

KNOW **INJURY** IN THE SOUTH WEST

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

In 2018 throughout the South West there were 115 fatalities and in 2019 there were 9,830 hospitalisations due to injury. These hospitalisations consumed 50,169 bed days at an approximate cost of \$98,075,532.

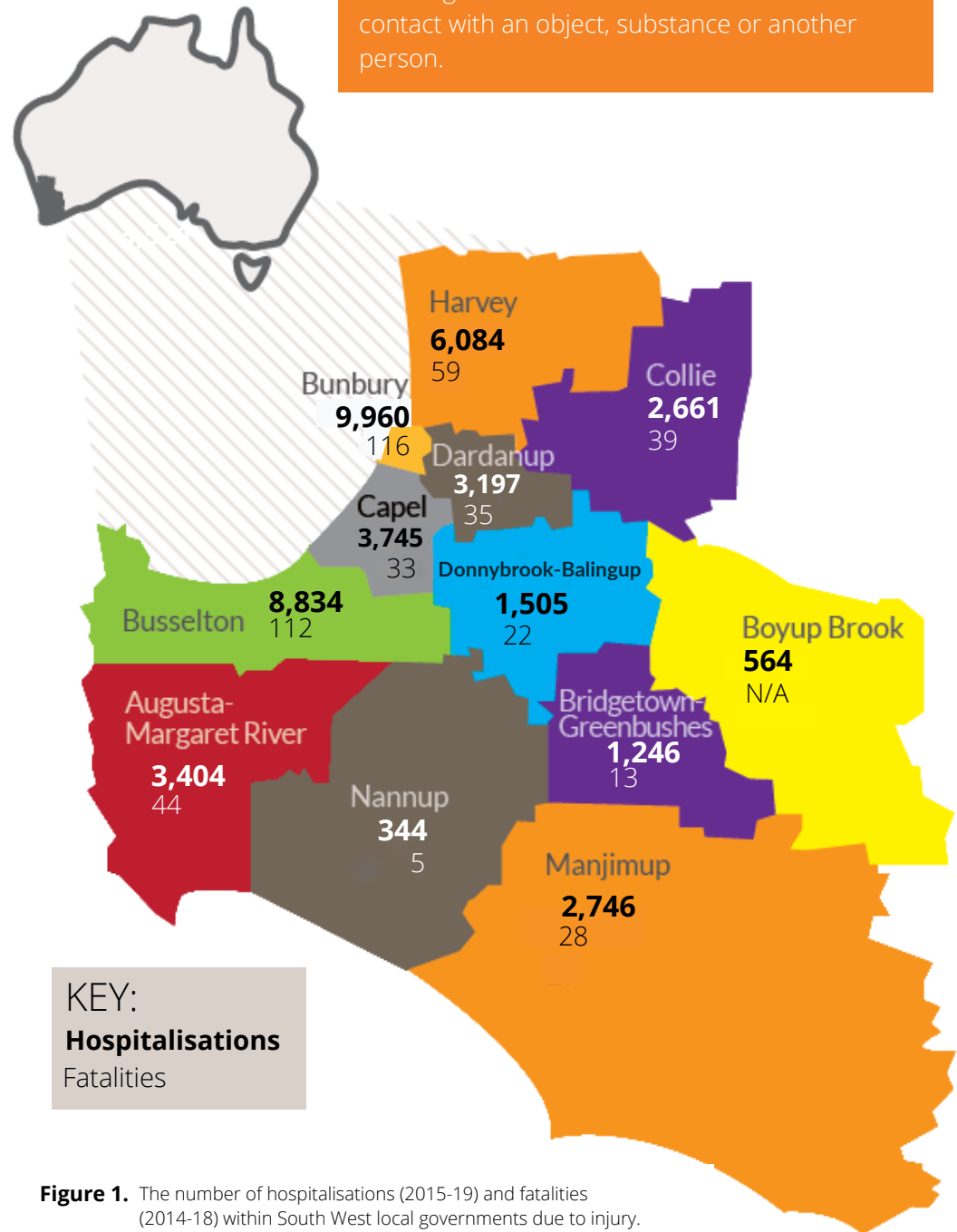
The leading causes of these hospitalisations (2015-2019) were falls, exposure to mechanical forces and transport; whilst intentional self-harm, falls and transport were the leading causes of fatalities (2014-2018).

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 South West is significantly larger than the 9,830 hospitalisations and 115 fatalities.

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

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

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



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

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



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	Hospitalisations		Fatalities	
	Number	ASR*	Number	ASR*
Falls	10,043	974.1	122	11.3
Exposure to mechanical forces	4,256	490.4	8	N/A
Transport	3,073	368.4	107	12.9
Intentional self-harm	1,535	194.4	147	17.4
Assault	764	98.7	13	N/A
Poisoning	681	76.2	59	7.0
Burns and Scalds	451	52.5	5	N/A
Drowning	393	37.7	18	N/A

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

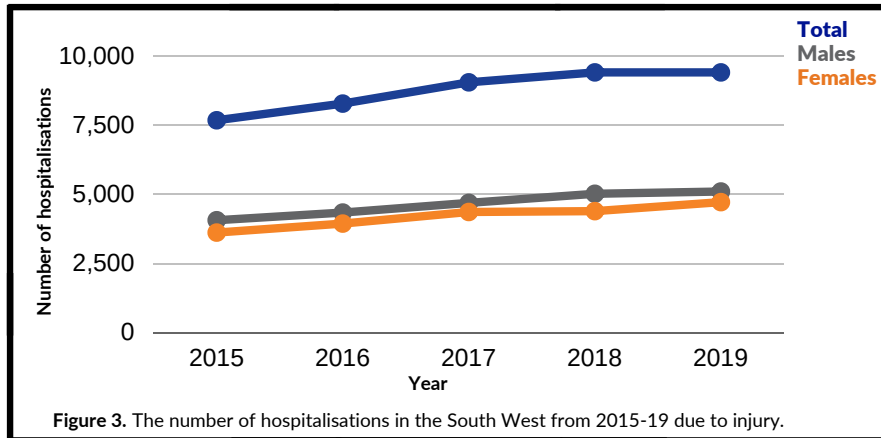


Figure 3. The number of hospitalisations in the South West from 2015-19 due to injury.

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 South West?

Gaining an insight into the prevalence of injury within the South West region can assist in identifying injury areas which may require targeted prevention interventions. Given the incidence of intentional self-harm, falls and transport in the South West 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.



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

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.