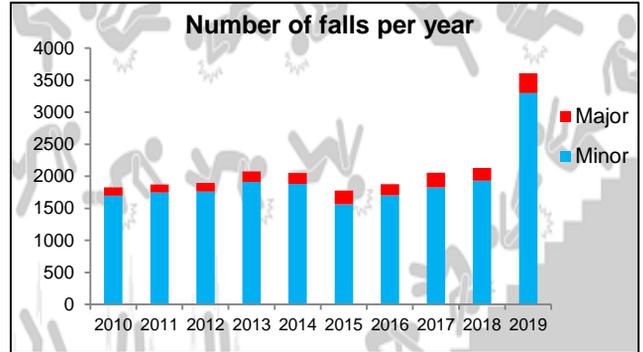


An overview of falls admissions to Royal Perth Hospital since 2010

The Royal Perth Hospital Trauma Registry (RPH-TR) has collected and reported on injury data since August 1994. It contributes to a State Trauma Registry database, combining data from all Perth tertiary hospitals and Joondalup Health Campus.

Included on the RPH-TR are all trauma patients presenting to RPH for treatment within seven days of their injury and who were hospitalised for >24hrs, as well as all trauma-related deaths regardless of hospital length of stay.

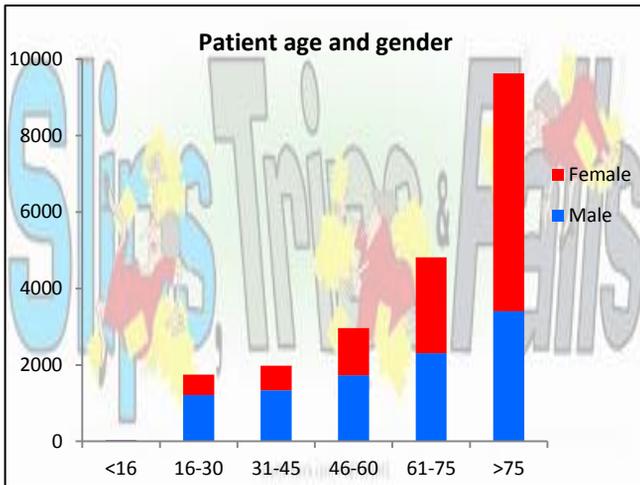
Injuries are categorised into Minor (Injury Severity Score (ISS) <16); and Major (ISS >15).



From 2010 to 2019 there were 21,164 patients admitted with falls. Over the 10 years there has been a steady increase in the number of patients who sustained a major injury following their fall. Only data from Royal Perth Hospital is included in this report.

Of 21,164 patients that were admitted following a fall:

- 10,010 (47.3%) were males
- 11,154 (52.7%) were females
- 9629 (45.5%) were over 75 years old.



- 3141 (14.8%) had consumed alcohol and/or illicit drugs prior to their fall
- 1089 (5.2%) were work related.

Of the patients where the location was known:

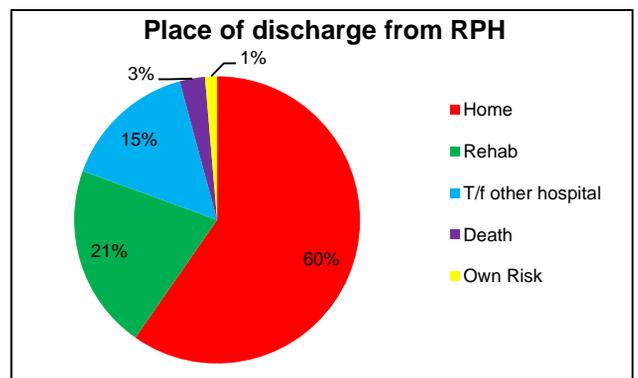
- 17,533 (82.8%) occurred in the metropolitan area
- 3454 (16.3%) were from the regional areas
- 177 (0.8%) were from interstate or overseas

Of the 21,164 patients admitted with a fall:

- 19,312 (91.2%) patients sustained minor injuries with an ISS of less than 16
- 1852 (8.8%) had major injuries with an ISS greater than 15. Major injuries more than doubled from 133 patients in 2010 to 307 patients in 2019.
- With a maximum length of stay (LOS) of 218 days, the median LOS was 6.2 days

In 2019, there were 3607 falls admissions to RPH, of these:

- 2969 (82.3%) had a fall from standing
- 534 (14.8%) had a fall from less than or equal to 3m
- 104 (2.9%) had a fall from greater than 3m.
- 1725 (55.9%) were discharged to home/residential institution.



As the older generation continue to live longer, the number of patients aged 75 years and over being admitted following a fall will continue to increase. Balance is a key part of our daily lives that we often take for granted. Increasing age, inactivity, disease and muscle weakness can impair balance abilities. Targeted campaigns aimed at keeping people active and therefore allowing them to stay independent for longer are essential.