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Gun and Motor Vehicle Crash Injuries More Common in Low Income Children and Adolescents

[Rosemont, IL, September 1, 2014] Each year, a substantial number of children and adolescents with facial fractures are seen in hospital emergency departments (EDs). To date, most studies focusing on these patients have been restricted to regional hospital settings. “Emergency Department Visits With Facial Fractures Among Children and Adolescents: An Analysis of Profile and Predictors of Causes of Injuries,” an article in the September issue of the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, details a recent multi-center study using *national* data of hospital-based ED visits for these injuries among children and adolescents. The study addresses the financial burden associated with such visits, identifies common types of facial fractures, and examines the role of patient-related demographic factors on their causes.

The study found that “late adolescents” (18 to 21 years old) accounted for 46% of all ED visits, “middle adolescents” (15 to 17 years old) for 27%, and male patients for 75%. Facial fractures most commonly found were those of the nose and lower jaw. While these injuries in younger children were more likely to have been caused by falls and pedal cycle accidents, those in older children were more likely to have resulted from such occurrences as firearm injuries, motor vehicle accidents, and assaults. Patients from households with low annual income levels were found to be at higher risk for facial fractures caused by such events as firearm injuries and motor vehicle accidents.

Based on these findings, the authors concluded that a significant association exists between age, gender, and household income levels, and the causes of facial fracture injuries.

Read the complete study findings at 56262: J Oral Maxillofac Surg 72:1756-1765, 2014.

The Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is published monthly by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons to present to the dental and medical communities comprehensive coverage of new techniques, important developments and innovative ideas in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Practice-applicable articles help develop the methods used to handle dentoalveolar surgery, facial injuries and deformities, TMJ disorders, oral cancer, jaw reconstruction, anesthesia and analgesia. The journal also includes specifics on new instruments and diagnostic equipment and modern therapeutic drugs and devices.

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