

## 8. Cut or pierce-related injuries

This section describes hospitalisations due to unintentional cut or pierce-related injuries. WHO classifies the cause of cut/pierce-related injury hospitalisations by the mechanism that caused the injury (WHO, 1977; WHO, 1992). These mechanisms include *sharp glass, knives, other hand tools, lawn mowers, other powered household goods, and other mechanisms*.

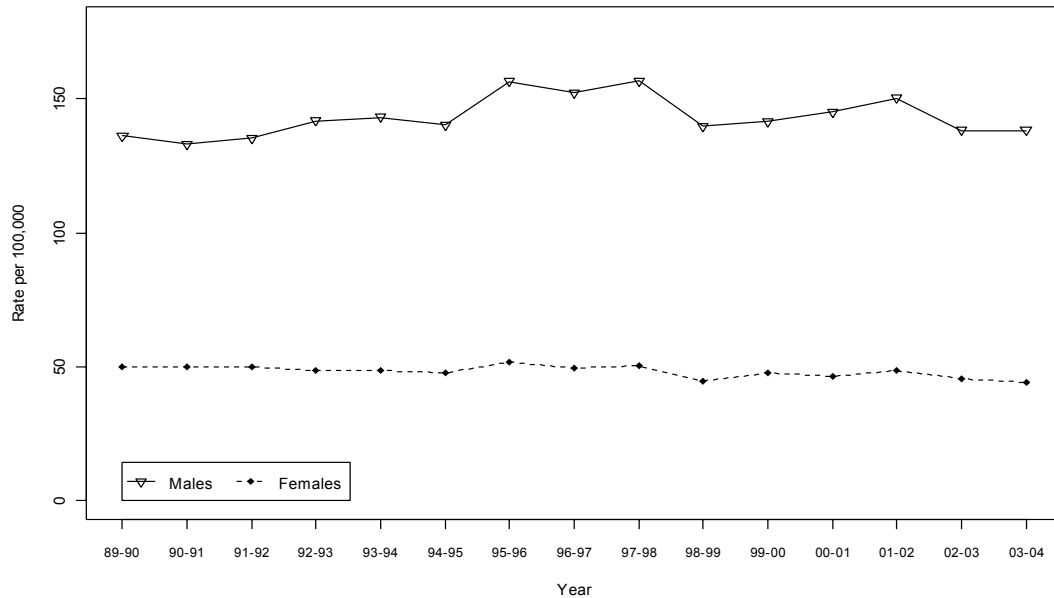
Cut or pierce injury-related hospitalisations can also be intentional. A cut or pierce-related injury inflicted on one person by another that results in an admission to hospital is classified as an interpersonal violence injury (WHO, 1977; WHO, 1992). Hospitalisations due to intentional cut or pierce-related injury events inflicted on one person by another are described in Section 9 of this report on interpersonal violence. A self-inflicted cut or pierce-related injury that results in an admission to hospital is classified as self-harm injury (WHO, 1977; WHO, 1992). Hospitalisations due to self-inflicted cut or pierce-related injury events are described in Section 7 of this report on self-harm.

Hospitalisation data for cut/pierce-related injuries were used to describe the profile of cut/pierce injuries for NSW residents. 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.

Cut/pierce injuries were the fifth leading cause of injury hospitalisation during the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004, and accounted for 6.2% of all injury-related hospitalisations (Table 3). During this period, there were 31,054 hospitalisations for cut/pierce injuries, at a rate of 94.6 per 100,000 population. There were approximately 6,211 hospitalisations per year due to cut/pierce-related injuries during 1999–2000 to 2003–2004.

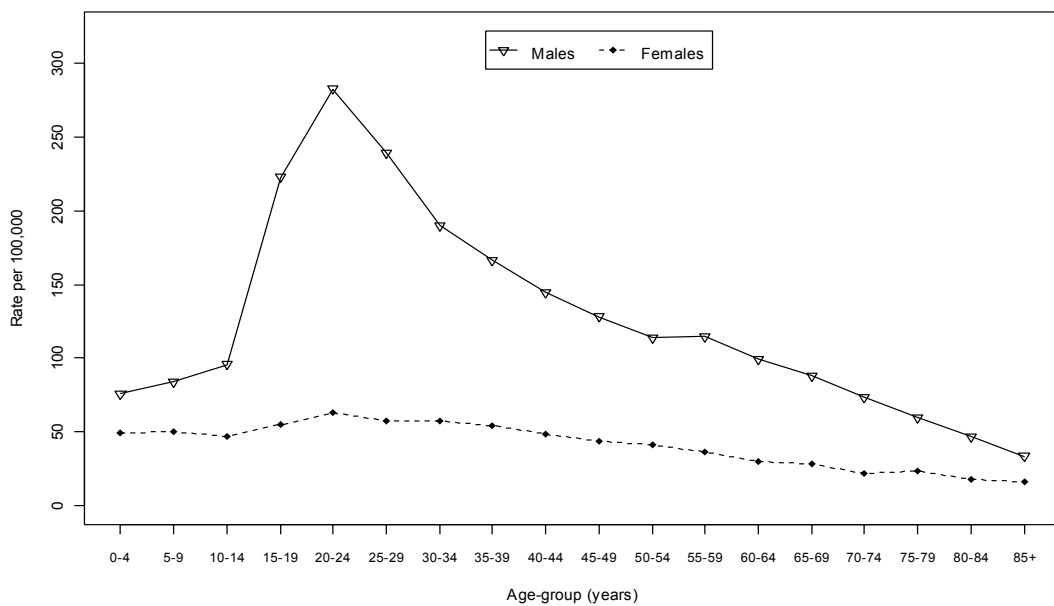
Males had an age-adjusted hospitalisation rate for cut/pierce injuries almost three times that of females during 1989–1990 to 2003–2004. The hospitalisation rate for cut/pierce injuries for males has remained fairly constant across the 15-year period (Figure 11). The hospitalisation rate was estimated to decrease significantly for females by 1.1% per year during 1989–1990 to 2003–2004 (95% confidence interval for the decrease: 0.5% to 1.7%).

**Figure 11. Hospitalisation rate for injury due to cut/pierce injuries by sex, NSW 1989–1990 to 2003–2004**



During 1999–2000 to 2003–2004, males aged 20–24 years had the highest age-specific hospitalisation rate for cut/pierce injuries at 282.6 per 100,000 population. This rate was around four-and-a-half times the hospitalisation rate for females aged 20–24 years (55.2 per 100,000 population) (Figure 12).

**Figure 12. Age-specific hospitalisation rate for cut/pierce injuries by sex, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004**



Cut/pierce injuries resulting from *sharp glass* and from *other mechanisms* were the two most common types of cut/pierce-related injury hospitalisations for both males (27.3% and 27.1%, respectively) and

females (33.1% and 30.1%, respectively). The overall hospitalisation was about 208% higher for males than for females (Table 12).

Table 13 shows the number of hospitalisations due to cut/pierce injuries by age group for the period 1999–2000 to 2003–2004. The number of cut/pierce-related hospitalisations varied by age group. *Other mechanisms* and *sharp glass* were the two most common mechanisms that caused a cut/pierce injury in individuals aged 44 years or less. *Other mechanisms* and *other powered household goods* were the two most common mechanisms resulting in hospitalisation for cut/pierce-related injuries in individuals aged 45 years or older.

**Table 12. Injury hospitalisations by cut/pierce injury cause, NSW, number, rate and CI, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004**

Cause	All Persons			Male			Female		
	N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	95%CI <sup>2</sup>	N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	95%CI <sup>2</sup>	N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	95%CI <sup>2</sup>
Sharp glass	8,930	27.3	(26.8,27.9)	6,419	39.0	(38.0,40.0)	2,512	15.5	(14.9,16.1)
Knives	4,868	14.9	(14.4,15.3)	3,455	21.0	(20.3,21.7)	1,413	8.6	(8.2,9.1)
Other powered household goods	4,784	14.5	(14.1,14.9)	4,491	27.3	(26.6,28.2)	293	1.8	(1.6,2.0)
Other hand tools	2,932	8.9	(8.6,9.3)	2,065	12.5	(12.0,13.1)	868	5.3	(4.9,5.6)
Lawn mower	902	2.7	(2.5,2.9)	689	4.2	(3.9,4.5)	213	1.3	(1.1,1.5)
Other mechanism	8,638	26.3	(25.8,26.9)	6,353	38.6	(37.6,39.5)	2,285	13.9	(13.3,14.5)
All <sup>3</sup>	31,054	94.6	(93.6,95.7)	23,472	142.7	(140.8,144.5)	7,583	46.3	(45.3,47.4)

1 Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population.

2 95% confidence interval.

3 The number of NSW residents hospitalised interstate during 2003–2004 was imputed and as a result the sum of submechanisms may not equal the total.

## SUMMARY

Cut/pierce injuries were the fifth leading cause of injury-related hospitalisation involving NSW residents between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004, accounting for 6.2% of all injury-related hospitalisations. The yearly hospitalisation rate for cut/pierce injuries was estimated to have decreased by 1.1% per year for females during 1989–1990 to 2003–2004.

In 2003–2004, there were 6,082 hospitalisations of NSW residents involving a cut/pierce injury, giving a hospitalisation rate of 91.3. per 100,000 population. More than half of those hospitalised following a cut/pierce injury (60.6%) were aged 15–44 years.

*Sharp glass*, *other mechanisms*, *knives*, and *other powered household goods* were the most common types of implements involved in cut/pierce injury-related hospitalisations. Males had higher rates of hospitalisation for cut/pierce injuries from all types of implements than females. The overall hospitalisation was about 208% higher for males than for females.

**Table 13. Number of hospitalisations for cut/pierce injuries<sup>1</sup> by age group and cause, NSW, 1999–2000 to 2003–2004**

Rank	Age group										Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+		
1	Sharp glass 480	Sharp glass 501	Sharp glass 571	Sharp glass 2,984	Sharp glass 2,144	Sharp glass 1,182	Other powered household goods 822	Other powered household goods 650	Other powered household goods 555	Sharp glass 8,930	
2	Other hand tools 137	Other hand tools 150	Other hand tools 197	Knives 1,289	Knives 1,245	Other powered household goods 959	Sharp glass 620	Knives 268	Other hand tools 215	Knives 4,868	
3	Knives 105	Knives 112	Knives 168	Other powered household goods 722	Other powered household goods 960	Knives 924	Knives 596	Other hand tools 268	Sharp glass 192	Other powered household goods 4,784	
4	Other powered household goods 46	Other powered household goods 26	Other powered household goods 45	Other hand tools 508	Other hand tools 567	Other hand tools 522	Other hand tools 366	Sharp glass 257	Knives 160	Other hand tools 2,932	
5	Lawn mower 19	Lawn mower 18	Lawn mower 28	Lawn mower 89	Lawn mower 117	Lawn mower 189	Lawn mower 152	Lawn mower 142	Lawn mower 149	Lawn mower 902	
	Other 575	Other 719	Other 618	Other 1,392	Other 1,557	Other 1,419	Other 1,081	Other 694	Other 584	Other 8,638	

<sup>1</sup> # Cell sizes represent fewer than five hospitalisations or data have been removed to prevent identification of cell sizes less than five.