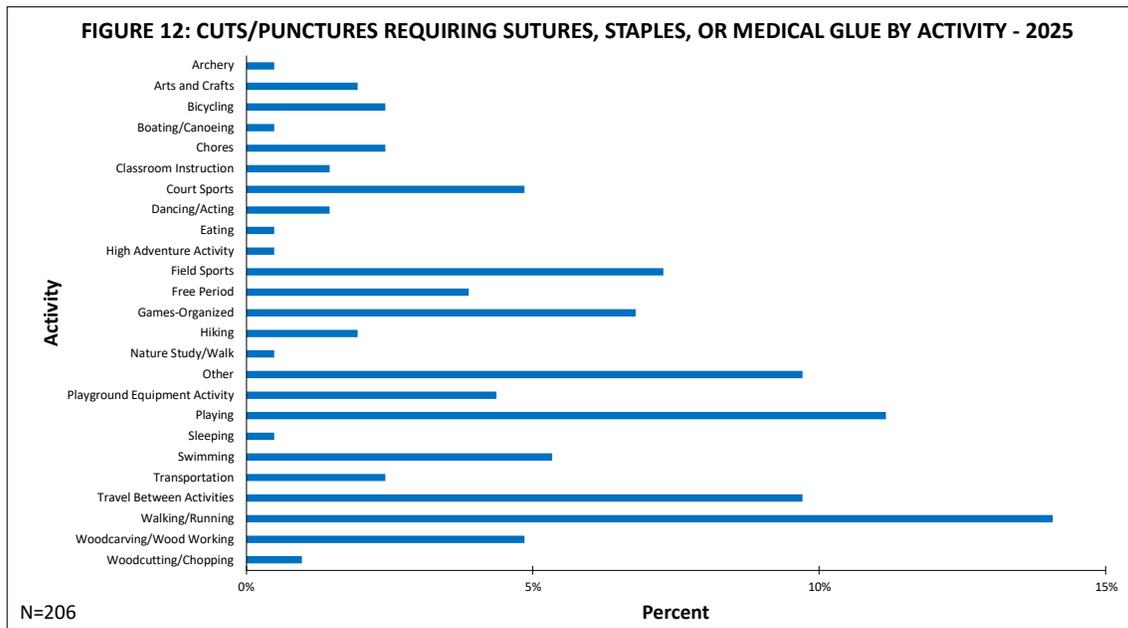
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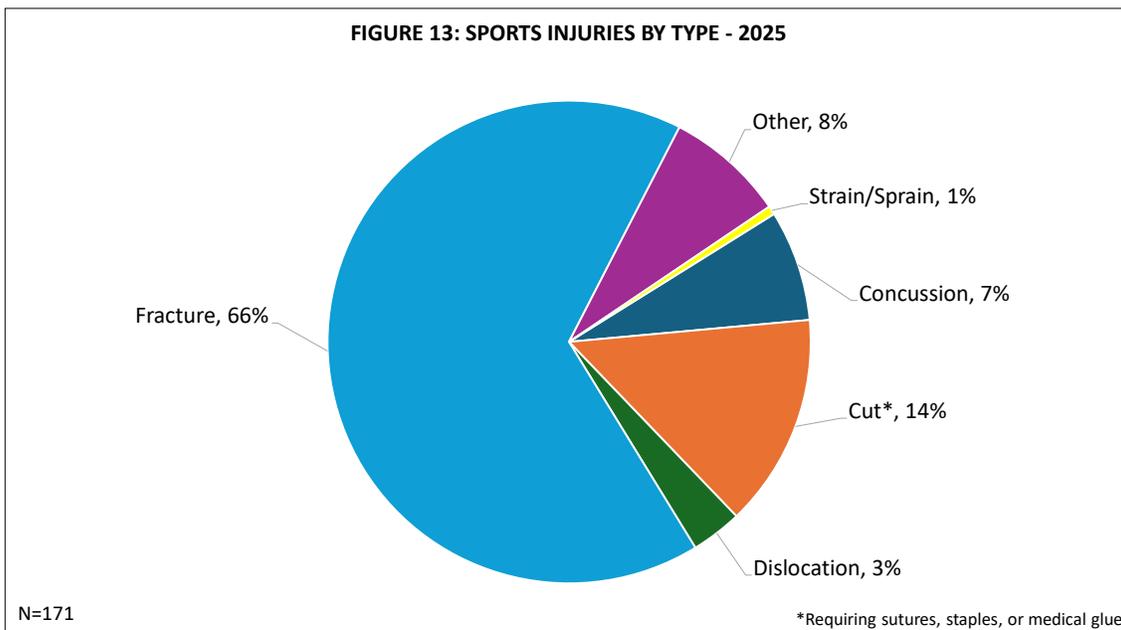


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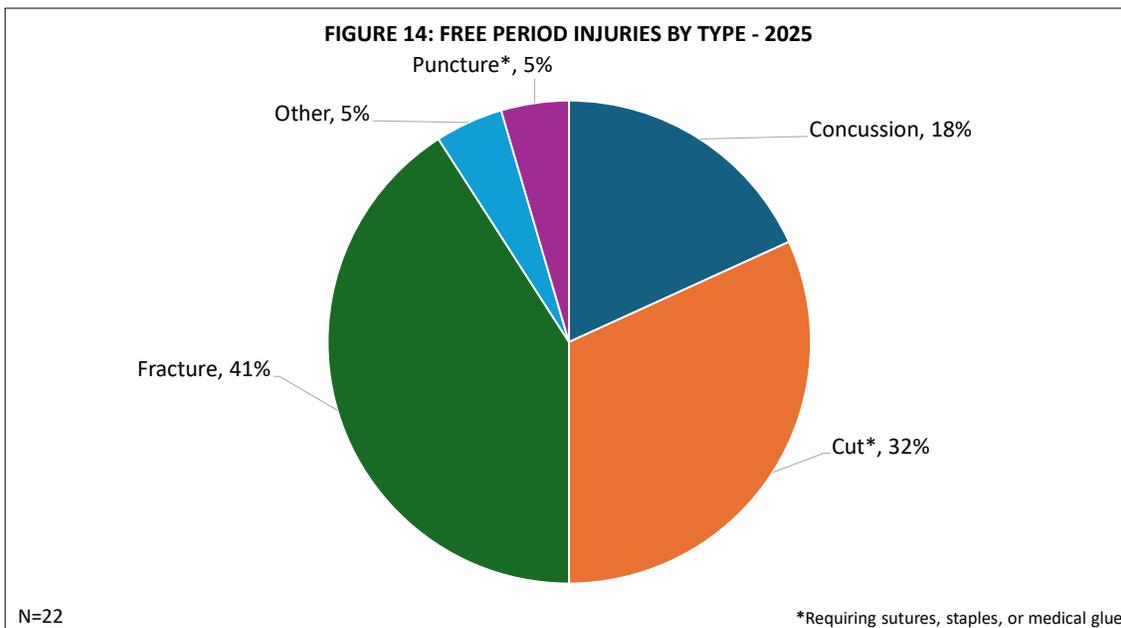
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

FIGURE 13: SPORTS INJURIES BY TYPE - 2025



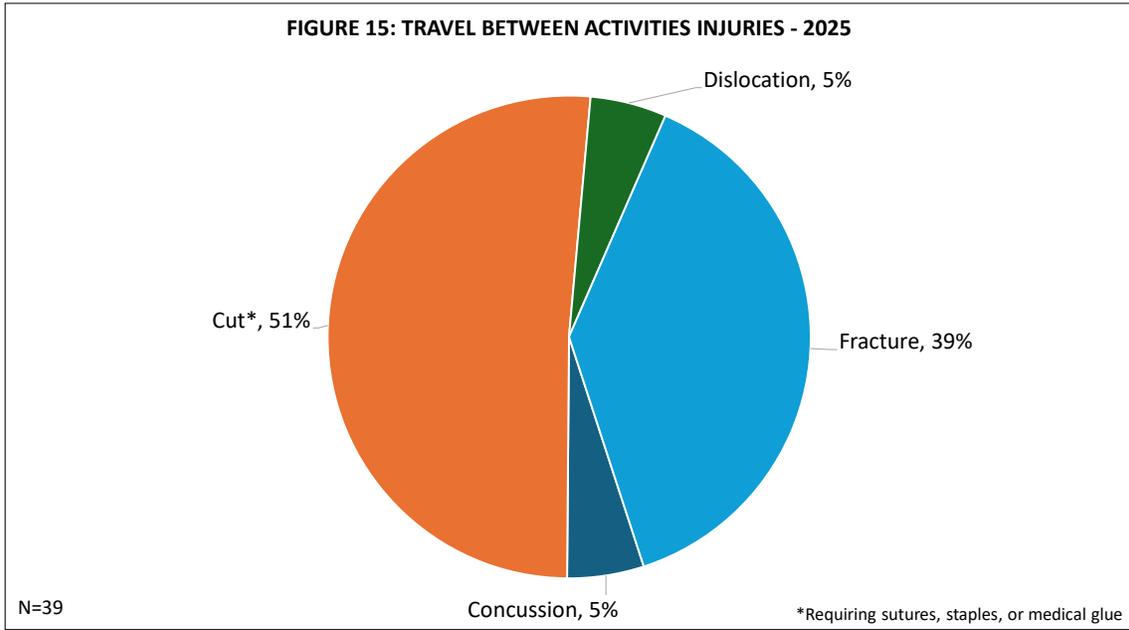
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

FIGURE 14: FREE PERIOD INJURIES BY TYPE - 2025



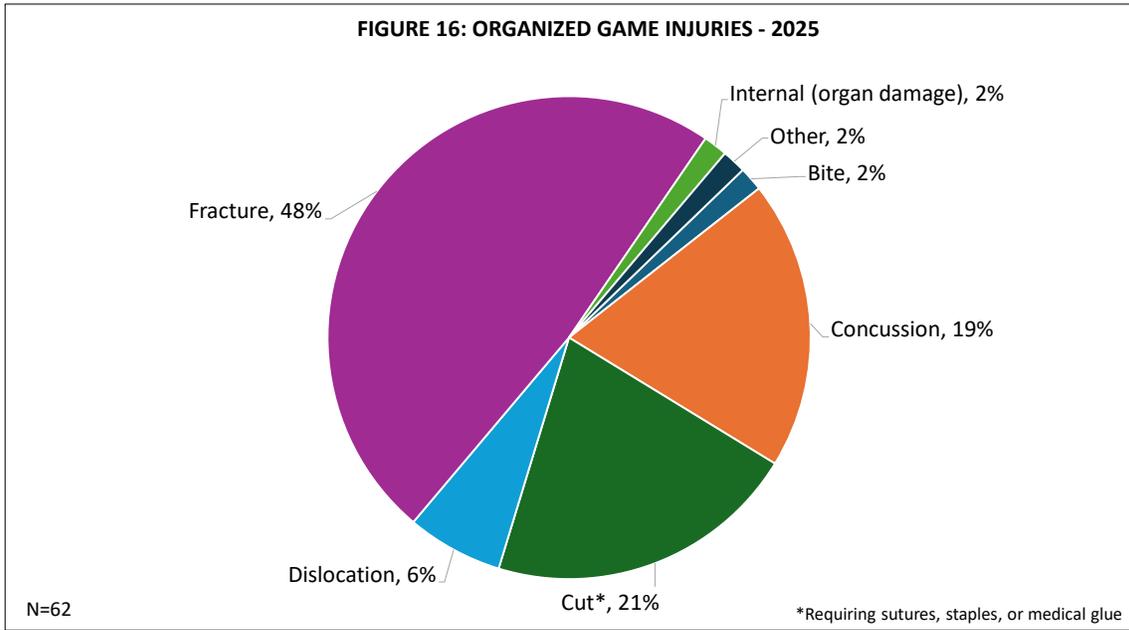
Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)

FIGURE 15: TRAVEL BETWEEN ACTIVITIES INJURIES - 2025

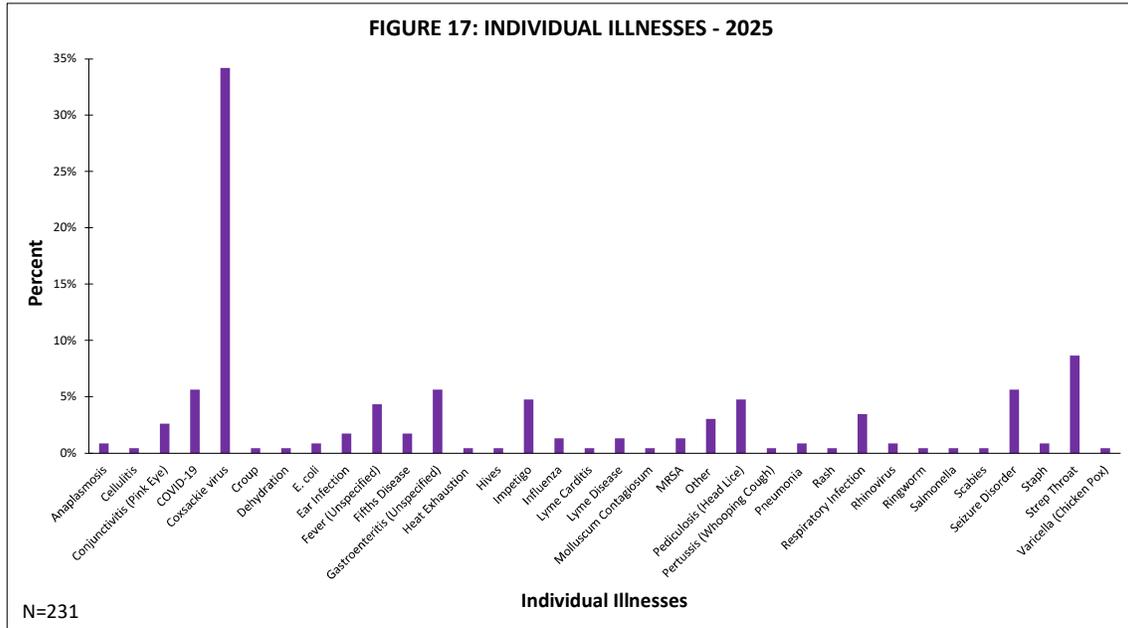


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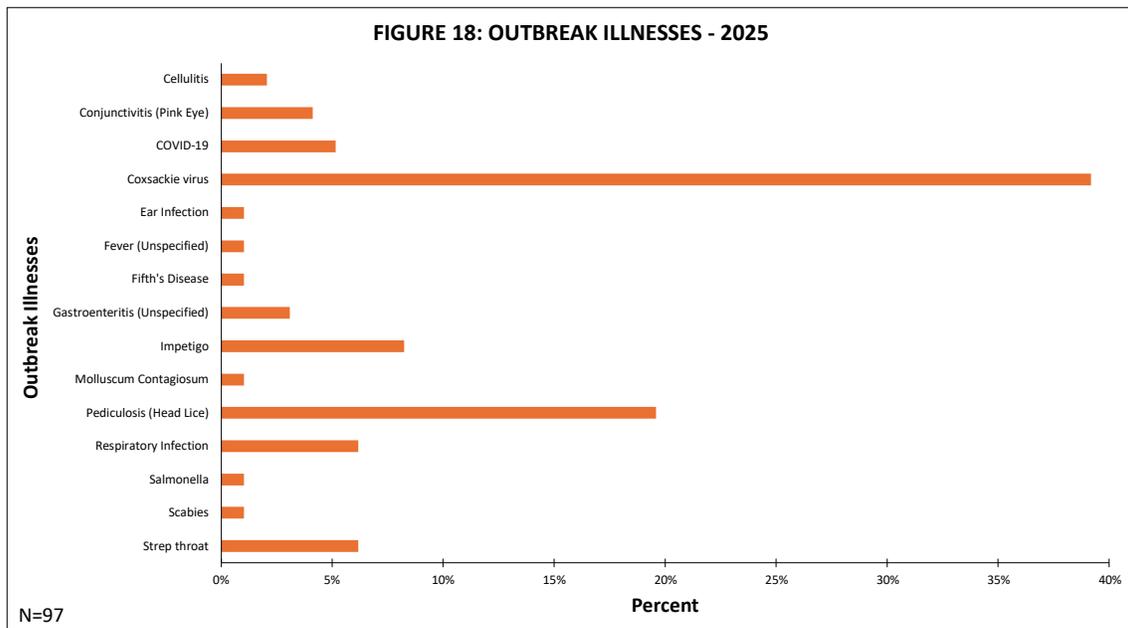
FIGURE 16: ORGANIZED GAME INJURIES - 2025



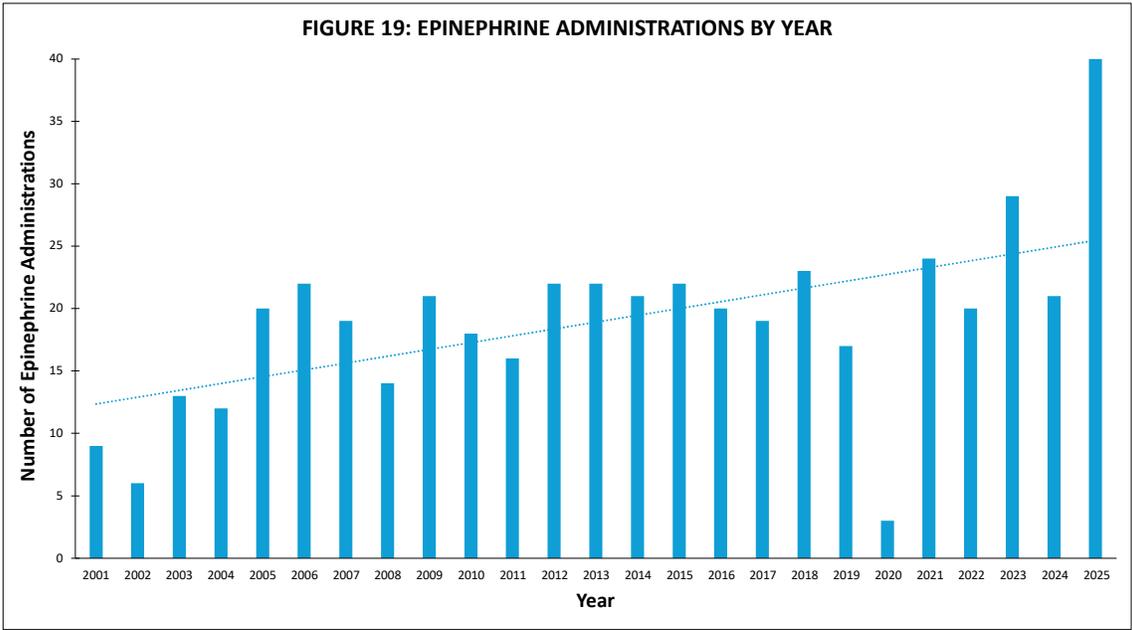
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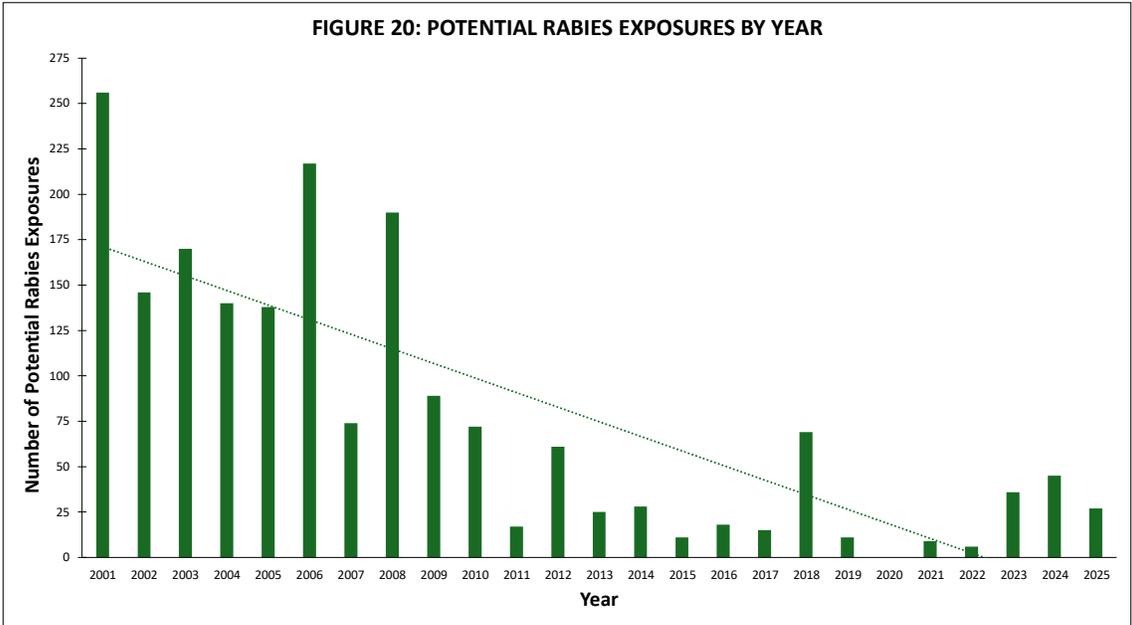
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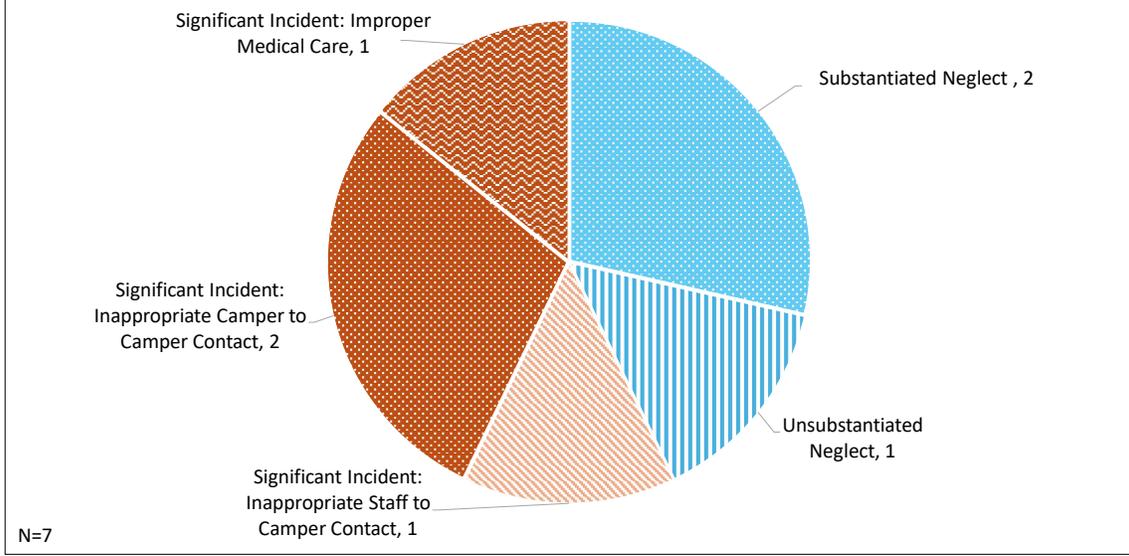


Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)



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FIGURE 21: JUSTICE CENTER REPORTABLE INCIDENTS - 2025



Source: Local and State District Office Health Departments (2025). NYSDOH, Environmental Health Information and Permitting System (eHIPS)