

ALCOHOL RESOURCE KIT

FAST FACTS



AUSTRALIA



ALCOHOL WAS THE LEADING RISK FACTOR FOR INJURY IN 2011

and associated with 21% of all injuries.⁽¹⁾



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In 2012 alcohol was attributed to:⁽²⁾



17.5% of injury fatalities

11.8% of injury hospitalisations

32%

of emergency department injury presentations

\$ THE TOTAL LIFETIME COST OF ALCOHOL RELATED INJURIES IN WA IN 2012 IS \$1.9 BILLION⁽²⁾

Alcohol contributed to **22.8%** of injury hospitalisations for **Aboriginal people** in WA between 2000-2008, compared to **10.5%** among **non-Aboriginal people⁽³⁾**



MALES ACCOUNTED FOR 57% OF ALL ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURY HOSPITALISATIONS BETWEEN 2000-2008⁽³⁾

ALCOHOL AND INJURY OVERVIEW

In 2011, alcohol was reported as the greatest risk factor for injury in Australia, contributing to 21% of the overall injuries burden.⁽¹⁾ Injury is defined as the intentional or unintentional harm to a person resulting from contact with an object, substance or another person, either through excessive energy or the sudden absence of vital elements, such as oxygen.⁽⁴⁾

Leading injury areas associated with alcohol consumption include transport, suicide and self-harm, violence, and poisoning; Figure 1 represents the burden of alcohol use on injury in Australia in 2011, shown in disability-adjusted life years (DALY).⁽¹⁾ DALY is a measure (in years) of healthy life years lost due to premature death, disability, or ill-health.

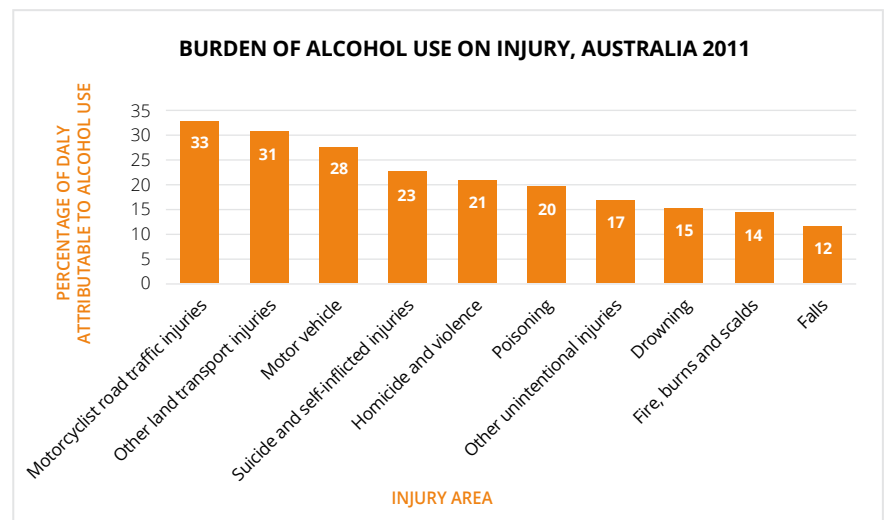


FIGURE 1. Burden of alcohol use on injury, Australia 2011

Alcohol consumption influences the risk of injury and injury severity.⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ Both the volume of alcohol consumed and the pattern of drinking over time can influence injury risk.⁽⁷⁾ Even at moderate doses, alcohol consumption can impact risk-taking behaviour and psychomotor performance, including cognition, co-ordination, and reaction time, which can influence injury risk.^(6,7)

ALCOHOL AND INJURY COSTS IN WA

Alcohol-related injury represents a significant burden to the Western Australian (WA) community. In 2012, the total lifetime cost of alcohol-related injury in WA cost an estimated \$1.9 billion due to health care costs, long term care needs, loss in paid productivity, and quality of life lost.⁽²⁾ Additionally, injury deaths and hospitalisations which could be attributed to alcohol involvement (\$211,694 mean cost per event) had higher mean costs than those without alcohol involvement (\$138,455 mean cost per event) in 2012.⁽²⁾





ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURIES IN WA

In 2013, 82% of Western Australians aged 14 years and over consumed alcohol in the previous year.⁽⁸⁾ Alcohol is a leading risk factor for injury in Western Australia, contributing to 32% of emergency department injury presentations, 17.5% of injury fatalities and 11.8% of injury hospitalisations.⁽²⁾ In 2012, this equated to 245 injury fatalities, 5,911 injury hospitalisations, and 56,057 emergency department presentations.⁽²⁾

In WA between 2000 and 2008, 32.6% of alcohol-related hospitalisations involved a fall, and a further 31.5% involved violence.⁽³⁾ Over the same time period, suicide accounted for almost half (49.0%) of alcohol-related fatalities, and a further 30.0% of alcohol-related fatalities involved land transport.⁽³⁾ Table 1 shows the injury related hospitalisations (2000- 2008) and fatalities (2000-2007) in WA due to alcohol.



ALCOHOL CONTRIBUTED TO
44.4% OF

VIOLENCE FATALITIES BETWEEN 2000 AND 2007⁽³⁾

	ALCOHOL'S CONTRIBUTION TO INJURY HOSPITALISATIONS IN WA, 2000-2008	ALCOHOL'S CONTRIBUTION TO INJURY FATALITIES IN WA, 2000-2007
INTENTIONAL INJURIES		
Violence	45.3%	44.4%
Suicide	30.7%	31.5%
UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES		
Transport (land)	11.2%	23.2%
Drowning	6.3%	13.4%
Poisoning	1.7%	6.9%
Falls	12.5%	13.7%
Fires, burns and scalds	3.3%	31.8%

TABLE 1. The percentage of injury-related hospitalisations and fatalities in WA due to alcohol for each injury area.⁽³⁾

ALCOHOL AND SPECIFIC INJURY AREAS IN WA

TRANSPORT

In 2016, 32% of road fatalities (62 fatalities) in WA were related to alcohol.⁽⁹⁾ Additionally, from 2000-2008, 11.2% of hospitalisations related to land transport injuries were attributed to alcohol, equating to 4,517 hospitalisations.⁽³⁾ The influence of alcohol on transport injuries has been attributed to a range of factors, including the impact on consumer's response time, visual functioning, tracking ability, and alertness.⁽¹⁰⁾

VIOLENCE

In WA from 2000 to 2008 alcohol contributed to 45.3% of hospitalisations due to interpersonal violence.⁽³⁾ In some regional WA areas, rates of violence are significantly higher than the state average, such as the Kimberly (895% greater than the state rate).⁽¹¹⁾

Alcohol can influence violence by impairing the consumer's capacity to resolve conflicts verbally and increasing risk-taking behaviour, which can be compounded by a reduced fear of consequences.^(12,13)

SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM

In WA from 2000 to 2008, 30.7% of hospitalisations due to self-harm and suicide were attributed to alcohol.⁽³⁾ Research suggests that alcohol consumption can increase psychological distress and aggressiveness, which can increase the risk for suicide and self-inflicted injuries.⁽¹⁴⁾

WHAT POPULATIONS ARE AT HEIGHTENED RISK OF ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURIES?

YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults (aged 15-24 years) are overrepresented in transport and violence alcohol-related hospitalisations.^(11,18) In WA between 2010 and 2016, 30% of all alcohol-related fatal crashes involved young drivers aged 25 years and under.⁽¹⁹⁾

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

From 2000 to 2008, Aboriginal people in WA were twice as likely to be hospitalised due to an alcohol-related injury than non-Aboriginal people, with alcohol contributing to 22.8% of all Aboriginal people's injury hospitalisations.⁽³⁾



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