

Alcohol and Other Drug Related Injuries in Western Australia

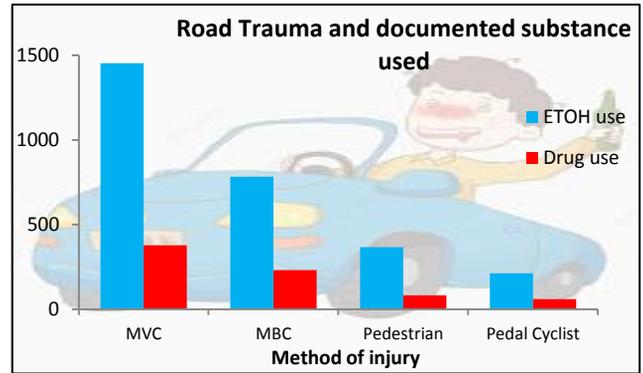
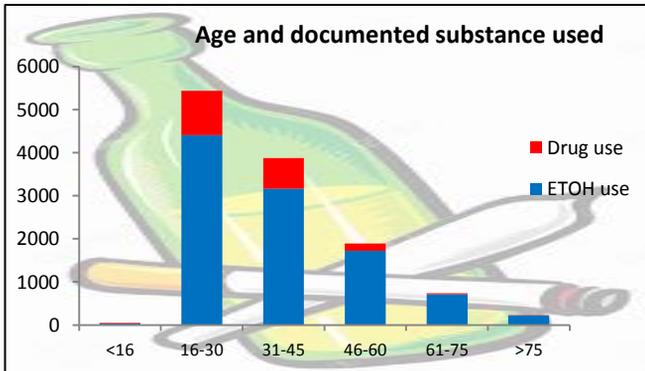
The Royal Perth Hospital Trauma Registry (RPH-TR) has collected and reported on injury data since August 1994. It contributes to a State Trauma Registry database, combining data from all Perth tertiary hospitals and Joondalup Health Campus.

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)

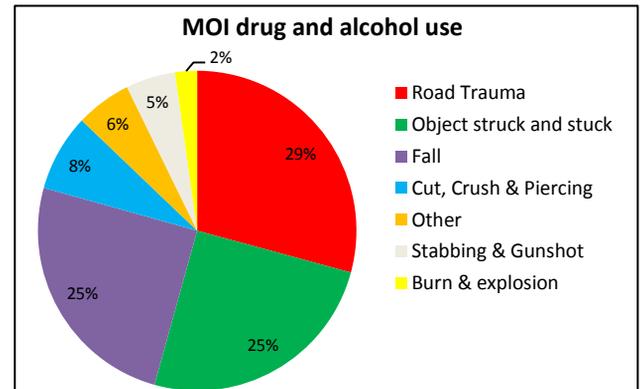
From 2010 to 2019, 12,211 patients were admitted to RPH with alcohol and/or drug-related injuries as documented in the medical record. The risks of alcohol use as a precursor to trauma and injury is well documented. This report looks at alcohol & drug use against gender, age, mechanism of injury (MOI) and major or minor injury severity.

- Of the 12,211 admissions of all alcohol and/or drug related injury hospitalisations:
 - 9409 (77.1%) were male
 - 2802 (22.9%) were female
- 4413 (43%) of young adults (aged 16-30) consumed alcohol prior to their injury. After peaking in 2012 with 543 admissions (26.7%), this age group has steadily reduced to 360 admissions (24.1%) in 2019
- All age groups have increased their usage of drugs in this period.
- 29.2% of road traumas are associated with drug and/or alcohol use
- Consumers of alcohol and/or drugs were less likely to use safety devices than patients who did not



From 2010 – 2019:

- 27.4% of all patients involved in a motor vehicle crash (MVC), and 37.2% of all pedestrians, reported using alcohol and/ or other drugs prior to their trauma.
- Speed is also a factor when substances are taken, with 1670 (46.8%) of all road trauma occurring at 60 - 100 or >100 km/h involving drugs and/or alcohol.
- 51.5% of victims of domestic and family violence had reported drug and/or alcohol use.
- Alcohol and/or drug users had a median ISS of 22, with an average length of stay of 13.7 days for alcohol and 11.4 days for drug use.



This data demonstrates the high incidence of alcohol and drug use in patients admitted to hospital as a result of road trauma, falls, and objects (both struck & struck by). It is encouraging to see the alcohol reduction in young adults, however drug use continues to increase. Such crises presentations provide an opportunity for a brief, but targeted, intervention aimed at preventing further alcohol and drug-related injuries. Trauma Registries play an important role in the identification of target groups and can be used to monitor the impact of any prevention program.