



# International Visitors admitted to RPH following road trauma 2010 to 2019

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 875 international visitors to Western Australia who have sustained an injury resulting in admission to RPH following a road trauma event. This equates to an average of 87 patients per year, with a peak in 2014 of 126 admissions.

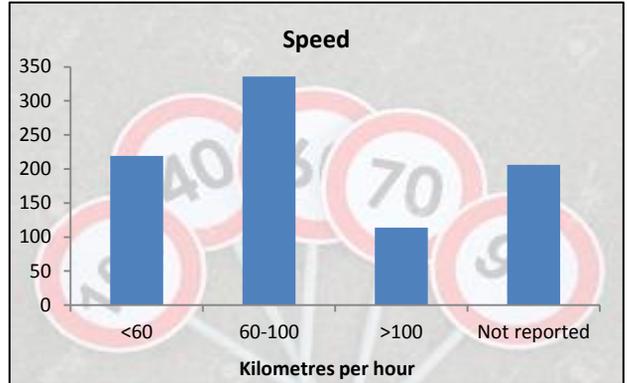
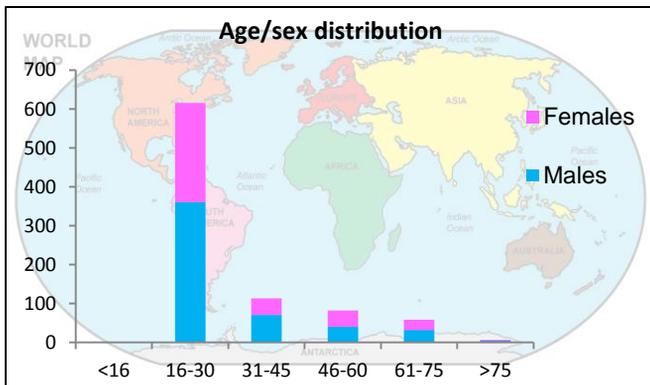
Of the 875 international visitors admitted to RPH 507 (57.9%) were males, and 368 (42.1%) were females.

- 435 (49.7%) occurred in the metro area
- 431 (49.3%) occurred in the country areas, and
- 9 (1%) occurred elsewhere

Males aged 16-30 years were the largest age group to be admitted (41.1%).

The majority of patients were either the driver (30.3%), front (17.5%), or rear passenger (17.7%) in a motor vehicle

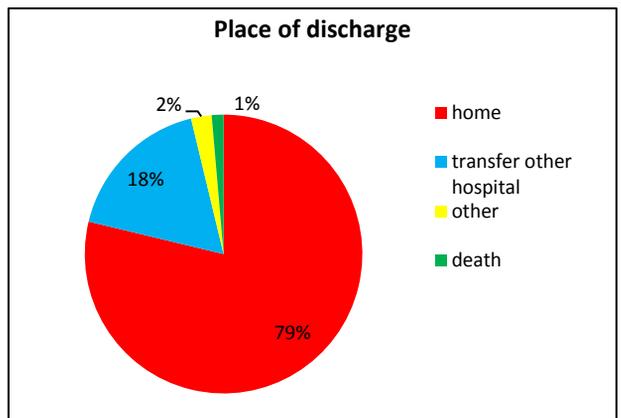
- 98 (11.2%) patients had consumed alcohol within 12 hours of their road trauma and, of these,
- 55 (14%) were either the driver or motor bike rider in control of the vehicle



Of the 875 patients:

- 103 (11.8%) had taken alcohol and/or other drugs
- 119 (13.6%) were not compliant where safety device (i.e. seatbelts or helmets) was applicable
- 651 patients (74.4%) sustained minor trauma with an injury severity score (ISS) of less than 16 and an average length of stay (LOS) of 4.9 days
- 224 patients (25.6%) sustained major trauma with an ISS of more than 15, and had an average LOS of 14.4 days

689 (78.7%) of patients were discharged home. A further 130 (17.5%) required rehabilitation.



Western Australia (WA) covers a third of the continent of Australia and has a land mass of approximately 2.5 million square kilometres. Travelling on WA roads may present a challenge to visitors not familiar with the Australian road system. Different road rules, unsealed roads, vast distances and animals are a few of the challenges that visitors unfamiliar with WA roads face. Injury prevention programs should focus on these differences, and emphasise the need to wear safety devices, and adjust to the road conditions where appropriate.