



# Recreation-Related Head Injuries

**American Association of Neurological Surgeons**  
 5550 Meadowbrook Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-3852 ♦ Tel: 847-378-0500  
 Fax: 847-378-0600 ♦ [www.AANS.org](http://www.AANS.org)

In 2009, an estimated 124,550 people were treated at U.S. hospital emergency rooms for head injuries related to recreational and leisure activities; a notable increase of 28,990 injuries from 2008 statistics. Increases were noted in all of the top 15 categories, including monkey bars, which saw the highest increase, by 4,885 injuries. Thousands of additional head injuries are related to sports activities (not included here). Many injuries can be avoided by following proper safety precautions. Supervise younger children at all times and do not let them use playgrounds with hard surface grounds or products inappropriate for their age. Perform regular safety checks on playgrounds and toys. Follow all rules and warning signs at water parks, amusement parks, and campgrounds. Read and follow instructions on product packaging.

## Top 15 Recreation/Leisure-Related Head Injuries by Product

Product Category	Estimated Injuries
1. Toys (all toy categories combined)	17,924
2. Swimming/Wading Pools, Pool Equipment	15,363
3. Swings or Swing Sets	13,918
4. Monkey Bars or other Playground Climbing Equipment	12,700
5. Televisions	12,449
6. Slides, Sliding Boards, See Saws, Teeter Boards	8,084
7. Playground Equipment (unspecified or other)	7,322
8. Recliners and Rocking Chairs	5,290
9. Bleachers	5,119
10. Radios, Stereo Equipment, Musical Instruments	4,651
11. Riding Toys (powered and unpowered)	3,387
12. Computers	3,095
13. Water Slides	2,609
14. Amusement Park Attractions	2,344
15. Wagons	2,246

**Table source: American Association of Neurological Surgeons.** Based on statistics provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Directorate for Epidemiology; National Injury Information Clearinghouse; National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Product Summary Report—Head Injuries Only—Calendar Year 2009.