



Royal Perth Hospital admissions related to family and domestic violence

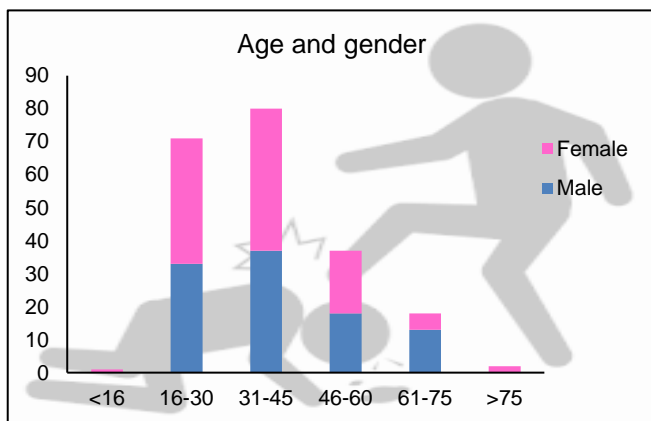
The Royal Perth Hospital Trauma Registry (RPH-TR) has collected and reported on injury data since August 1994. It contributes to a State Trauma Registry database, combining data from all Perth tertiary hospitals, SJoG Midland and Joondalup Health Campus.

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, there were 1319 trauma admissions to RPH associated with family and domestic violence (FDV). 209 people were admitted as major trauma, and of these:

- 107 (51.2%) victims of FDV admissions were from the metropolitan region
- 102 (48.8%) patients were admitted from the country
- 108 (51.7%) were female, and
- 101 (48.3%) were male.



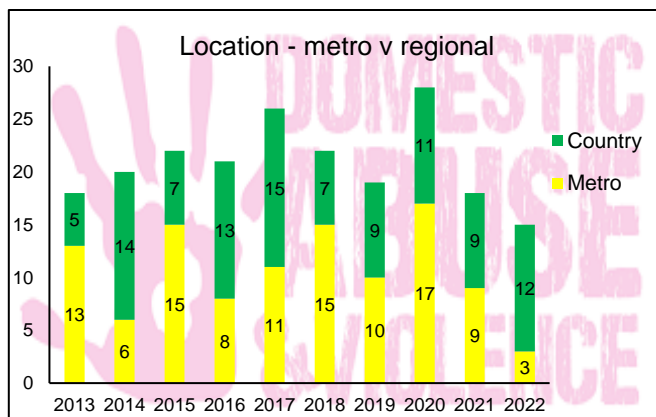
- 103 (49.3%) of DFV had documented alcohol use; 22 had (10.5%) documented drug use

Ages ranged from 15 – 81 years:

- 71 (34%) were aged between 16-30 years
- 80 (38.3%) were aged between 31-45 years
- 57 (27.3%) were aged greater than 45
- 26 (24.1%) of the >45 groups were female

The majority of injuries sustained during FDV were caused by:

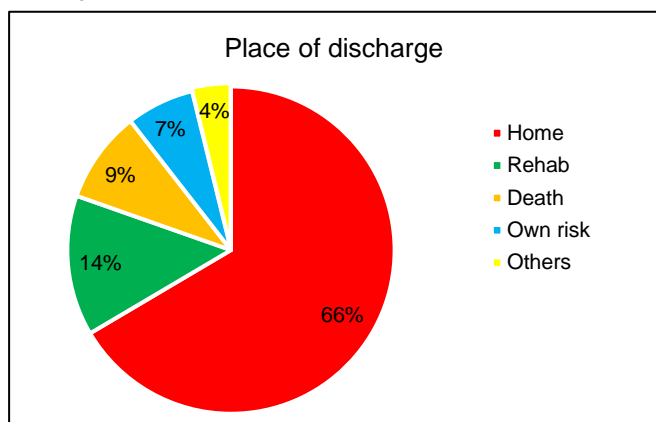
- 128 (61.2%) struck by or struck an object
- 72 (34.4%) stabbing or gunshot injuries
- 2 (1%) crush / cutting or piercing injuries
- 7 (3.3%) other



- 58 patients (27.8%) did not have the location recorded
- Of the 151 patients with known locations, 131 (86.8%) incidents of FDV occurred in the home. There were 18 incidents in 2013, increasing slowly each year to a peak of 28 in 2020.
- Of these (in 2020), 13 (46.4%) were female and 15 (53.6%) were male
- Overall, 104 (49.8%) of FDV was committed by a partner

The Injury Severity Score for majors ranged from 13 to 50, with a median ISS of 19. The average acute length of stay was 8.4 days

- There were 19 (9.1%) deaths.
- 139 (66.5%) of FDV patients were discharged directly home from RPH.



Over the last 10 years the numbers of major trauma in FDV-related assaults admitted to RPH have increased so it is encouraging that 2022 saw the least admissions since 2013. FDV injuries increase with the use of alcohol and other drugs with the home environment being the usual place for these assaults to occur. FDV needs to continue to be in the mainstream media to heighten awareness on the need for targeted injury prevention initiatives to reduce these numbers.