

# KNOW **INJURY** IN THE SOUTH WEST

Injury is the leading underlying cause of death in Western Australia for ages 5-44 years.<sup>(1)</sup>

In 2015 throughout the South West there were 86 fatalities and 4,436 hospitalisations due to injury. These hospitalisations consumed 14,878 bed days at an approximate cost of \$32,799,960.

The leading causes of these hospitalisations were falls and road trauma; whilst suicide, road trauma and falls were the leading causes of fatalities.

Given that many injuries require medical attention outside of the hospital setting and that the effects of injury extend beyond the injured individual, the impact of injury in the South West is significantly larger than the 4,436 hospitalisations and 86 fatalities.

Aboriginal peoples experienced over

**1.4 times**

the rate of injury hospitalisations in the South West in 2006 to 2015 compared to non-Aboriginal peoples.



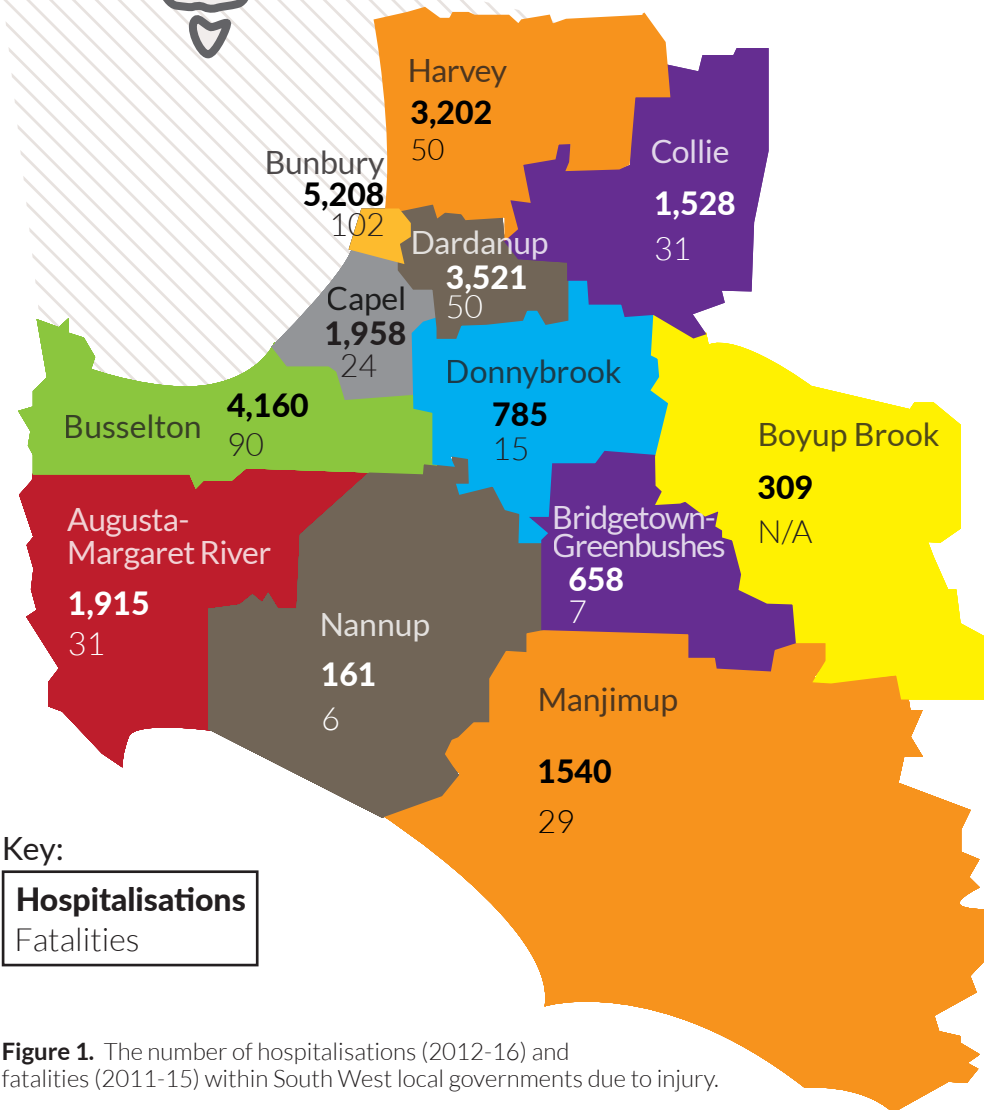
Individuals aged **65+** contributed to the highest proportion of injuries in the South West from 2011 to 2015.



The Know Injury program is provided by Injury Matters in partnership with the Department of Health WA

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



Key:  
**Hospitalisations**  
 Fatalities

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

	Hospitalisations		Fatalities	
	Number	ASR*	Number	ASR*
Falls	5,881	657.9	63	6.6
Road Trauma	2,536	316.8	91	11.1
Suicide and Self-Harm	967	125.0	128	15.5
Violence	700	93.2	8	N/A
Poisoning	356	42.2	43	5.2
Burns and Scalds	307	37.5	N/A	N/A
Drowning	67	7.8	18	N/A

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

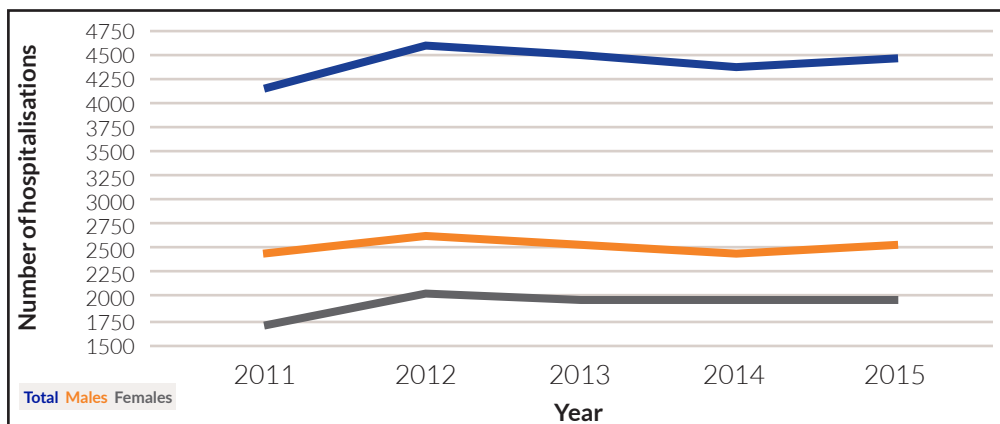


Figure 3. The number of hospitalisations in the South West from 2011-15 due to injury.

**References:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 3303.0 Causes of Death, Australia, 2017 [Internet]. Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2018. 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).

**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 South West?

Gaining an insight into the prevalence of injury within the South West region can assist in identifying injury areas which may require targeted prevention interventions. Given the incidence of road trauma, falls and suicide and self-harm in the South West 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.



### 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.



### SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM

- Support local health professionals to complete Mental Health First Aid training.
- Promote the use of mental health and counselling services.



Visit [www.knowinjury.org.au/know/injury-topics](http://www.knowinjury.org.au/know/injury-topics) for additional injury prevention interventions.

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.