

KNOW INJURY IN THE MIDWEST

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 Midwest there were 32 fatalities and in 2019 there were 3,966 hospitalisations due to injury. These hospitalisations consumed 22,095 bed days at an approximate cost of \$43,843,798.

The leading causes of these hospitalisations (2015-2019) were falls, exposure to mechanical forces and transport; whilst intentional self-harm, transport and falls were the leading causes of fatalities (2014-2018).

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 Midwest is significantly larger than the 3,966 hospitalisations and 32 fatalities.

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

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

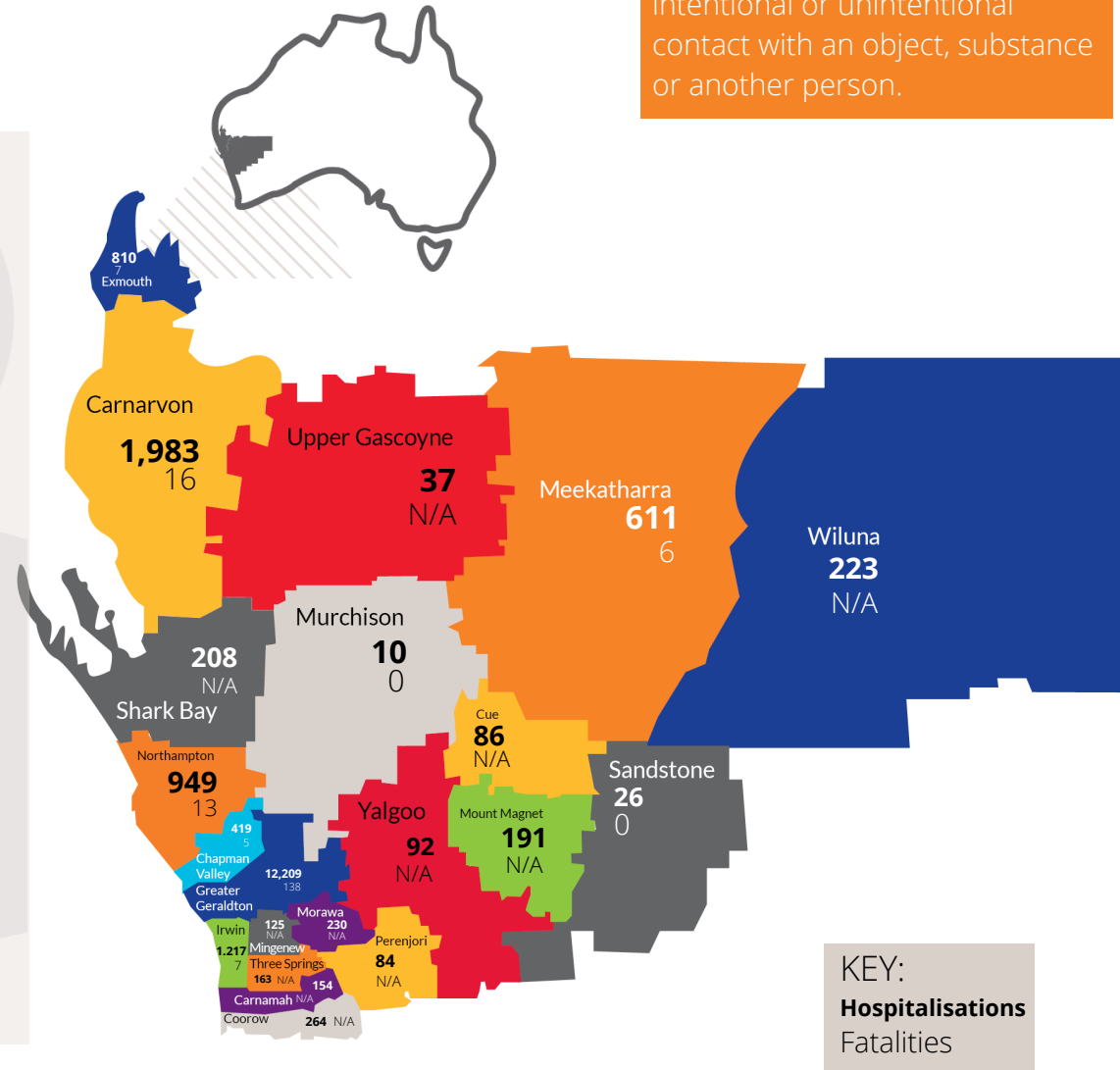


Figure 1. The number of hospitalisations (2015-19) and fatalities (2014-18) within Midwest local governments due to injury.



The Know Injury program is provided by Injury Matters and funded by the WA Department of Health.
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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.

	Hospitalisations		Fatalities	
	Number	ASR*	Number	ASR*
Falls	4,084	1,183.1	42	12.2
Exposure to mechanical forces	2,566	828.5	0	N/A
Transport	1,247	409.9	45	14.4
Assault	868	308.4	6	N/A
Intentional self-harm	613	212.6	78	24.7
Poisoning	392	125.5	29	8.5
Burns and Scalds	233	74.2	N/A	N/A
Drowning	116	34.0	6	N/A

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

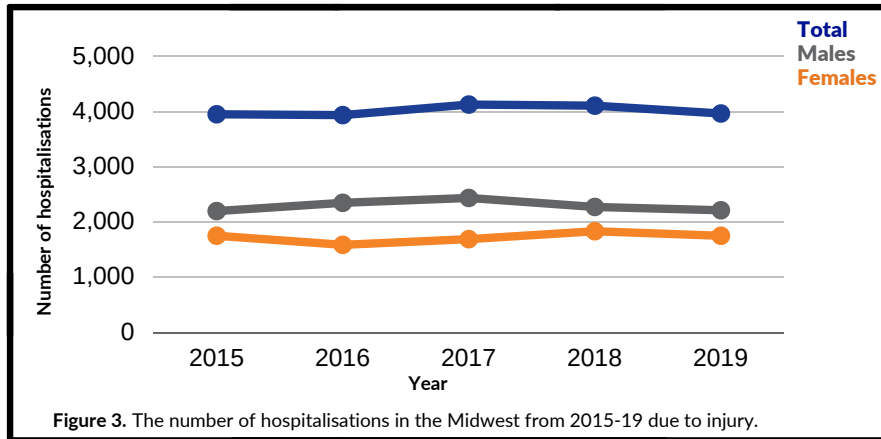


Figure 3. The number of hospitalisations in the Midwest from 2015-19 due to injury.

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 Midwest?

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

ASSAULT

- Increase the capacity of first responders intervening in cases of family and domestic violence.
- Restrict alcohol advertising at sporting venues.



INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM

- Support local mental health 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.



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