



DATA & QUALITY ASSURANCE SECTION FACTSHEET



Christmas & New Year Safety Allow for Blessings & Reflection



The holiday season is a hurried time – finishing last minute shopping for gifts and food for the festivities, and driving on the highways en mass to be with family and friends. This factsheet counts Christmas Week from Monday December 21, 2009, through Sunday, December 27, 2009, with Christmas Day falling on a Friday; and counting New Year’s Week from Monday, December 28, 2009, through Sunday, January 3, 2010, with New Year’s Day 2010 also on a Friday.

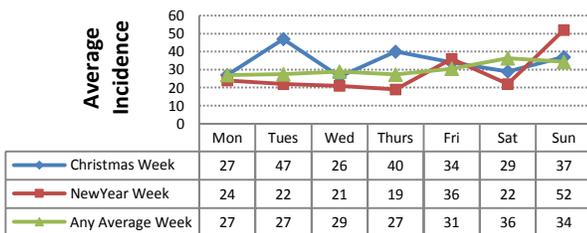
MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC-RELATED TRAUMA

For any average week during 2009, there were 212 Motor Vehicle Traffic (MVT) related traumas reported to the Arizona State Trauma Registry (ASTR). During Christmas Week, 242 MVT related traumas were reported (a 13% increase over an average week in 2009). During New Year’s Week, 196 MVT related traumas were reported (an 8% decrease over an average week in 2009). An increased occurrence of MVT related traumas were observed on the Tuesday of Christmas Week (47 MVT incidents, an increase of 71%) and on Christmas Eve Thursday (40 MVT incidents, an increase of 47%) as compared to an average week in 2009 (**Graph 1**).

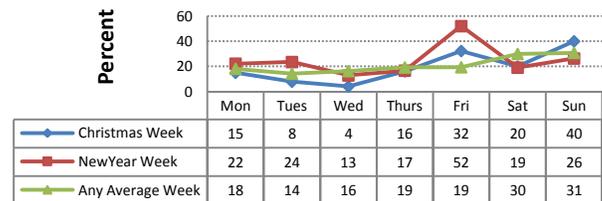
ALCOHOL AND MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC-RELATED TRAUMA

The incidence of MVT related trauma on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day (both on a Friday) were very similar to any average Friday of the rest of the year (**Graph 1**). However, alcohol was more likely to be involved in the MVT related trauma if the Friday was a holiday. One-third of MVT related traumas on Christmas Day involved alcohol (a 13% increase over an average Friday in 2009), and one-half of MVT related traumas on New Year’s Day involved alcohol – a 33% increase over an average Friday in 2009 (**Graph 2**).

Graph 1: Motor Vehicle Traffic Related Trauma ASTR 2009 - 2010



Graph 2: Motor Vehicle Traffic Related Trauma and Suspected/Confirmed Alcohol: ASTR 2009 - 2010



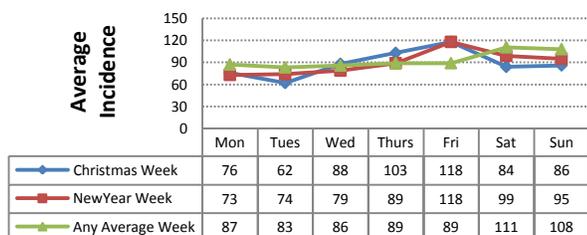
CUT/PIERCE RELATED INJURIES

Using the Hospital Discharge Database (HDD 2009-2010), some other injuries were also found to be high during the Christmas and New Year’s weeks. Injuries from cutting and piercing instruments were higher on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day (both on a Friday), a 33% increase over an average Friday in 2009 (**Graph 3**).

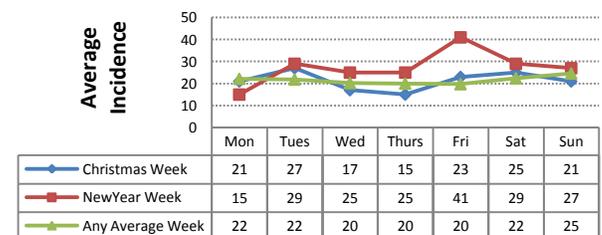
FIRE/FLAME & HOT OBJECT/SUBSTANCE INJURIES

More injuries from fire/flames and hot objects/substances were observed throughout the entire New Year’s Week (191 incidents), a 27% increase over an average week in 2009 (151 incidents). On New Year’s Day, the incidence of fire/burn doubled as compared to an average Friday in 2009 (**Graph 4**).

Graph 3: Average ED and Hospital Discharges Due to Cut/Pierce: HDD 2009 - 2010



Graph 4: Average ED and Hospital Discharges due to Fire/Burn: HDD 2009 - 2010



Footnote: The injury day of the week is determined from the date the patient arrived at the hospital. Thus patients who were injured while driving to or from a New Year’s Eve celebration may have arrived at the hospital the night of December 31 or early morning on January 1. The actual injury day would depend if the patient arrived before or after midnight.

Data Sources: Arizona State Trauma Registry, 2009 - 2010
Hospital Discharge Database, 2009 - 2010
Bureau of EMS and Trauma System, Data and Quality Assurance Section