

Admissions to Royal Perth Hospital with injuries from assaults

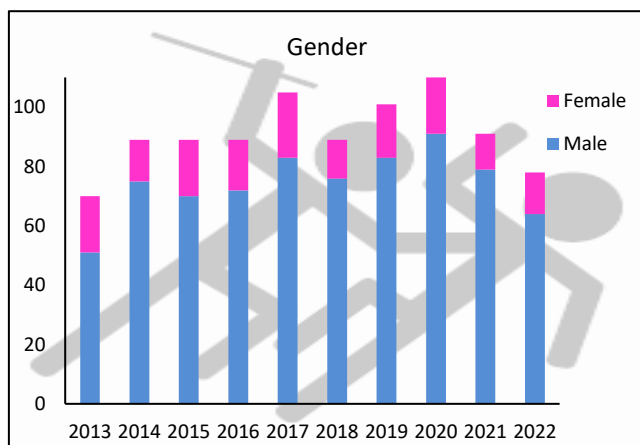
The Royal Perth Hospital Trauma Registry (RPH-TR) has collected and reported on injury data since August 1994. It contributes to a State Trauma Registry database, combining data from all Perth tertiary hospitals SJoG Midland and Joondalup Health Campus.

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.

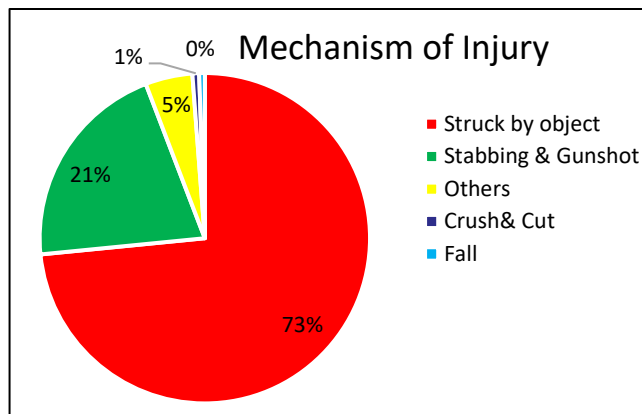
Injuries are categorised into Minor (Injury Severity Score (ISS) <13); and Major (ISS >12)

Over the ten year period from 2013 - 2022, RPH treated 911 patients who received a major trauma injury as a result of an assault. Of these, 209 were the result of family & domestic violence (FDV)

- 630 (69.2%) of assaults occur in the metro area with 278 (30.5%) patients admitted from the country.
- 744 (81.7%) of assault victims were male
- 167 (18.3%) were female.



- 486 (53.3%) of the assaults involved documented alcohol and 126 (13.8%) involved drug use
- 339 (37.2%) were aged 16 - 30 years old
- 337 (37%) were aged 31 - 45 years old
- 556 (61%) of these two groups were male
- 321 (35.2%) of assaults occurred in the home, 39 in 2013, slowly increasing to 72 in 2020 before dropping to 63 in 2022
- 224 (24.6%) did not record the location type.

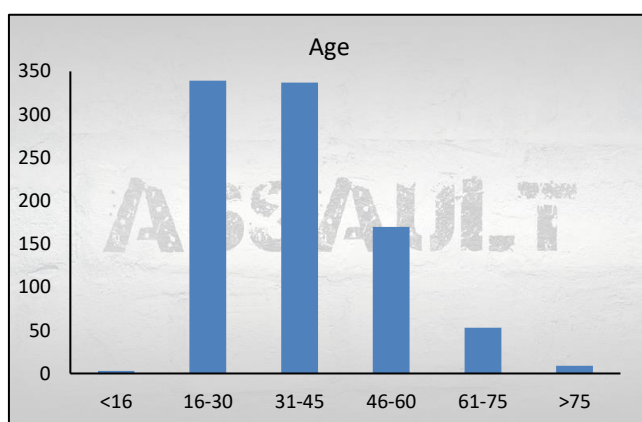


The majority of injuries sustained during an assault are caused by:

- 669 (73.4%) being struck by or struck an object
- 189 (20.7%) stabbing or gunshot injuries
- 42 (4.6%) caused by other
- 6 (0.7%) caused by crush or cutting injuries
- 5 (0.5%) caused by falls

- For the 911 majors, their ISS ranged from 13 – 75 with a median ISS of 21. The average acute length of stay (LOS) was 9.7 days.
- 209 (22.9%) patients who suffered FDV had a median ISS of 19 and an average LOS of 8.4 days

- 594 (65.2%) of assaulted patients were discharged home from RPH



Over the last ten years, the numbers of assaults have gradually increased, peaking in 2020. Whilst males have increased and continue to be the main victims of assault the number of females has slightly decreased. The home is the most common location for both genders. On average, one woman is killed by a partner or former partner every week in Australia.