

Data Summary: Rail-Related Injuries for the Greater San Antonio Area

This data summary details rail-related injuries occurring between 2011 and 2020 in the Greater San Antonio area consisting of Bexar, Medina, Guadalupe, Comal, and Atascosa counties. The full profile, including data figures and county-level incident maps, can be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/SKWSanAntonioRailProfile>.

Overview

- 174 rail-related injuries occurred in the Greater San Antonio area between 2011 and 2020, for an average of 17 injuries per year. The number of injuries in 2020 was the same as in 2011 (18 injuries).
- Bexar County had the most injuries (72%), followed by Medina (10%), Guadalupe (7%), Comal (6%), Atascosa (3%).
- Children ages 0 to 19 years accounted for 9% of injuries.
- Most injuries (94%) involved trains or other on-track equipment while 6% did not involve on-track equipment.
- Trespassing¹ and railroad crossing² incidents accounted for similar proportions of injuries (53% and 47%). However, 37% of trespassing injuries were fatal compared to 21% of railroad crossing injuries.
- Railroad crossing injuries were most frequent between 3:00 PM and 5:59 PM, while trespassing injuries were most frequent between 12:00 AM and 2:59 AM.

Railroad Crossing Circumstances¹

- Those injured in railroad crossing incidents were most often motor vehicle occupants (72%) and pedestrians (23%).
- Going through or around the gates was the reported activity most often associated with injury at railroad crossings among highway users (32%).
- Most (63%) railroad crossing injuries occurred when the weather was clear and 37% during cloudy weather.
- 38% of railroad crossing injuries occurred during dark or low-light hours. Of those, 35% occurred at crossings that were not illuminated by streetlights or special lights.

Trespassing Circumstances²

- 71% of trespassers who were injured were struck by on-track equipment. Of those, 55% were reported as on the tracks at the time of impact, 18% were between the tracks, and 14% were beside the tracks. Of those struck on, between, or beside the tracks, 42% were walking, 33% were lying down, and 12% were standing or sitting at the time of impact.

¹ Trespassing injuries occur when a person is injured while on private railroad property without permission. They are most often pedestrians taking a shortcut across or along tracks, but also include loiterers and those engaging in recreational activities such as hunting or jogging.

² Railroad crossing injuries are when a person or highway user is struck by a train while attempting to cross at a designated crossing where tracks intersect a roadway or walkway at the same level.



