



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## ***Medical treatment required for 2.4 million accident victims a year***

According to the publication *Accidents in the Netherlands 1997/1998*, every year 2.4 million Dutch people have an accident resulting in injuries requiring medical treatment. Today, during a symposium on the subject, the Ministry of Public health, Welfare and Sports, Statistics Netherlands, the Foundation for Consumer Safety, the Foundation for Road Safety Research and the University Medical Centre will be presenting the results of a joint survey conducted among 60,000 people on accidents in the Netherlands.

### ***One in seven Dutch people treated for accident-related injuries***

Nearly half of the victims receiving medical attention had had accidents at home (47%); second in line were sports injuries (29%). Road accidents and accidents at work each accounted for just over 10% of people seeking medical help. In addition to 'recent' injuries, the survey also asked how many people still have problems because of injuries suffered from an accident in the past. Just over one million people reported that in the previous three and a half months they still had problems caused by an accident injury sustained before that period.

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### ***Young people more at risk***

Young people seem more prone to accidents than older people. Nearly half of accident victims receiving medical treatment are younger than 25. The age group 15 to 34 years are more likely than older people to have an accident on the roads, during sports and at work. For accidents at home children up to age 14 and the elderly (65 and older) are most at risk.

### ***Most injuries treated by family doctor***

Seventy per cent of victims seeking medical treatment went to their family doctor. For 37% the family doctor provides enough help. Nearly half of accident victims are treated in hospital, either in the casualty department or as an out-patient. Four per cent of victims have to stay in hospital.

### ***Worst injuries on the road and at work***

Just over half of all accident victims who received medical treatment experience problems with activities like work, housework and education. For seven per cent of victims, the effects will be permanent. For victims of road and work accidents this percentage is higher than for people sustaining domestic or sports injuries.

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