

## **KEY POINTS**

### **All injury**

- In 1999, injury and poisonings were the sixth leading cause of death and the fourth leading cause of hospitalisation in NSW.
- In 1999, injury and poisonings were the leading cause of death among people aged 1-44, as well as the leading cause of hospitalisation among people aged 10-14.
- Seventy percent of all injury deaths and 56 percent of all injury hospitalisations between 1995 and 1999 were male.
- Death rates for males were higher than females for all major injury mechanisms, although there were some notable subgroups which did not show this pattern, including hospitalisations for falls on the same level and falls on stairs, medical misadventures and therapeutic use of drugs.
- Suicide was the leading cause of injury mortality but not morbidity in NSW from 1995 to 1999, accounting for 33 percent of the deaths.
- Complications of care were the leading cause of injury morbidity in NSW from 1995 to 1999, accounting for 32 percent of the hospitalisations, although mortality rates were the lowest of the eight categories examined in this report.

### **Suicide**

- Across all age groups, people aged 20-39 years old were at greatest risk of dying from suicide and for being hospitalised for an attempted suicide between 1995 and 1999.
- Suffocation (hanging) (39%) and poisoning (34%) were the two most common methods of suicide between 1995 and 1999, followed by firearms (11%). Males accounted for 84 percent of all suicides by suffocation and 73 percent of all suicide poisonings.
- Poisoning was the most common method used in suicide attempts that resulted in hospitalisation, accounting for 83 percent of cases. Females accounted for 61 percent of all suicide attempts by poisoning.

### **Motor Vehicle Transport**

- People aged 15-24 years were at greatest risk of dying and being hospitalised as a result of motor vehicle transport-related injuries between 1995 and 1999
- Between 1995 and 1999 motor vehicles drivers , accounted for 40 percent of all motor vehicle deaths. Drivers were also hospitalised more often (29%) than other motor vehicle accident victims. Males accounted for 75 percent of all drivers who died of a motor vehicle transport injury and 61 percent of all drivers hospitalised

## **Falls**

- People aged 70 years and older were at greatest risk of dying and being hospitalised as a result of a fall-related injury between 1995 and 1999
- Falling from one level to another (14%) was the most common types of fall resulting in death between 1995 and 1999, with males accounting for 68 percent of these deaths.
- Falls on the same level after tripping or being pushed (34%) were the most common type of fall resulting in hospitalisation and females accounted for 62 percent of these cases.

## **Poisoning**

- Across all age groups, people aged 25-44 were at greatest risk of dying as a result of a poisoning between 1995 and 1999, whereas children under age 5 were at greatest risk of being hospitalised for a poisoning
- Narcotics and hallucinogens were the most common substances causing poisonings deaths between 1995 and 1999. Males accounted for 84 percent of all deaths caused by narcotics poisoning.
- For hospitalised cases where the substance used was known, the most common cause was antidepressants, barbiturates and tranquilisers and females accounted for 55 percent of all cases for this group of substances.
- Males were much more likely to die by poisoning than females, but hospitalisation for poisoning showed very little difference between genders.

## **Interpersonal Violence**

- People aged 25-29 were at greatest risk of dying from an interpersonal violence (IPV) injury between 1995 and 1999 and people aged 20-24 were at greatest risk of being hospitalised.
- Sharp/blunt objects used to cut and/or stab (43 %) were the most common methods of IPV between 1995 and 1999. Males accounted for 72 percent of all IPV deaths caused by sharp/blunt objects
- Approximately two-thirds of hospitalisations for IPV were due to being struck by or against another person or object and males also accounted for 74 percent of these cases.

## **Drowning**

- Across all age groups, people under age five were at greatest risk of dying as a result of a drowning and being hospitalised as a result of a near drowning between 1995 and 1999
- The majority of drownings and near-drownings occurred in either natural water or swimming pools.
- Males accounted for 75 percent or more of all drownings and near-drownings for all locations except bathtubs where there was little difference between genders.

## **Fire/Burns**

- People aged 70 years and older were at greatest risk of dying as a result of an injury caused by a fire or hot object between 1995 and 1999, whereas people under age five years were at greatest risk of being hospitalised.
- Fires in buildings caused the majority of fires/burns deaths from 1995 to 1999 and 61 percent were male.
- Burns from substances or objects caused the majority of fire/burns hospitalisations and males accounted for 59 percent of these cases.

## **Complications of Care**

- People aged 65 years and older were at greatest risk of dying as a result of an injury caused by an complications of care between 1995 and 1999. Residents aged 50 years and older were at greatest risk of being hospitalised as a result of an injury caused by a complication of care.
- Abnormal reaction of the patient or a complication caused the majority of complication of care category injuries(53 %) followed by medical misadventure (26%).
- The majority of complication of care hospitalisations were also due to abnormal reactions or complications (77 %). A very small percentage was due to medical misadventure (2%), although with over 6,000 cases, the overall numbers of cases were not insignificant.
- Males and females were roughly equivalent in the number of complication of care deaths for all types of events. For hospitalisations, females had slightly higher numbers of events due to therapeutic use of drugs and to medical misadventures.