

# Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of injury-related hospitalisations of NSW residents during 1989–1990 to 2003–2004. Injury-related morbidity data for this report were obtained from the NSW Inpatient Statistics Collection of the NSW Health Department. This report describes in detail the 12 most common injury-related mechanisms which represent 85.1% of injury-related hospitalisations, along with near-drowning events that resulted in hospitalisation.

Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes represent a large proportion of all admissions to hospital for NSW residents, and were the sixth highest cause of hospitalisation for NSW residents for all age groups during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004. During this period, there were 503,530 admissions to hospital that were injury-related, giving a hospitalisation rate of 1,523 per 100,000 population. Males had one-and-a-half times the injury hospitalisation rate of females. Individuals 65 years and older (predominantly for fall-related injuries) and 15–24 years (particularly for motor vehicle transport and fall-related injuries) had the highest hospitalisation rates compared to all other age groups.

Falls, motor vehicle transport-related injuries, struck by/struck against injuries, injuries resulting from self-harm, cut/pierce injuries, and injuries resulting from interpersonal violence were the most common injury-related hospitalisations during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004.

Over the period 1989–1990 to 2003–2004, the overall injury rate remained fairly constant. However, yearly hospitalisation rates significantly decreased or increased for a number of injury mechanisms (Table 1).

Priority areas identified for prevention activities are:

- falls
- motor vehicle transport incidents
- struck by/struck against injuries
- injuries sustained during an attempt at self-harm
- cut/pierce-related injuries
- injuries as a result of interpersonal violence.

**Table I. Significant changes<sup>1</sup> in injury-related hospitalisation rates by mechanism, NSW, 1989–1990 to 2003–2004**

<b>Injury Mechanism</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Falls	↑	↑
Motor vehicle transport	↓	↓
Struck by/against	↑	↑
Self-harm	↑	↑
Cut/pierce	-	↓
Interpersonal violence	↑	↑
Poisoning	↓	↓
Non-motor vehicle road transport	-	↓
Natural/environmental factors	↑	↑
Foreign bodies	↑	-
Fire and burns	↓	↓
Machinery	↓	↓
Near-drowning	↓	↓
All injury	-	-

<sup>1</sup> An upwards facing arrow indicates a significant increase and a downwards facing arrow indicates a significant decrease. A dash indicates no significant trend.

Recommendations to enhance the information collected regarding particular injury mechanisms include:

- recording the date of injury
- incorporating additional detail into the ICD-10-AM classification system for injuries resulting from:
  - falls
  - foreign bodies
  - fire and burns
  - struck by/struck against injuries
  - cutting/piercing injuries.