13. Foreign bodies

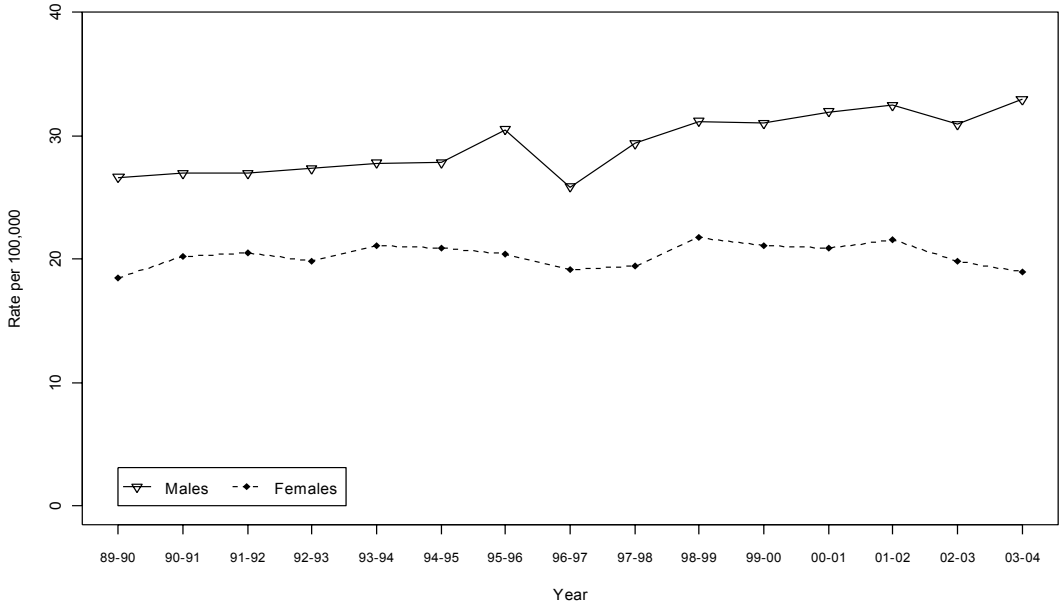
This section describes hospitalisations due to unintentional foreign body-related injuries. Foreign body-related injuries include incidents involving the *eye* or *other orifice* but do not include poisons or venoms (WHO, 1977; WHO, 1992).

Hospitalisation data for foreign body-related injuries were used to describe the profile of foreign body-related injuries in NSW. Hospitalisation data during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004 were used for the majority of the analyses, except for the trend analyses, which used data from 1989–1990 to 2003–2004.

Foreign body-related injuries were the tenth leading cause of injury-related hospitalisation in the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004, and accounted for 1.7% of all injury hospitalisations (Table 3). During this period, there were 8,628 hospitalisations for foreign body-related injuries, at a rate of 26.1 per 100,000 population.

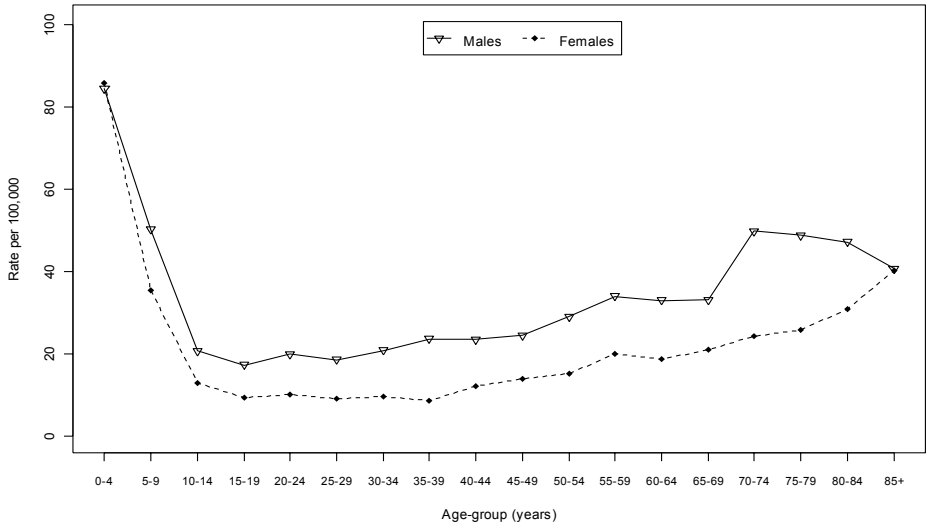
The age-adjusted hospitalisation rate for foreign body-related injuries increased significantly by 1.7% per year (95% confidence interval for the increase: 1.2% to 2.3% per year) for males during the period 1989–1990 to 2003–2004, but there was no significant change in the rate for females over the same period (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Hospitalisation rate for injury due to foreign body-related injuries by sex, NSW 1989–1990 to 2003–2004



Foreign body-related injuries were highest in those aged 0-4 years in both males and females. The age-specific hospitalisation rates for both sexes were also high in those aged 70 years or older (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Age-specific hospitalisation rate for foreign body-related injuries by sex, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004



Around 60% of all foreign body-related hospitalisations were of males (Table 22). The alimentary tract (e.g. the oesophagus and mouth) and the respiratory tract were the two most common locations where foreign body-related injuries leading to hospitalisation occurred. The overall hospitalisation rate was about 56% higher in males than in females.

Table 22. Injury hospitalisations for foreign bodies, NSW, number, rate and CI, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004

	All Persons			Male			Female		
Type	N	Rate[1]	95%CI[2]	N	Rate[1]	95%CI[2]	N	Rate[1]	95%CI[2]
All	8,628	26.1	(25.6,26.7)	5,214	31.9	(31.0,32.8)	3,414	20.4	(19.8,21.1)

1 Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population.

2 95% confidence interval.

Table 23 shows the number of hospitalisations due to foreign body-related injuries by age group for the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004. Young children 1–4 years and individuals aged 65 years and older had the highest number of hospitalisations for foreign body-related injuries.

SUMMARY

Foreign body-related injuries were the tenth leading cause of hospitalisation due to injury involving NSW residents between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004, accounting for 1.7% of all injury-related hospitalisations. The yearly hospitalisation rate for foreign body-related injuries was estimated to have increased significantly by 1.7% per year for males during 1989–1990 to 2003–2004.

In 2003–2004, there were 1,737 hospitalisations of NSW residents following a foreign body-related injury, giving a hospitalisation rate of 25.9 per 100,000 population. Around one-fifth (20.2%) of those hospitalised following a foreign body-related injury were aged 4 years or less.

Table 23. Number of hospitalisations for foreign body-related injuries[1] by age group, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004

	Age group									
Rank	0-4	5–9	10–14	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	Total
1	All 1,844	All 968	All 382	All 632	All 705	All 853	All 914	All 852	All 1,478	All 8,628

[1] # Cell sizes represent fewer than five hospitalisations or data have been removed to prevent identification of cell sizes less than five.