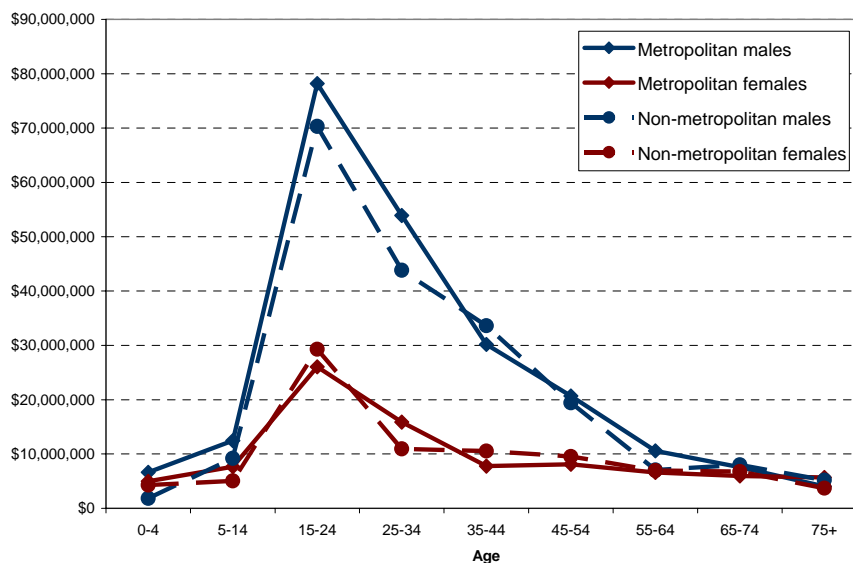




The Cost of Traffic Crashes

- Hospital separation records¹ indicate that 584 people were killed and 21,307 were injured, as a result of traffic crashes in NSW in 1999/2000. This equates to 9.0 people killed and 329.7 injured per 100,000 NSW residents.
- The cost of traffic crashes to the NSW community² is \$598,554,295. This represents 18.5% of costs due to all unintentional injuries and reflects:
 - \$65,955,715 (11% of total costs) in direct costs of treating and managing injuries, including \$54,120,872 in costs to the NSW hospital system.
 - \$532,598,580 in indirect costs associated with Years of Life Lost and Years of Life Lost to Disability, estimated at 16,139 Disability Adjusted Life Years.
 - an average cost of \$27,342 per casualty.
- Non-metropolitan residents represent 44.3% of people who were injured or killed in traffic crashes, and 47.7% of the costs (9.5% direct), at \$30,285 per casualty. In comparison, non-metropolitan residents represent a slightly lower proportion of the costs of all unintentional injuries (42.5%). In metropolitan areas, an average casualty costs 20% less than in non-metropolitan areas.

Total costs of casualties resulting from traffic crashes in NSW in 1999/2000, by age, for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan males and females.



- Age and gender patterns were very similar amongst metropolitan and non-metropolitan residents.
- Costs are highest amongst young people (aged 15-24), irrespective of where they reside, and particularly amongst young males.

¹ NSW Department of Health Inpatient Statistics Collection (HOIST). Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Department of Health.

² For methodology refer to Potter Forbes M and Aisbett C (2003). *Injury costs! A valuation of the burden of injury in New South Wales 1998-1998*. NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre, June, 2003

