

3. Injury hospitalisations in NSW

During the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004, injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes were the sixth leading cause of hospitalisation of all NSW residents (Table 2). Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes were the leading cause of hospitalisation in those aged 10–14 years, the second leading cause of hospitalisation in those aged 5–9 years, and the third leading cause in those aged 1–4 years and 15–24 years. Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes were one of the top 10 leading causes of hospitalisation in all age groups. There were 606,954 hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes during this period, which represented 6.3% of all hospitalisations.

Data from 1989–1990 to 2003–2004 were used to describe the profile of injury-related hospitalisations for NSW residents. Hospitalisation data from 1999–2000 to 2003–2004 were used in the majority of the analyses, except for the trend analyses, which used hospitalisation data from 1989–1990 to 2003–2004. Hospitalisations for which the external cause was a complication of care are not reported in the following analyses.

Over the period 1989–1990 to 2003–2004, there was no significant trend in the age-adjusted hospitalisation rate for injury (Figure 1). Hospitalisation rates for injury in males were significantly higher than those in females for every year in this period.

Figure 1. Injury hospitalisation rates by sex, NSW, 1989–1990 to 2003–2004

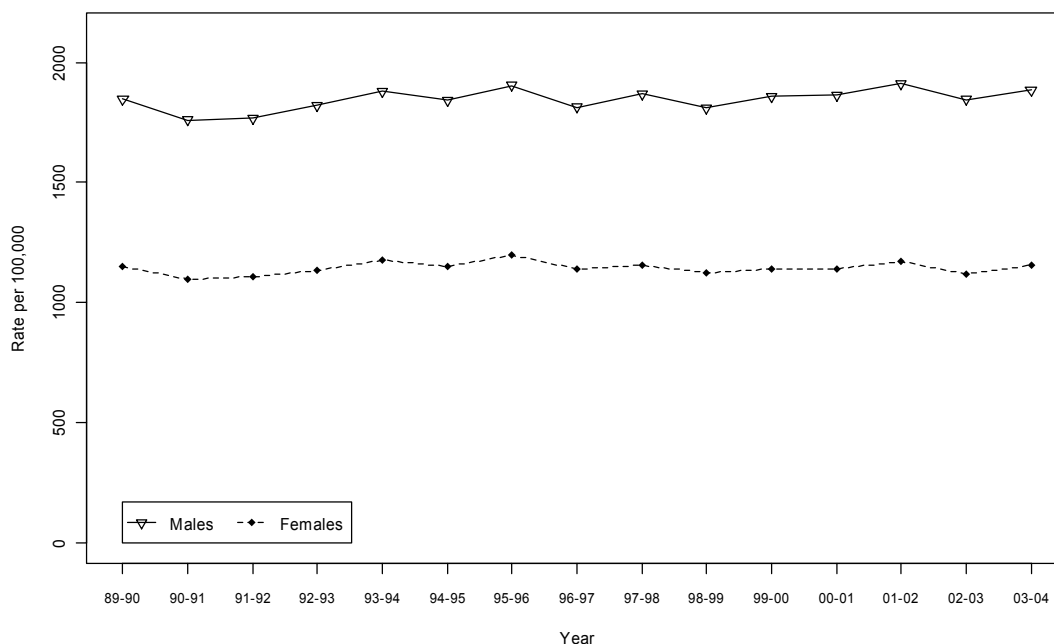


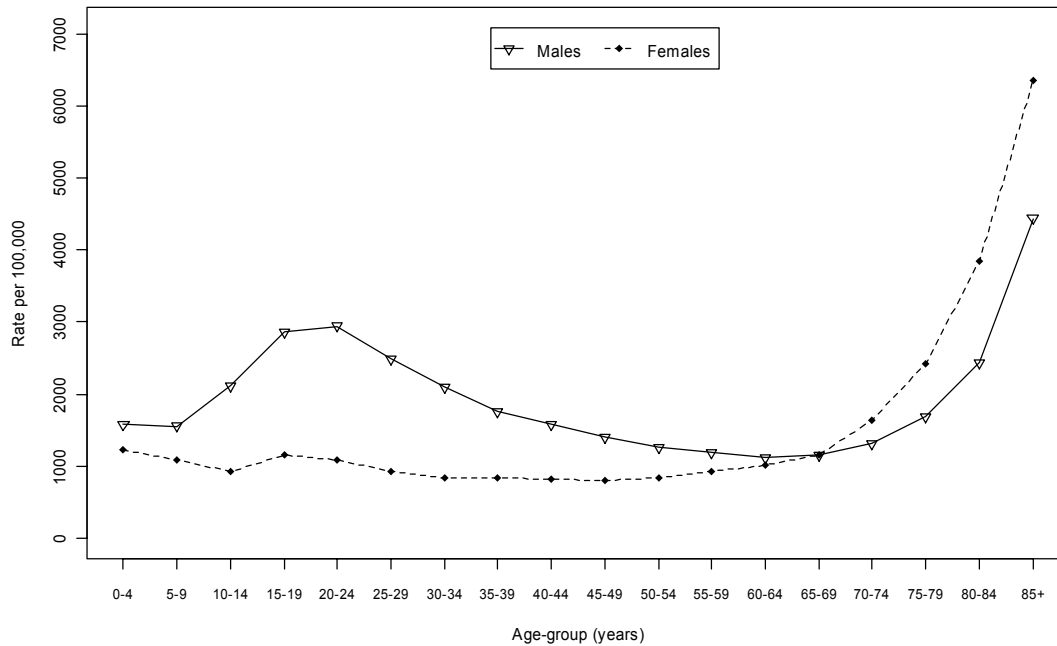
Table 2. Top 10 leading causes of hospitalisation by age group¹, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004

Rank	Age group										Total
	<1	1–4	5–9	10–14	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	
1	Factors affecting health status 289,309	Respiratory diseases 79,118	Respiratory diseases 39,740	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 36,659	Pregnancy 155,576	Pregnancy 398,268	Factors affecting health status 187,319	Factors affecting health status 229,991	Factors affecting health status 327,087	Factors affecting health status 821,799	Factors affecting health status 2,066,087
2	Perinatal conditions 129,082	Infectious diseases 41,191	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 31,784	Diseases of the digestive system 20,490	Diseases of the digestive system 105,441	Factors affecting health status 125,492	Diseases of the digestive system 142,753	Diseases of the digestive system 180,880	Diseases of the digestive system 186,323	Diseases of the circulatory system 363,239	Diseases of the digestive system 1,125,187
3	Congenital Abnormalities 34,214	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 29,162	Diseases of the digestive system 21,116	Respiratory diseases 18,414	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 96,412	Diseases of the digestive system 115,463	Pregnancy 129,734	Genitourinary disease 96,805	Cancer 125,831	Diseases of the digestive system 326,239	Pregnancy 685,587
4	Respiratory diseases 34,241	Diseases of the ear 22,528	Diseases of the ear 15,867	Mental disorders 12,840	Mental disorders 61,641	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 85,484	Genitourinary disease 101,985	Cancer 96,489	Diseases of circulatory system 113,257	Cancer 218,653	Cancer 657,684
5	Ill-defined conditions 23,226	Ill-defined conditions 22,200	Infectious diseases 15,867	Ill-defined conditions 10,690	Factors affecting health status 45,863	Genitourinary disease 80,829	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 73,285	Musculoskeletal 83,598	Musculoskeletal 87,557	Diseases of the eye 230,143	Diseases of circulatory system 626,927
6	Infectious diseases 16,042	Diseases of the digestive system 18,692	Factors affecting health status 11,872	Factors affecting health status 10,199	Genitourinary disease 37,978	Mental disorders 73,196	Mental disorders 69,042	Diseases of circulatory system 78,685	Ill-defined conditions 78,814	Ill-defined conditions 181,100	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 606,954
7	Diseases of the digestive system 7,808	Factors affecting health status 16,156	Ill-defined conditions 10,408	Skin diseases 7,138	Respiratory diseases 37,126	Musculoskeletal 48,204	Musculoskeletal 66,930	Ill-defined conditions 77,352	Genitourinary disease 75,911	Respiratory diseases 168,040	Genitourinary disease 556,867
8	Genitourinary disease 5,197	Congenital Abnormalities 13,920	Mental disorders 9,499	Musculoskeletal 7,066	Ill-defined conditions 34,634	Ill-defined conditions 47,791	Ill-defined conditions 62,311	Mental disorders 63,877	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 50,477	Musculoskeletal 153,310	Ill-defined conditions 548,527
9	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 4,002	Genitourinary disease 9,634	Congenital Abnormalities 7,252	Infectious diseases 6,840	Musculoskeletal 33,570	Respiratory diseases 30,312	Cancer 56,018	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 61,568	Respiratory diseases 45,522	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes 138,121	Respiratory diseases 515,487
10	Mental disorders 3,354	Nervous system diseases 7,420	Nervous system diseases 7,146	Cancer 5,835	Skin diseases 21,400	Cancer 27,218	Diseases of circulatory system 41,997	Nervous system diseases 35,315	Mental disorders 37,593	Genitourinary disease 136,763	Musculoskeletal 487,887

¹ The number of injury, poisoning and consequences of external causes' hospitalisations includes a small proportion of hospitalisations with a principal diagnosis of injury (S00-T98) that did not have an external cause assigned.

The hospitalisation rate was higher for males for all ages up to 70 years of age. For those aged 70 years or older, females had a higher hospitalisation rate than males (Figure 2). Rates of hospitalisation varied by sex, age group and injury mechanism (Appendix 4).

Figure 2. Injury hospitalisation rates by age group and sex, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004



Falls, motor vehicle-related incidents and struck-by/struck against incidents were the most common causes of injury hospitalisation in the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004 (Table 3). Hospitalisation rates of males were higher for all injury mechanisms than the rates of females, except for self-harm, where the female rate was significantly higher than the male rate. The injury hospitalisation rate for males was about 55% higher than the rate for females during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004.

During 1999–2000 to 2003–2004, just over 12% of injury hospitalisations (12.4% or 62,283 hospitalisations) were intentional (i.e. self-harm or interpersonal violence), and less than 1% (0.5%, or 2,372) of hospitalisations were of undetermined intent. The remainder of injury-related hospitalisations (87.2%, or 438,646 hospitalisations) were due to unintentional injuries.

Table 3. Injury hospitalisations by mechanism in NSW, number, rate and CI, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004

Injury mechanism	All Persons			Male			Female		
	N	Rate ¹	95%CI ²	N	Rate ¹	95%CI ²	N	Rate ¹	95%CI ²
Falls	175,077	522.8	(520.4,525.3)	84,743	537.1	(533.4,540.7)	90,333	487.7	(484.5,491.0)
Motor vehicle transport	53,211	162.1	(160.7,163.4)	36,299	221.7	(219.4,224.0)	16,912	101.8	(100.3,103.4)
Struck by/against	35,642	108.8	(107.7,109.9)	27,394	166.4	(164.5,168.4)	8,248	49.8	(48.7,50.9)
Self-harm ³	32,582	115.1	(113.9,116.4)	12,941	91.5	(89.9,93.1)	19,640	139.6	(137.6,141.5)
Cut/pierce	31,054	94.6	(93.6,95.7)	23,472	142.7	(140.8,144.5)	7,583	46.3	(45.3,47.4)
Interpersonal violence	29,701	90.8	(89.8,91.8)	23,356	142.1	(140.3,143.9)	6,343	38.8	(37.8,39.8)
Poisoning	16,828	51.2	(50.4,51.9)	8,739	53.3	(52.2,54.5)	8,088	49.0	(47.9,50.0)
Non-motor vehicle road transport	15,177	46.6	(45.8,47.3)	10,216	61.9	(60.7,63.1)	4,961	30.9	(30.0,31.8)
Natural/environmental factors	13,789	41.9	(41.2,42.6)	8,332	50.8	(49.7,51.9)	5,457	32.9	(32.0,33.8)
Foreign bodies	8,628	26.1	(25.6,26.7)	5,214	31.9	(31.0,32.8)	3,414	20.4	(19.8,21.1)
Fire and burns	7,892	24.0	(23.5,24.5)	5,184	31.5	(30.7,32.4)	2,708	16.4	(15.8,17.0)
Machinery	7,656	23.3	(22.7,23.8)	7,055	42.9	(41.9,43.9)	601	3.7	(3.4,4.0)
Near-drowning	914	2.8	(2.6,3.0)	636	3.8	(3.5,4.1)	278	1.7	(1.5,1.9)
Other injuries	75,150	228.3	(226.7,230.0)	50,511	308.5	(305.8,311.2)	24,636	145.3	(143.5,147.1)
All injury ⁴	503,301	1,552.9	(1,518.7,1,527.1)	304,092	1873.8	(1867.1,1,880.5)	199,202	1,145.6	(1,140.5,1,1150.7)

1 Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population.

2 95% confidence interval.

3 The rate for self-harm was calculated per 100,000 population aged 10 years of age or older.

4 The number of NSW residents hospitalised interstate during 2003–2004 was imputed and as a result the sum of the number of hospitalisations due to injury mechanisms may not equal the all injury total.

SUMMARY

Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes was the sixth leading cause of hospitalisation involving NSW residents over the period 1999–2000 and 2003–2004, accounting for 6.3% of all hospitalisations.

The yearly hospitalisation rate for injuries was stable over the period 1989–1990 to 2003–2004 and during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004 the rate of hospitalisation was 1,522.9 per 100,000 population.

In 2003–2004, there were 103,640 hospitalisations of NSW residents following an injury, giving a hospitalisation rate of 1,534.9 per 100,000 population.

Falls, motor vehicle transport and struck-by/struck against were the injury mechanisms that most commonly led to a hospitalisation during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004. These were also the most common mechanisms that led to the hospitalisation of males. For females, the most common mechanisms leading to hospitalisation were falls, self-harm, and motor vehicle transport.