

9.0 Recommendations for reporting information on injuries⁵¹

The way in which information on injuries is reported is of great importance, since clarity, comparability, and adequate evaluation of a situation depends on this. The tabulation proposed below is intended to complement the recommendations for tabulation of mortality set by the World Health Organization. These recommendations add details and more characteristics to the rates of injury-related morbidity and mortality for the purpose of facilitating decision-making.

In the ninth and tenth International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9 and ICD-10), **the majority of the codes for external injuries are reported taking into account two dimensions, the intent of the injury and the injury mechanism.** The first dimension distinguishes between unintentional injuries (accidental), intentional self-inflicted injuries (suicide), injuries inflicted by others (homicide), and injuries of undetermined intent. The second dimension describes the external agent that produced the injury. A great deal of emphasis is currently placed on the study of the injury mechanism, since many documents show that “passive protection” through the modification of agents or the environment results in more effective injury prevention regardless of the intent.

The tabulations below emphasize the reporting of information through a combination of mechanism and intent. The applicability of this format can vary according to the type of problem being studied.

Programs for the prevention of violence and/or injuries seek to improve living conditions (structural factors: poverty, education, impunity), to modify behaviors, and to change risk factors associated with specific products (availability of weapons, alcohol abuse, use of safety belts) or environmental risk factors (for example, family culture of aggression, participation in gangs, streets, lighting).

The codes attempt to identify specific injury mechanisms. It is recommended that efforts be made to avoid definitions such as “cause not determined,” since they do not provide complete information. In addition to this classification, narrative information on the facts is of vital importance for improving the quality of information. Finally, use of the codes by other institutions such as hospitals greatly facilitates classification and standardization of the information. The following tables are recommended for injury data reports, taking into account both mechanisms and intentionality of the injuries (Tables 4–5). Since in several countries a transition is under way to the most recent version of the International Classification of the Diseases, both the ninth and the tenth classifications are included, in order to facilitate indexing of codes for injuries from external causes.

Table 4. Proposed matrix of E-Code groupings for reporting injuries using the ICD-9 *

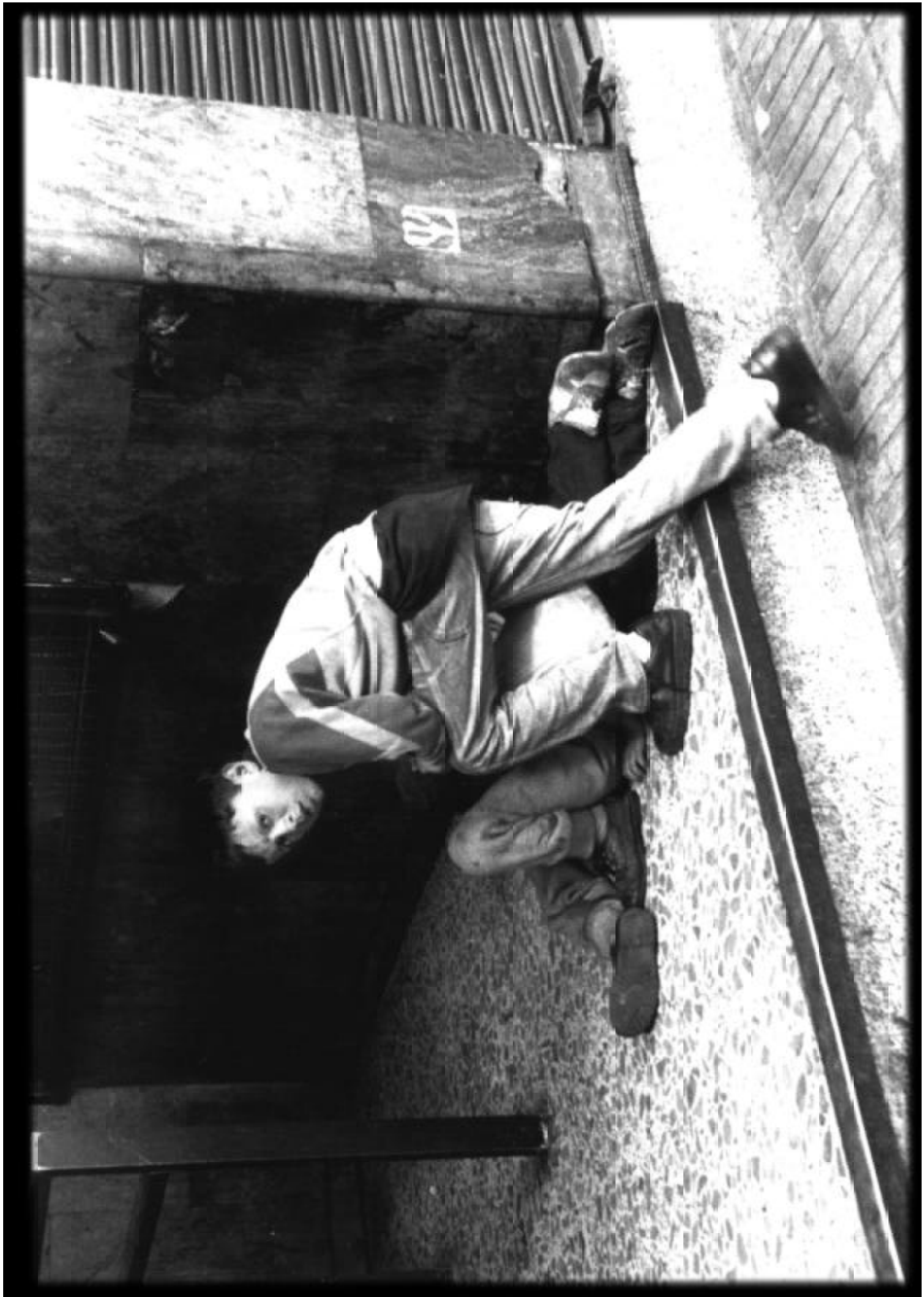
Mechanism or cause	Manner or intent				
	Unintentional	Intentional			
		Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Other
Cut/pierce	E920.0-.9	E956	E966	E986	E974
Drowning/submersion	E830.0-.9, E832.0-.9 E910.0-.9	E954	E964	E984	
Fall	E880.0-E886.9, E888	E957.0-.9	E968.1	E987.0-.9	
Burn - Fire/flame - Hot object/substance	E890.0, E899 E924.0-E924.9	E958.1 E958.2, E958.7	E968.0 E961, E968.3	E988.1 E988.2, E988.7	
Firearm	E922.0-E922.9	E955.0- E955.4	E965.0-E965.4	E985.0-E985.4	E970
Machinery	E919.0-E919.9				
Motor vehicle traffic - Occupant - Motorcyclist - Pedal cyclist - Pedestrian - Unspecified	E810-E819.0,(.1) E810-E819(.2,.3) E810-E819(.6) E810-E819(.7) E810-E819(.9)	E958.5		E988.5	
Pedal cyclist, other	E800-807(.3), E820-825(.6) E826.1,.9 E827-E829(.1)				
Pedestrian, other	E800-807(.2), E8020-25(.7) E826-829(.0)				
Transport, other	E800-807(.0,.1,.8,.9) E820-25(.0-.5,.8,.9) E826.2-.8, E827-829(.2-.9) E831.0-.9, E833.0-E845.9	E958.6		E988.6	
Natural/environmental - Bites and stings	E905.0-.6,.9 E906.0-.4,.9	E958.3		E988.3	
Overexertion	E927				
Poisoning	E850.0-E869.9	E950.0- E952.9	E962.0-E962.9	E980-E982.9	E972
Struck by, against	E916-E917.9		E960.0, E968.2		E973, E975
Suffocation	E911-E913.9	E953.0-.9	E963	E983.0-E983.9	
Other specified and classifiable	E846-E848, E914-E915, E918, E921.0-.9, E923.0-.9 E925.0-E926.9, E929.0-.5	E955.5, E955.9 E958.0, E958.4	E960.1, 965.5-.9 E967.0-.9, E968.4	E985.5; E988.0, 4	E971, E978, E990- 94, E996 E997.0,.2
Other specified, not elsewhere classifiable	E928.8, E929.8	E958.8, E959	E968.8, E969	E988.8-E989	E977, E995, E997.8, E998/99
Unspecified	E887, E928.9, E929.9	E958.9	E968.9	E988.9	E976, E997.9
All injury	E800-E869, E880-E929	E950-E959	E960-E969	E980-E989	E970, E978 E990, E999
Adverse effects - Medical care - Drugs					E870-E879 E930-949.9
All external causes					E800-E999

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC. Recommended Framework for Presenting Injury Mortality Data. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (Recommendations and Reports) 1997; 46: i-iv, 1-33.

Table 5. Proposed matrix* of code groupings for reporting injuries using the ICD-10

Mechanism or cause	Manner or intent				
	Unintentional	Intentional			
		Suicide	Homicide / abandonment and abuse	Undetermined	Legal intervention or war
Cut/pierce	W25-W26	X78	X99	Y28	Y35.3
Drowning/submersion	W65-W70, W73-W74	X71	X92	Y21	
Fall	W00-W19	X80-X81	Y01-Y02	Y30-Y31	
Burn - Fire/flame - Hot object/substance	X00-X09 X10-X19	X76 X77	X97 X98	Y26 Y27	Y36.3
Firearm	W32-W34	X72-X75	X93-X96	Y22-Y25	Y35.0-Y35.3 Y36.0, Y36.2, Y36.4, Y36.5
Machinery	W27-W31				
Motor vehicle traffic - Occupant - Motorcyclist - Pedal cyclist - Pedestrian - Unspecified	V30-V79.9 V20-V29.9 V12-V15.9 V03-V05.9 V98-V99	X82	Y03	Y32	Y36.1
Pedal cyclist, other	V10-V11.9, V16-V19.9				
Pedestrian, other	V01-V02.9, V06-V09.9				
Transport, other	V80-V97.8				
Natural/environmental Bites and stings	W52-W64, X20-X29				
Poisoning	X40-X49	X60-X69	X85-X90	Y10-Y19	Y36.6-Y36.7
Struck by, against	W20-W24, W27, W50- W52	X79	Y00-Y04-Y05, Y06.0-Y06.2, Y07.0-Y07.3	Y29	Y35.4
Suffocation	W75-W77	X70	X91	Y20	
Overexertion Travel, privation	W78-W84, X50-X54, X57				
Other specified	W35-W49, W85-W99, X30-X39, X58	X83	Y06.8, Y07.8, Y08	Y33	Y35.5-Y35.6 Y36.8
Unspecified	X59	X84	Y06.9, Y07.9, Y09	Y34	Y35.7, Y36.9
All injury	V01-X59	X60-X84	X85-Y09	Y10-Y34	Y35-Y36
Adverse effects - Drugs - Medical care					Y40-Y59 Y60-Y84
Consequences of external causes					Y85-Y89
All external causes					V01-Y98

* This matrix is an interpretation and proposal by the authors. The coding presented is approximately the same as the coding previously proposed by the CDC, which is based on the ICD-9.



© Armando Waack (OPS)