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What are the odds of dying?

The table below was prepared in response to frequent inquiries, especially from the media, asking questions such as, "What are the odds of being killed by lightning?" or "What are the chances of dying in a plane crash?"

The table has four columns. The first column gives the manner of injury such as motor-vehicle crash, fall, fire, etc. The second column gives the total number of deaths nationwide due to the manner of injury in 2003 (the latest year for which data are available). The third column gives the odds of dying in one year due to the manner of injury. The fourth column gives the lifetime odds of dying from the manner of injury. Statements about the odds or chances of dying from a given cause of death may be made as follows:

- The odds of dying from (manner of injury) in 2003 were 1 in (value given in the one-year odds column).
- The life-time odds of dying from (manner of injury) for a person born in 2003 were 1 in (value given in the lifetime odds column).

For example, referring to the first line of the table below:

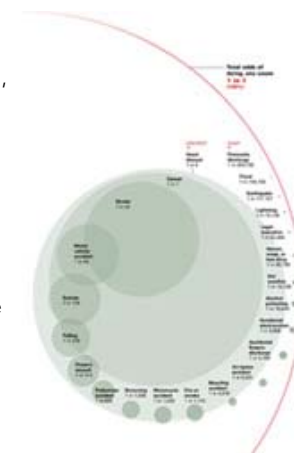
- The odds of dying from an injury in 2003 were 1 in 1,755.
- The lifetime odds of dying from an injury for a person born in 2003 were 1 in 23.

The odds given below are statistical averages over the whole U.S. population and do not necessarily reflect the chances of death for a particular person from a particular external cause. Any individual's odds of dying from various external causes are affected by the activities in which they participate, where they live and drive, what kind of work they do, and other factors.

Source: National Safety Council estimates based on data from National Center for Health Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau. Deaths are classified on the basis of the Tenth Revision of the World Health Organization's "The International Classification of Diseases" (ICD). Numbers following titles refer to External Cause of Morbidity and Mortality classifications in ICD-10. One year odds are approximated by dividing the 2003 population (290,850,005) by the number of deaths. Lifetime odds are approximated by dividing the one-year odds by the life expectancy of a person born in 2003 (77.6 years).

Odds of Death Due to Injury, United States, 2003

Type of Accident or Manner of Injury	Deaths	One Year Odds	Lifetime Odds
All External Causes of Mortality, V01-Y89, *U01, *U03	166,857	1,743	22
Deaths Due to Unintentional (Accidental) Injuries, V01-X59, Y85-Y86	109,277	2,662	34
Transport Accidents, V01-V99, Y85	48,071	6,050	78
Motor-Vehicle Accidents, V02-V04, V09.0, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2	44,757	6,498	84
Pedestrian, V01-V09	5,991	48,548	626
Pedalcyclist, V10-V19	762	381,693	4,919



National Geographic magazine's August 2006 issue features the "[Ways to Go](#)" chart based on the National Safety Council's Odds of Dying statistics

Motorcycle rider, V20-V29	3,676	79,121	1,020
Occupant of three-wheeled motor vehicle, V30-V39	13	22,373,077	288,313
Car occupant, V40-V49	15,797	18,412	237
Occupant of pick-up truck or van, V50-V59	4,163	69,865	900
Occupant of heavy transport vehicle, V60-V69	442	658,032	8,480
Bus occupant, V70-V79	36	8,079,167	104,113
Animal rider or occupant of animal-drawn vehicle, V80	101	2,879,703	37,110
Occupant of railway train or railway vehicle, V81	24	12,118,750	156,169
Occupant of streetcar, V82	2	145,425,003	1,874,034
Other and unspecified land transport accidents, V83-V89	15,107	19,253	248
Occupant of special industrial vehicle, V83	12	24,237,500	312,339
Occupant of special agricultural vehicle, V84	175	1,662,000	21,418
Occupant of special construction vehicle, V85	20	14,542,500	187,403
Occupant of all-terrain or other off-road motor vehicle, V86	906	321,026	4,137
Other and unspecified person, V87-V89	13,994	20,784	268
Water transport accidents, V90-V94	573	507,592	6,541
Drowning, V90, V92	412	705,947	9,097
Other and unspecified injuries, V91, V93-V94	161	1,806,522	23,280
Air and space transport accidents, V95-V97	742	391,981	5,051
Other and unspecified transport accidents and sequelae, V98-V99, Y85	642	453,037	5,838
Other specified transport accidents, V98	2	145,425,003	1,874,034
Unspecified transport accident, V99	0	---	---
Nontransport Unintentional (Accidental) Injuries, W00-X59, Y86	61,206	4,752	61
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Falls, W00-W19	17,229	16,881	218
Fall on same level from slipping, tripping, and stumbling, W01	597	487,186	6,278
Other fall on same level, W00, W02-W03, W18	3,896	74,653	962
Fall involving bed, chair, other furniture, W06-W08	838	347,076	4,473
Fall on and from stairs and steps, W10	1,588	183,155	2,360
Fall on and from ladder or scaffolding, W11-W12	417	697,482	8,988
Fall from out of or through building or structure, W13	600	484,750	6,247
Other fall from one level to another, W09, W14-W17	701	414,907	5,347
Other and unspecified fall, W04-W05, W19	8,592	33,851	436
Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, W20-W49	2,658	109,424	1,410
Struck by or striking against object, W20-W22	809	359,518	4,633
Caught between objects, W23	136	2,138,603	27,559
Contact with machinery, W24, W30-W31	640	454,453	5,856

Contact with sharp objects, W25-W29	99	2,937,879	37,859
Firearms discharge, W32-W34	730	398,425	5,134
Explosion and rupture of pressurized devices, W35-W38	30	9,695,000	124,936
Fireworks discharge, W39	11	26,440,910	340,733
Explosion of other materials, W40	147	1,978,571	25,497
Foreign body entering through skin or natural orifice, W44-W45	22	13,220,455	170,367
Other and unspecified inanimate mechanical forces, W41-W43, W49	34	8,554,412	110,237
Exposure to animate mechanical forces, W50-W64	171	1,700,877	21,919
Struck by or against another person, W50-W52	39	7,457,692	96,104
Bitten or struck by dog, W54	32	9,089,063	117,127
Bitten or struck by other mammals, W53, W55	78	3,728,846	48,052
Bitten or stung by nonvenomous insect and other arthropods, W57	12	24,237,500	312,339
Bitten or crushed by other reptiles, W59	0	---	---
Other and unspecified animate mechanical forces, W56, W58, W60, W64	10	29,085,001	374,807
Accidental drowning and submersion, W65-W74	3,306	87,976	1,134
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into bath-tub, W65-W66	332	876,054	11,289
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into swimming-pool, W67-W68	515	564,757	7,278
Drowning and submersion while in or falling into natural water, W69-W70	1,225	237,429	3,060
Other and unspecified drowning and submersion, W73-W74	1,234	235,697	3,037
Other accidental threats to breathing, W75-W84	5,579	52,133	672
Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed, W75	497	585,211	7,541
Other accidental hanging and strangulation, W76	277	1,050,000	13,531
Threat to breathing due to cave-in, falling earth and other substances, W77	46	6,322,826	81,480
Inhalation of gastric contents, W78	393	740,076	9,537
Inhalation and ingestion of food causing obstruction of respiratory tract, W79	875	332,400	4,284
Inhalation and ingestion of other objects causing obstruction of respiratory tract, W80	3,004	96,821	1,248
Confined to or trapped in a low-oxygen environment, W81	16	18,178,125	234,254
Other and unspecified threats to breathing, W83-W84	471	617,516	7,958
Exposure to electric current, radiation, temperature, and pressure, W85-W99	396	734,470	9,465
Electric transmission lines, W85	96	3,029,688	39,042
Other and unspecified electric current, W86-W87	280	1,038,750	13,386
Radiation, W88-W91	0	---	---

Excessive heat or cold of man-made origin, W92-W93	10	29,085,001	374,807
High and low air pressure and changes in air pressure, W94	10	29,085,001	374,807
Other and unspecified man-made environmental factors, W99	0	---	---
Exposure to smoke, fire and flames, X00-X09	3,369	86,331	1,113
Uncontrolled fire in building or structure, X00	2,761	105,342	1,358
Uncontrolled fire not in building or structure, X01	57	5,102,632	65,756
Controlled fire in building or structure, X02	35	8,310,000	107,088
Controlled fire not in building or structure, X03	39	7,457,692	96,104
Ignition of highly flammable material, X04	55	5,288,182	68,147
Ignition or melting of nightwear, X05	3	96,950,002	1,249,356
Ignition or melting of other clothing and apparel, X06	104	2,796,635	36,039
Other and unspecified smoke fire and flames, X08-X09	315	923,333	11,899
Contact with heat and hot substances, X10-X19	88	3,305,114	42,592
Contact with hot tap-water, X11	26	11,186,539	144,156
Other and unspecified heat and hot substances, X10, X12-X19	62	4,691,129	60,453
Contact with venomous animals and plants, X20-X29	94	3,094,149	39,873
Contact with venomous snakes and lizards, X20	2	145,425,003	1,874,034
Contact with venomous spiders, X21	8	36,356,251	468,508
Contact with hornets, wasps and bees, X23	66	4,406,818	56,789
Contact with other and unspecified venomous animal or plant, X22, X24-X29	18	16,158,334	208,226
Exposure to forces of nature, X30-X39	1,140	255,132	3,288
Exposure to excessive natural heat, X30	273	1,065,385	13,729
Exposure to excessive natural cold, X31	620	469,113	6,045
Lightning, X33	47	6,188,298	79,746
Earthquake and other earth movements, X34-X36	32	9,089,063	117,127
Cataclysmic storm, X37	75	3,878,000	49,974
Flood, X38	26	11,186,539	144,156
Exposure to other and unspecified forces of nature, X32, X39	67	4,341,045	55,941
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances, X40-X49	19,457	14,948	193
Nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics, and antirheumatics, X40	210	1,385,000	17,848
Antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs n.e.c., X41	1,205	241,369	3,110
Narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens] n.e.c., X42	9,231	31,508	406
Other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biologicals, X43-X44	7,648	38,030	490
Alcohol, X45	373	779,759	10,048
Gases and vapours, X46-X47	690	421,522	5,432

Other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances, X48-X49	100	2,908,500	37,481
Overexertion, travel and privation, X50-X57	48	6,059,375	78,085
Accidental exposure to other and unspecified factors and sequelae, X58-X59, Y86	7,671	37,916	489
Intentional self-harm, X60-X84, Y87.0, *U03	31,484	9,238	119
Intentional self-poisoning, X60-X69	5,462	53,250	686
Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation, and suffocation, X70	6,635	43,836	565
Intentional self-harm by firearm, X72-X74	16,907	17,203	222
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, X71, X75-X84, Y87.0, *U03	2,480	117,278	1,511
Assault, X85-Y09, Y87.1, *U01	17,732	16,403	211
Assault by firearm, X93-X95	11,920	24,400	314
Assault by sharp object, X99	2,049	141,947	1,829
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, X85-X92, X96-X98, Y00-Y09, Y87.1, *U01	3,763	77,292	996
Event of undetermined intent, Y10-Y34, Y87.2, Y89.9	5,072	57,344	739
Poisoning, Y10-Y19	3,700	78,608	1,013
Hanging, strangulation, and suffocation, Y20	108	2,693,056	34,704
Drowning and submersion, Y21	215	1,352,791	17,433
Firearm discharge, Y22-Y24	232	1,253,664	16,155
Exposure to smoke, fire, and flames, Y26	100	2,908,500	37,481
Falling, jumping, or pushed from a high place, Y30	77	3,777,273	48,676
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, Y25, Y27-Y29, Y31-Y34, Y87.2, Y89.9	640	454,453	5,856
Legal intervention, Y35, Y89.0	423	687,589	8,861
Legal intervention involving firearm discharge, Y35.0	347	838,184	10,801
Legal execution, Y35.5	60	4,847,500	62,468
Other and unspecified means and sequelae, Y35.1-Y35.4, Y35.6-Y35.7, Y89.0	16	18,178,125	234,254
Operations of war and sequelae, Y36, Y89.1	14	20,775,000	267,719
Complications of medical and surgical care and sequelae, Y40-Y84, Y88.0-Y88.3	2,855	101,874	1,313

**The manner of injury for ICD-10 code U01 is Assault by Terrorism; for code U03 it is Intentional Self-Harm by Terrorism.*

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