

KNOW INJURY IN THE GOLDFIELDS

Injury is the leading underlying cause of death in Western Australia for ages 5-44 years.¹

In 2015 throughout the Goldfields there were 22 fatalities and 1,461 hospitalisations due to injury. These hospitalisations consumed 4,868 bed days at an approximate cost of \$10,726,308.

The leading causes of these hospitalisations were falls and road trauma; whilst intentional self-harm, road trauma and falls were the leading causes of fatalities.

Individuals aged **25-44** contributed to the highest proportion of injuries in the Goldfields from 2011 to 2015.

Aboriginal peoples experienced over **2.7 times** the rate of injury hospitalisations in the Goldfields from 2006 to 2015 compared to non-Aboriginal people.



Injury is the physical or mental harm to a person resulting from intentional or unintentional contact with an object, substance or another person.

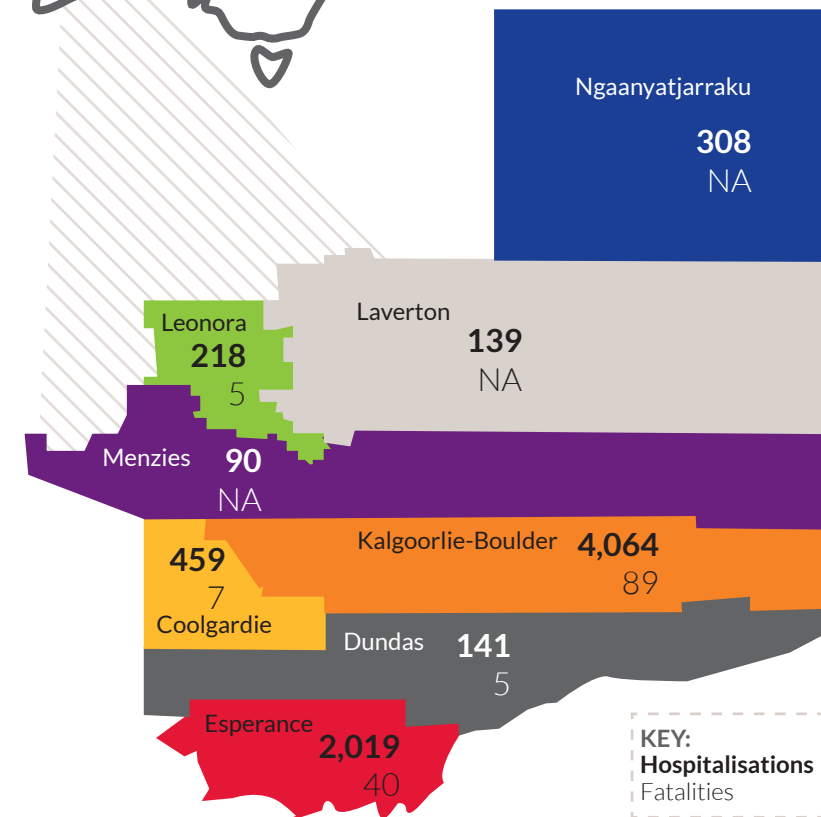


Figure 1. The number of hospitalisations (2012-16) and fatalities (2011-15) within Goldfields local governments due to injury.



The Know Injury program is provided by Injury Matters in partnership with the Department of Health WA
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout Western Australia and pay respects to Elders past and present. We recognise the importance of continued connection to culture, country and community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

	Hospitalisations		Fatalities	
	Number	ASR*	Number	ASR*
Falls	1,670	671.6	14	N/A
Exposure to mechanical forces	1,314	425.8	6	N/A
Road trauma	1,075	353.4	40	13.7
Assault	728	226.9	10	N/A
Intentional self-harm	405	131.1	51	17.2
Burns and Scalds	166	51.9	N/A	N/A
Poisoning	156	50.1	12	N/A
Drowning	19	N/A	7	N/A

Figure 2. The number and rate of injury hospitalisations and fatalities in the Goldfields from 2011-15.

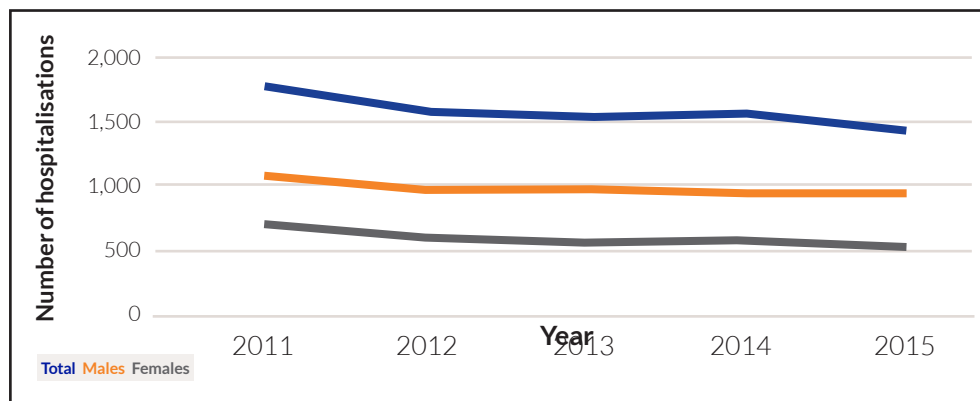


Figure 3. The number of injury hospitalisations in the Goldfields from 2011-15, by gender.

Data notes:

All hospital separations and fatalities within this report are identified using the principle diagnosis ICD-10-AM codes of S00-T98. *ASR's (Age Standardised Rate) are standardised with the Australian 2001 standard population and expressed per 100,000 people. Any hospitalisation or fatality counts less than five have been suppressed within this document to protect privacy and data confidentiality (N/A)

How can we reduce the impact of injury in the Goldfields?

Gaining an insight into the prevalence of injury within the Goldfields region can assist in identifying injury areas which may require targeted prevention interventions. Given the incidence of falls, road trauma and intentional self-harm in the Goldfields some actions which can be taken to reduce their prevalence include:

- FALLS**
 - Engage in Stay On Your Feet® campaigns to increase community members' awareness of actions that they can take to reduce their risk of falling.
 - Promote local strength and balance exercise classes.
- INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM**
 - Support local health professionals to complete Mental Health First Aid training.
 - Promote the use of mental health and counselling services.
- ROAD TRAUMA**
 - Improve road infrastructure by sealing shoulders, installing audible edge lines, removing roadside hazards and installing safety barriers.
 - Generate awareness of the importance of road safety by distributing WALGA Roadwise's resources.

 Visit www.knowinjury.org.au/know/injury-topics for additional injury prevention interventions.

References:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics. 3303.0 - Causes of Death, Western Australia, 2018. (2019). All data has been generated using HealthTracks Reporting, by the Epidemiology Branch, Department of Health WA in collaboration with the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI).