

KNOW INJURY IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN

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

Injury is the leading underlying cause of death in Western Australia for ages 1-44 years.¹

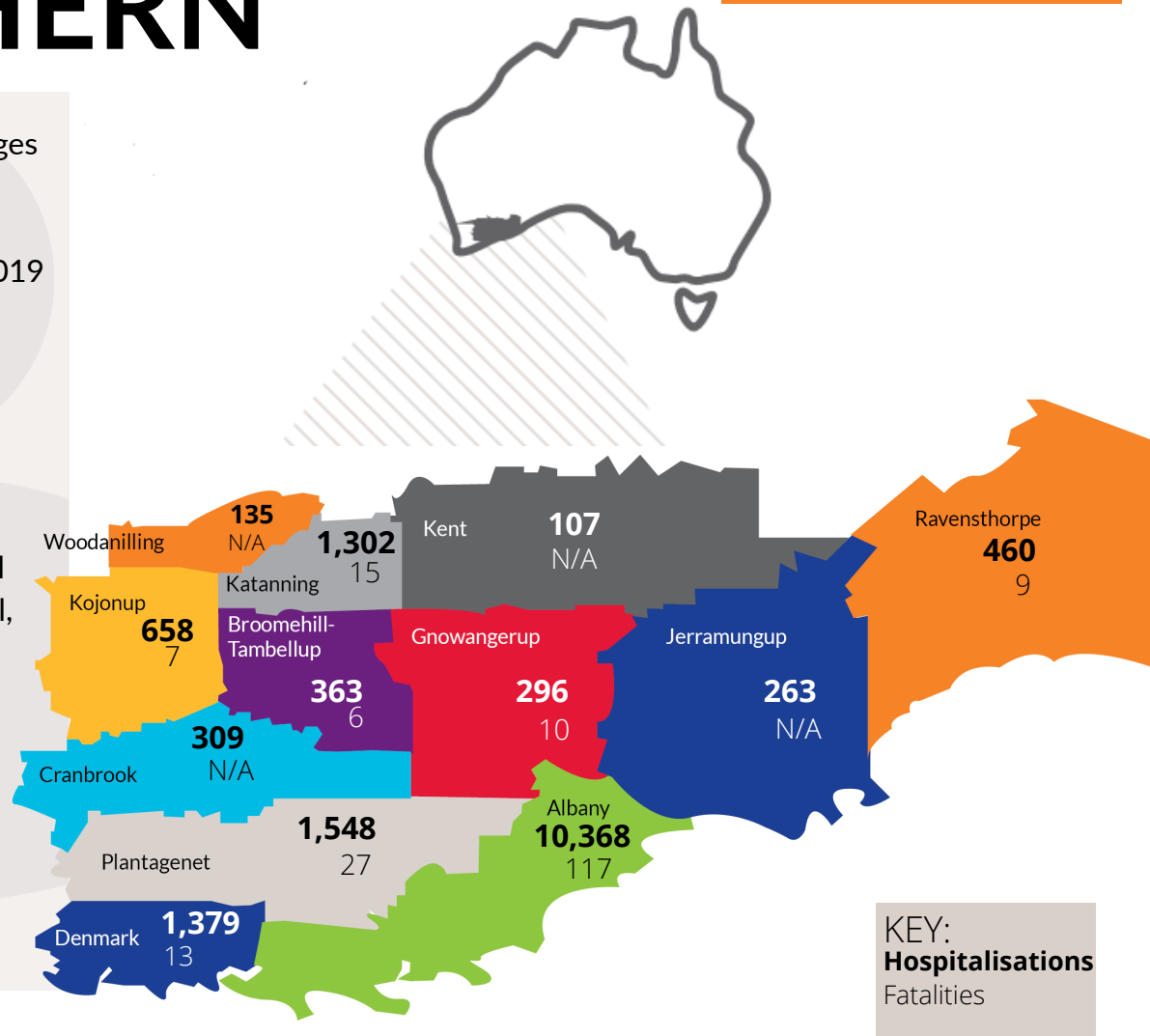
In 2018 throughout the Great Southern there were 41 fatalities and in 2019 there were 3,885 hospitalisations due to injury. These hospitalisations consumed 21,191 bed days at an approximate cost of \$40,940,236.

The leading causes of these hospitalizations (2015-2019) and fatalities (2014-2018) were falls, transport and intentional self-harm.

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 Great Southern is significantly larger than the 3,885 hospitalisations and 41 fatalities.

Individuals aged **65+** contributed to the highest proportion of injuries in the Great Southern from 2015 to 2019.

Aboriginal peoples experiences over **3 times** the rate of injury hospitalisations in the Great Southern in 2006 to 2015.



KEY:
Hospitalisations
 Fatalities



Injury Matters acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout Western Australia and pay respects to Elders past and present. We also recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuing connection to land, waters and community across Western Australia.



KNOW
INJURY IN THE
GREAT SOUTHERN

	Hospitalisations		Fatalities	
	Number	ASR*	Number	ASR*
Falls	3,621	871.5	61	12.4
Exposure to mechanical forces	1,721	575.8	5	N/A
Transport	1,133	383.3	50	17.7
Intentional self-harm	674	257.2	45	14.4
Poisoning	297	91.8	27	9.1
Assault	293	115.2	N/A	N/A
Burns and Scalds	171	58.4	N/A	N/A
Drowning	103	27.3	5	N/A

Figure 2. The number and rate of injury hospitalisations (2015-19) and fatalities (2014-18) in the Great Southern.

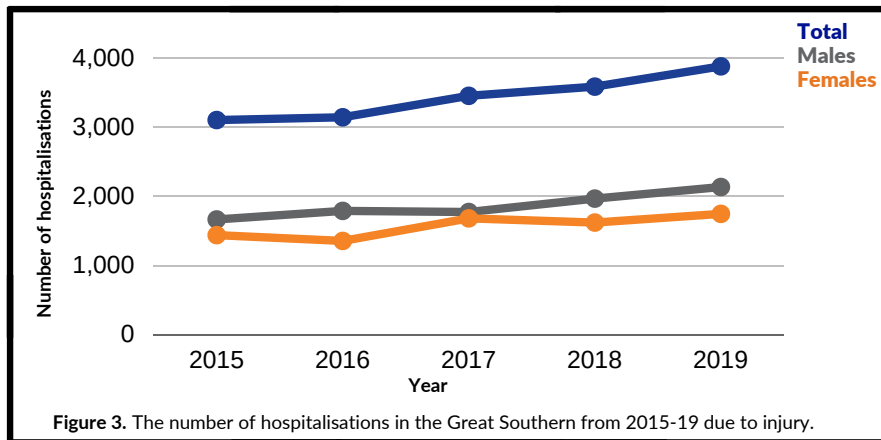


Figure 3. The number of hospitalisations in the Great Southern from 2015-19 due to injury.

Data notes

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).

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.

Reference

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 3303.0 Causes of Death, Western Australia, 2019. (2020).

How can we reduce the impact of injury in the Great Southern?

Gaining an insight into the prevalence of injury within the Great Southern region can assist in identifying injury areas which may require targeted prevention interventions. Given the incidence of intentional self-harm, falls, transport and poisoning in the Great Southern some actions which can be taken to reduce their prevalence include;

INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM

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



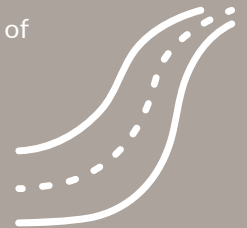
FALLS

- Engage in Stay On Your Feet® campaigns to increase community members' awareness of actions they can take to reduce their risk of falling.
- Promote local strength and balance exercise classes.



TRANSPORT

- Develop interventions which focus on the cornerstones of WA's Road Safety Strategy.
- Improve road infrastructure by sealing shoulders, installing audible edge lines, removing roadside hazards and installing safety barriers.



POISONING

- Educate local residents about the importance of safe storage of poisons in the home or on the farm.
- Promote the safe disposal of chemical substances.



Visit www.knowinjury.org.au/know/injury-topics for additional injury prevention interventions.