

# International visitors trauma 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.**

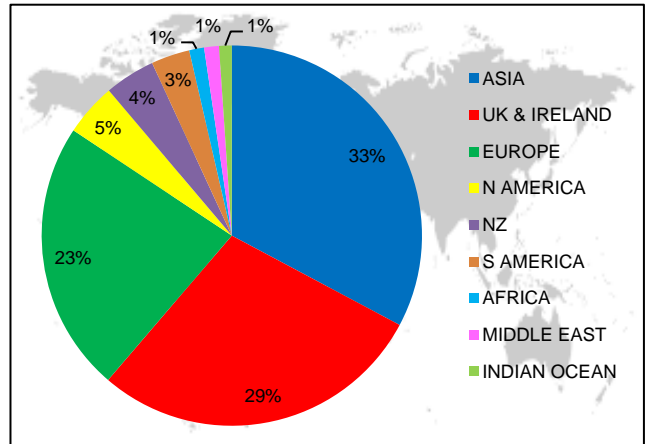
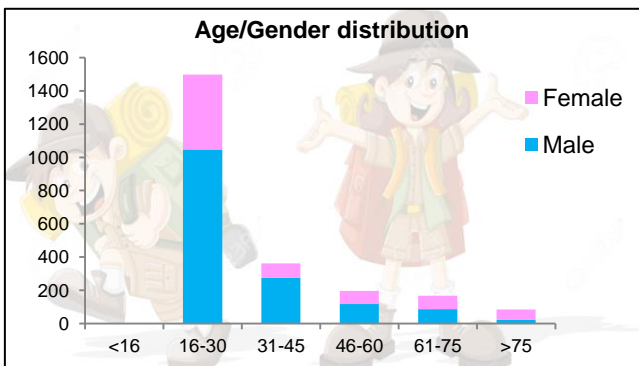
**Injuries are categorised into Minor (Injury Severity Score (ISS) <16); and Major (ISS >15)**

In the ten year period from 2010 to 2019 there have been 2310 international visitors who have sustained an injury resulting in admission to RPH following a general trauma event.

- 1553 (67.2%) were males
- 757 (32.8%) were females
- 1552 (67.2%) were from the metro area
- 712 (30.8%) were from regional WA
- 46 (2%) of injuries were other
- 1980 (85.7%) patients sustained minor injuries with an ISS of less than 16, and had a median length of stay (LOS) of 4.1 days
- 330 (14.3%) had major injuries with an ISS greater than 15 and had a median LOS of 14 days

Ages range from 14 to 95. Whilst some visitors were on holiday and student visas, 342 were on a working visa. The data shows that a much larger proportion of younger international visitors injured whilst in Western Australia are under the age of 35.

The 16-30 age group were the largest: 1497(64.8%). Of these, 1047 (45.3%)were males, and 450 (19.5%) females



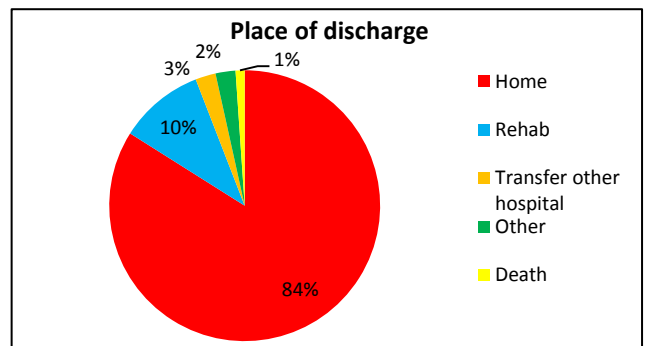
The mechanisms of injury for the international patients were:

- 875 (37.9%) road trauma
- 460 (19.9%) falls (from standing, < 3m or > 3m)
- 309 (13.4%) crush or cutting injury
- 264 (11.4%) struck or struck by an object
- 118 (5.1%) sports
- 64 (2.8%) water-related
- 220 (9.5%) other

360 (15.6%) patients had consumed alcohol:

- 68 (18.9%) were in cars, with 44 being the driver
- 96 (26.6%) were assaulted
- 15 (3.9%) involved swimming pools or oceans

Overall, the majority of the 2310 international visitors were discharged home from hospital: 1941(84%)  
A further 235 (10.2%) required rehabilitation



Unfamiliar road rules, vast distances and oceans are a few of the challenges that international visitors to WA face. Targeted campaigns and injury prevention messages, particularly targeting workplace training, should focus on these challenges, with an emphasis on self care and awareness whilst overseas.