

Fractures/Broken Bones Data

Fractures, broken bones--you can call it what you wish, it means the same thing--are among the most common orthopedic problems, about 6.8 million come to medical attention each year in the United States. The average citizen in a developed country can expect to sustain two fractures over the course of their lifetime.

- The most common fracture prior to age 75 is a wrist fracture. In those over age 75, hip fractures become the most common broken bone.
- Fractures account for 16% of all musculoskeletal injuries in the U.S. annually.
- More than 40% of fractures occur at home (22.5% inside and 19.1% outside).
- Approximately 6.3 million fractures occur each year in the U.S.
- Fractures occur at an annual rate of 2.4 per 100 population. Men are more likely to experience fractures (2.8 per 100 population) than women (2.0 per 100).
- After age 45, however, fracture rates become higher among women. Among persons 65 and over, fracture rates are three times higher among women than men.

There are approximately 3.5 million visits made to emergency departments for fractures each year.

- Approximately 887,679 hospitalizations result each year from fractures.
- In 1998, fractures most frequently resulting in hospitalization were hip fractures (328,522), ankle fractures (101,944) and fractures of the tibia and fibula (67,600).
- Over half (57%) of fractures resulting in hospitalization occur in persons age 65 and over, including 90% of hip fractures, 65% of pelvic fractures, and 56% of vertebral fractures.
- In 1998, over 10.7 million fractures were seen by physicians in office-based practice (this included visits for follow-up care).
- Of these, approximately 8.6 million visits for fracture care (79.6%) were made to orthopaedic surgeons.
- When a fracture was referred to another physician, approximately 90.6% were referred to orthopaedic surgeons.

Data Source: National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey & American Academy of Orthopaedic