



Royal Perth Hospital admissions related to domestic and family violence

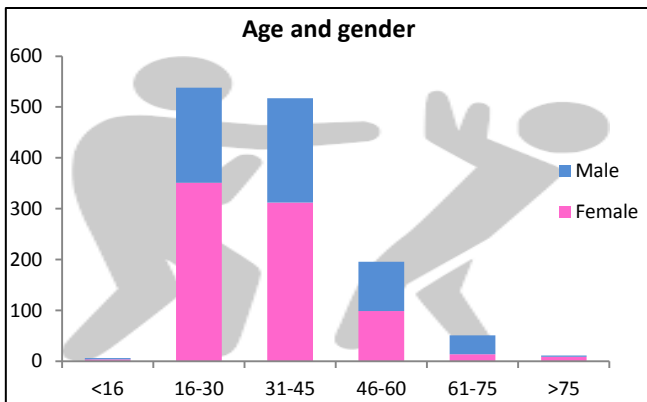
The Royal Perth Hospital Trauma Registry (RPH-TR) has collected and reported on injury data since August 1994. It contributes to a State Trauma Registry database, combining data from all Perth tertiary hospitals and Joondalup Health Campus.

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)

Over the ten year period from 2010 - 2019, there was a steady increase in domestic and family violence trauma admissions to RPH. 1319 people were admitted during this period.

- 708 (53.7%) victims of domestic and family violence occurred in the metropolitan region
- 610 (46.2%) patients admitted from the country.
- 789 (59.8%) were female, and
- 530 (40.2%) were male.



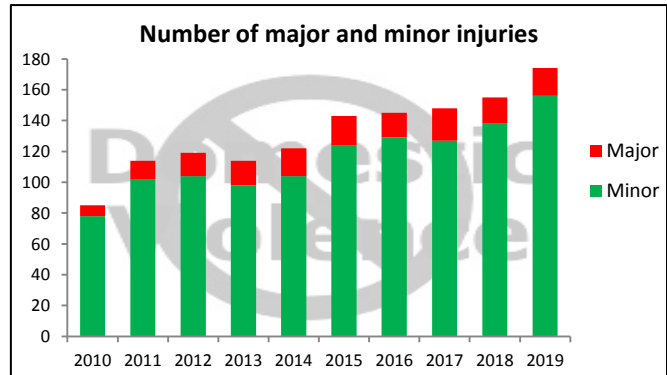
- 583 (44.2%) of domestic and family violence involved documented alcohol use; 96 (7.3%) documented drug use
- 715 (54.2%) of domestic and family violence was committed by a partner

Ages ranged from 15 – 95 years:

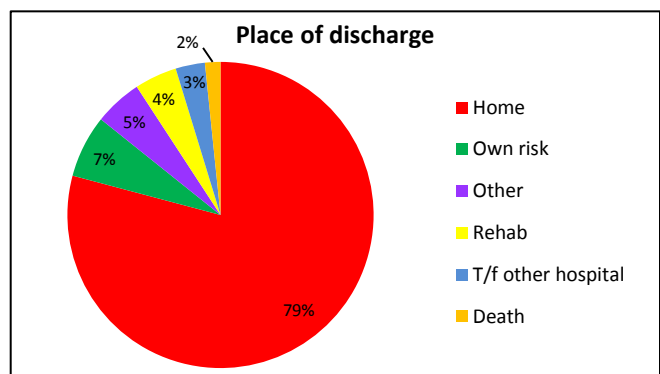
- 538 (40.8%) were aged between 16-30 years
- 517 (39.2%) were aged between 31-45 years
- 663 (50.3 %) of these two groups were female

The majority of injuries sustained during domestic and family violence were caused by:

- 857 (65%) struck by or struck an object
- 255 (19.3%) stabbing or gunshot injuries
- 121 (9.2%) crush / cutting or piercing injuries
- 28 (2.1%) other
- 58 (4.4%) falls



- 660 patients (50%) did not have the location recorded
- Of the 607 patients with known locations, 532 (80.7%) incidents of domestic and family violence occurred in the home. There were 36 incidents in 2010, increasing slowly each year, with a peak of 75 in 2019.
- Of these, 304 (57.1%) were female and 228 (42.9%) were male
- 1160 (87.9%) of total patients sustained minor injuries, with an ISS of less than 16. These patients had a median length of stay (LOS) of 3 days
- 159 (12.1%) of total patients sustained a major injury, with an ISS greater than 15. These patients had a median LOS of 9.1 days
- With 22 deaths, the severity of injuries has more than doubled from 7 majors in 2010 to 18 in 2019.
- Minor injuries have doubled; 78 in 2010 increased to 156 in 2019.
- 1042 (79%) of domestic and family violence patients were discharged home from RPH



Over the last ten years, the numbers of domestic and family violence-related assaults admitted to RPH have more than doubled. The home environment is the usual place for these assaults to occur, with females remaining the main victims. The severity of assaults and corresponding injuries is increasing. Domestic and family violence needs to continue to be in the mainstream media to heighten awareness on the need for targeted injury prevention initiatives to reduce these numbers.