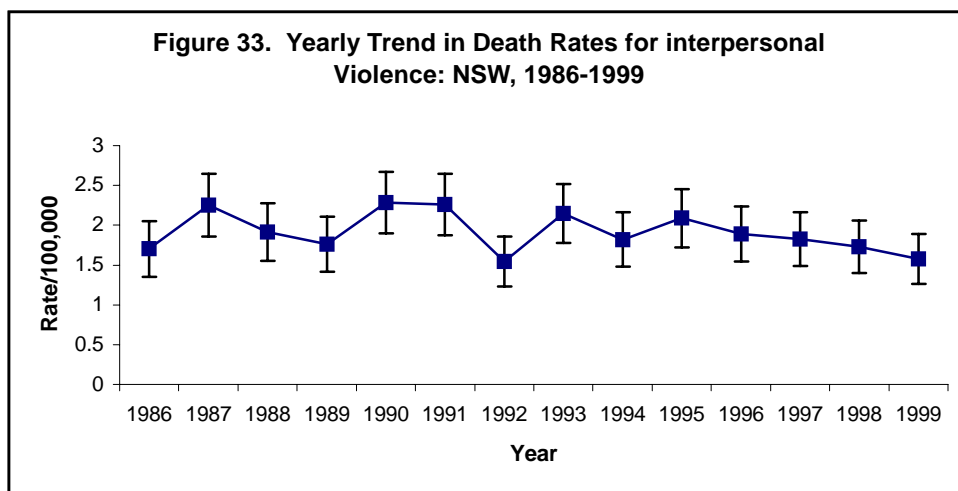


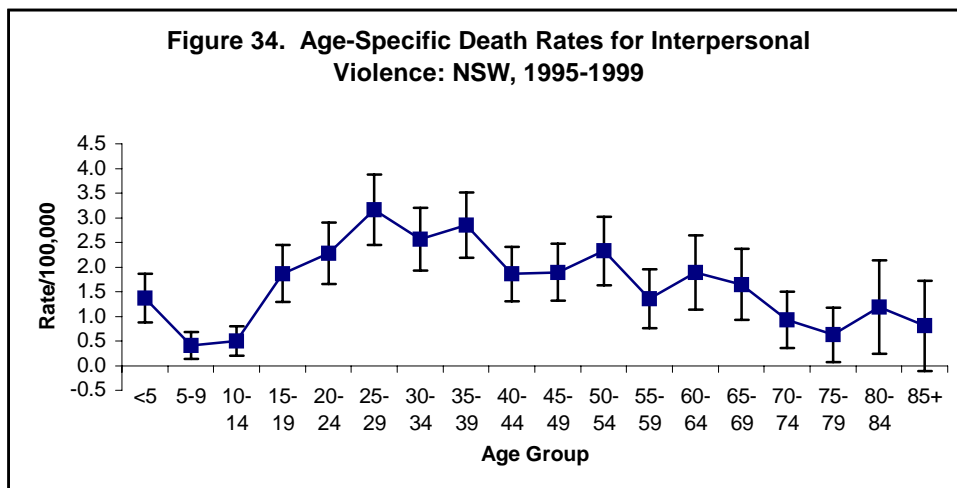
9.0 INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

9.1 Deaths due to Interpersonal Violence:

The interpersonal violence (IPV) death rate fluctuated from 1986 to 1995, but there is some evidence of a steady decrease from 1995 to 1999 (Figure 33). Between 1995 and 1999, 566 people died from IPV, at a rate of 1.8 people /100,000 and 71 percent were male (Table 4).



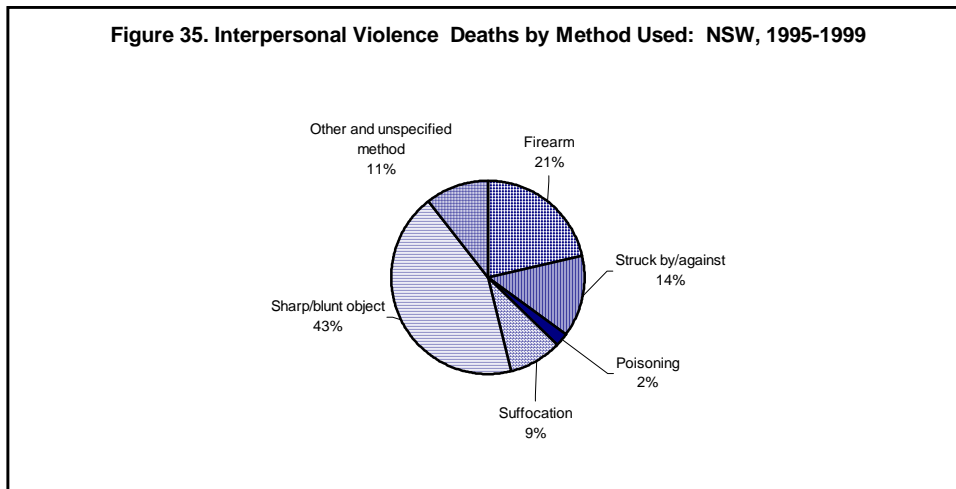
Of the 566 IPV deaths in NSW between 1995 and 1999, approximately 46 percent were



between 20 and 39 years of age. Figure 34 illustrates the age-specific death rates for IPV.

People aged 25-29 were at greatest risk of dying from an IPV injury between 1995 and 1999, but the rates were relatively high for all age groups between 20 and 65. Children under five also showed an elevated risk compared to 5 to 14 year olds who showed the lowest rates of all. Males were 1.5 times more likely than females to die as the result of IPV.

The following chart (Figure 35) shows the percentage of deaths for various methods of IPV.



Sharp/blunt objects used to cut and/or stab (43 %) were the most common methods of IPV between 1995 and 1999, followed by firearms (21 %) and being struck by or against an object (14 %). Approximately 11 percent involved methods that were either unspecified or classified as other types. Use of fire/flames accounted for roughly one-third of these cases.

Table 23. Number of IPV Deaths and Death Rates/100,000* by Method Used: NSW, 1995-1999

Injury Mechanism	Total Number	Rate /100,000	Number of Males	Male Rate /100,000	Number of Females	Female Rate /100,000
Sharp/blunt object	245	0.8	176	1.1	69	0.4
Firearm	121	0.4	98	0.6	23	0.1
Struck by/against	77	0.2	66	0.4	11	0.1
Other and unspecified method	60	0.2	34	0.2	26	0.2
Suffocation	50	0.2	16	0.1	34	0.2
Poisoning	13	0.0	11	0.1	2	0.0

*Death rates have been age-adjusted using the 1991 Australian census population

Table 23 shows the number of IPV deaths and death rates by the method used for all persons, males and females from 1995 to 1999. Males accounted for 72 percent of all IPV deaths caused by sharp/blunt objects from 1995 to 1999. Males also accounted for 81 percent of firearm-related IPV deaths and 85 percent of struck by or against IPV deaths. In contrast, of

the relatively smaller number of suffocation-related IPV deaths, around two-thirds were females.

Table 24 shows IPV deaths by age group and method used in NSW for 1995-1999. Four types of methods accounted for the leading type of IPV for all age groups- (i) sharp/blunt object; (ii) struck by/ against; (iii) suffocation and (iii) other and unspecified method. Use of a sharp/blunt object was the leading cause of IPV deaths in people aged 15 years and older. For children under the age of 15 years there were relatively few deaths due to IPV. Where they occurred they were mainly due to being struck by/against an object or person for children under the age of one year, to suffocation for children aged one to four years and other and unspecified methods were the leading cause of IPV death in children aged five to 14 years.

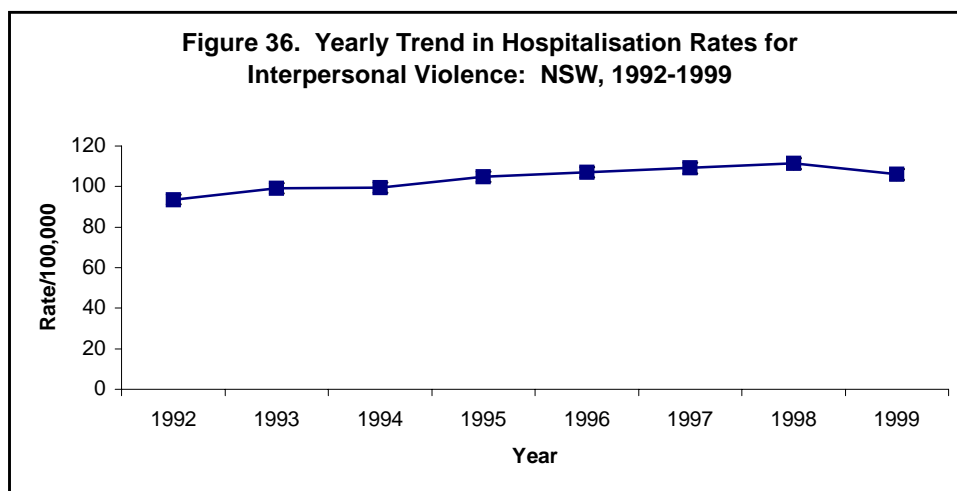
Table 24. IPV Deaths by Age Group and Method Used: NSW, 1995-1999

	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
1	Struck by/against 9	Suffocation 7	Other and unspecified 5	Other and unspecified #	Sharp/blunt object 35	Sharp/blunt object 64	Sharp/blunt object 57	Sharp/blunt object 44	Sharp/blunt object 20	Sharp/blunt object 17	Sharp/blunt object 245
2	Other and unspecified #	Other and unspecified #	Poisoning #	Sharp/blunt object #	Firearm 27	Firearm 34	Firearm 29	Struck by/against 17	Suffocation 8	Firearm 8	Firearm 121
3	Sharp/blunt object #	Struck by/against #	Suffocation #	Poisoning #	Struck by/against 13	Other and unspecified 13	Other and unspecified 10	Firearm 15	Struck by/against 6	Suffocation 7	Struck by/against 77
4		Sharp/blunt object #	Sharp/blunt object #	Struck by/against #	Other and unspecified 8	Struck by/against 12	Struck by/against 10	Other and unspecified 6	Firearm 6	Struck by/against 6	Other and unspecified 60
5		Firearm #		Firearm #	Suffocation 6	Suffocation 11	Suffocation 8	Suffocation #	Other and unspecified #	Other and unspecified 5	Suffocation 50
6		Poisoning #			Poisoning #	Poisoning #			Poisoning #1	Poisoning #	Poisoning 13

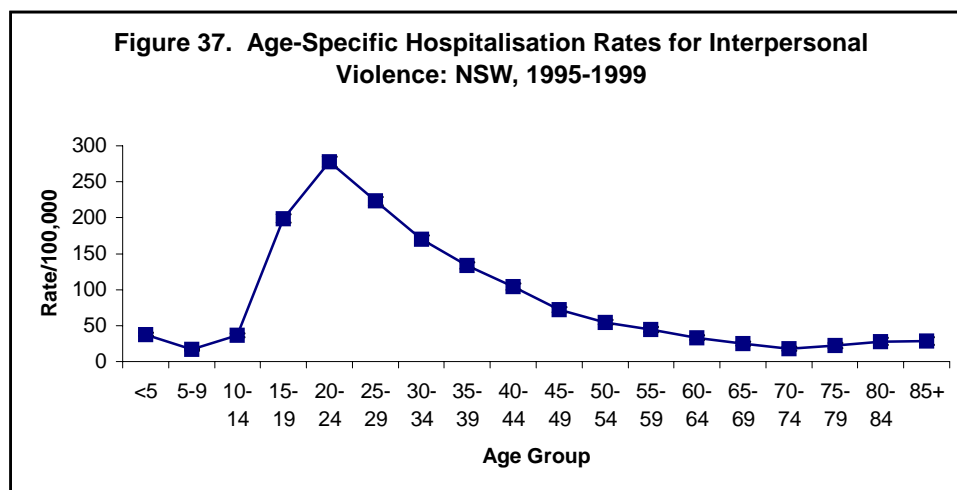
Cell size less than five cases

9.2 Hospitalisations due to Interpersonal Violence:

The interpersonal violence (IPV) hospitalisation rate showed a statistically significant increase from 1992 to 1998 but then decreased significantly from 1998 to 1999 (Figure 36). Between 1995 and 1999, 32,353 people were hospitalised for IPV injuries, at a rate of 107.8 people /100,000 and 77 percent were male (Table 6).



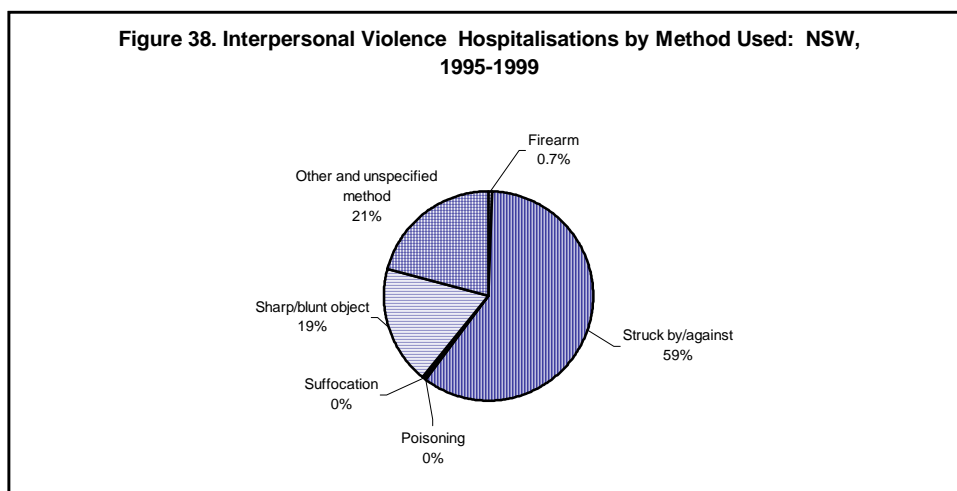
Of the 32,353 IPV hospitalisations in NSW between 1995 and 1999, approximately 36 percent of these cases were between 20 and 29 years of age. Figure 37 illustrates the age-



specific hospitalisation rates for IPV.

People aged 15 to 29 years were at greatest risk of being hospitalised for an IPV injury between 1995 and 1999 with a peak between 20 and 24 years. Males were 2.3 times more likely than females to be hospitalised as the result of IPV.

The following chart (see Figure 38) shows the percentage of hospitalisations for various methods of IPV.



Approximately two-thirds of hospitalisations for IPV were due to being struck by or against another person or object and just under 20 percent involved a sharp/blunt object. For a significant percentage of cases, the method of IPV could not be classified in one of the main categories or was unspecified. Further analysis of these cases showed that unspecified methods accounted for 13 percent of all IPV hospitalisations.

Table 25. Number of IPV Hospitalisations and Hospitalisation Rates/100,000* by Method Used: NSW, 1995-1999

Injury Mechanism	Total Number	Rate /100,000	Number of Males	Male Rate /100,000	Number of Females	Female Rate /100,000
Struck by/against	19,304	64.5	14,290	95.1	5,014	33.3
Other and unspecified method	6,701	22.0	5,204	34.3	1,496	9.6
Sharp/blunt object	5,990	20.0	5,098	34.0	892	5.9
Firearm	221	0.7	194	1.3	27	0.2
Poisoning	88	0.3	39	0.3	49	0.3
Suffocation	49	0.2	24	0.2	25	0.2

*Hospitalisation rates have been age-adjusted using the 1991 Australian census population

Table 25 shows the number of IPV hospitalisations and hospitalisation rates by the method used for all persons, males and females from 1995 to 1999. Males accounted for 74 percent of all IPV hospitalisations for being struck by or against another person or object. Males also accounted for 85 percent of injuries by sharp/blunt objects and 88 percent of firearm injuries, whereas females and males were almost equally reflected in IPV hospitalisations for suffocation and poisoning.

Table 26 shows IPV hospitalisations by age group and method used in NSW for 1995-1999. One method, struck by/ against another person or object, accounted for the leading type of IPV hospitalisation for all age groups. Young adults in the 15 to 34 age groups showed by far the highest numbers of hospitalisations due to being struck by or against, although there were very large numbers of 15 to 34 year olds who were hospitalised due to interpersonal injury due to sharp/blunt objects.

Table 26. IPV Hospitalisations by Age Group and Method Used: NSW, 1995-1999

	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
1	Struck by/against 339	Struck by/against 374	Struck by/against 305	Struck by/against 626	Struck by/against 6,530	Struck by/against 5,471	Struck by/against 3,201	Struck by/against 1,425	Struck by/against 576	Struck by/against 457	Struck by/against 19,304
2	Other and unspecified 40	Other and unspecified 43	Other and unspecified 38	Sharp/blunt object 83	Sharp/blunt object 2,068	Other and unspecified 1,970	Other and unspecified 1,351	Other and unspecified 667	Other and unspecified 318	Other and unspecified 322	Other and unspecified 6,701
3	Sharp/blunt object 5	Sharp/blunt object 12	Sharp/blunt object 13	Other and unspecified 74	Other and unspecified 1,878	Sharp/blunt object 1,934	Sharp/blunt object 1,117	Sharp/blunt object 458	Sharp/blunt object 172	Sharp/blunt object 128	Sharp/blunt object 5,990
4	Poisoning #	Poisoning 5	Poisoning 5	Firearm 6	Firearm 80	Firearm 75	Firearm 36	Firearm 14	Firearm 6	Suffocation #	Firearm 221
5	Suffocation #	Firearm #	Firearm #	Poisoning 5	Poisoning 29	Poisoning 15	Poisoning 11	Poisoning 10	Poisoning #	Poisoning #	Poisoning 88
6		Suffocation #	Suffocation #	Suffocation #	Suffocation 12	Suffocation 14	Suffocation 11	Suffocation #	Suffocation #		Suffocation 49

Cell size less than five cases

9.3 Summary

Death rates for IPV have decreased since 1995, whereas hospitalisation rates have increased at a low, but steady rate, mainly between 1992 and 1998, with a small drop in 1999. Death rates showed a peak between 25 to 39 years of age, but were quite variable across all ages. Hospitalisation rates, in contrast, showed a clear peak in 20 to 24 year olds but were elevated for the whole age range between 15 and 45 years.

There were very different patterns across different methods of IPV for deaths and hospitalised injuries. Firearms, sharp/blunt objects and suffocation were much more common among IPV-related deaths, but struck by or against-type injuries were much more highly represented amongst hospitalisations. For around one in five hospitalisations due to IPV, the method was other or unspecified. This was only about half as common for deaths.

IPV injuries mainly involved males for most methods. The main exceptions were hospitalisation and death rates for suffocation and hospitalised IPV injuries due to poisoning, which were higher for females. There were few differences in the types of IPV across age groups for deaths or hospitalisations. The relatively small number of deaths due to IPV in children under 15 years of age were due to a range of methods, but for all other age groups, sharp/blunt objects were responsible for the largest group of IPV deaths. Relatively smaller numbers of deaths were due to firearms and mainly for 15 to 44 year olds. The largest group of IPV hospitalisations by far for all age groups was due to struck by or against a person or object.