

15.0 CONCLUSIONS

The data presented in the profile represent just the tip of the iceberg regarding the assessment of the external cause of injuries and understanding the true impact injuries have on the people of New South Wales. There are scores of injuries seen and treated every day by general practitioners that go unnoticed by the data collection systems in place. In the case of injuries that are captured in current data collection systems (i.e., deaths, hospitalisations, emergency department visits from some hospitals, ambulance service calls), information concerning the events that lead to the injury is often unavailable, resulting in large gaps in the data needed to understand the causes and to develop priorities to prevent and/or control certain types of injury. This lack of knowledge would need to be rectified before any substantial gains in the field of injury prevention and control can be made.

Given the gaps in information, this profile of injury in NSW has provided some insights into the main areas of concern for injury and as such, provides a background for understanding where some of the main problems exist. The profile will be used by the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre to further examine patterns of different mechanisms of injury and to enhance a targeted research plan to address the areas of concern and identify the best approaches to solving them.