

International visitors trauma admissions to Royal Perth Hospital since 2013

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.

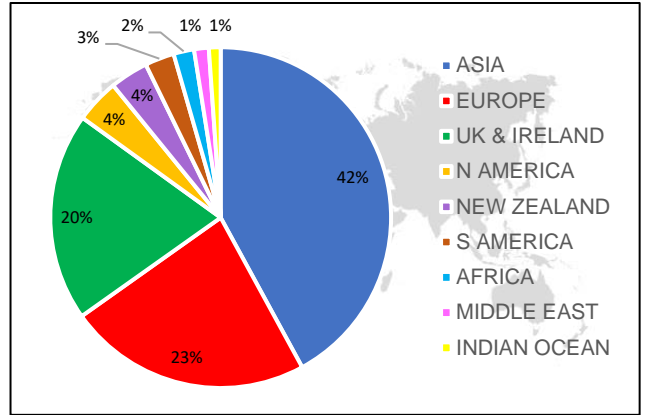
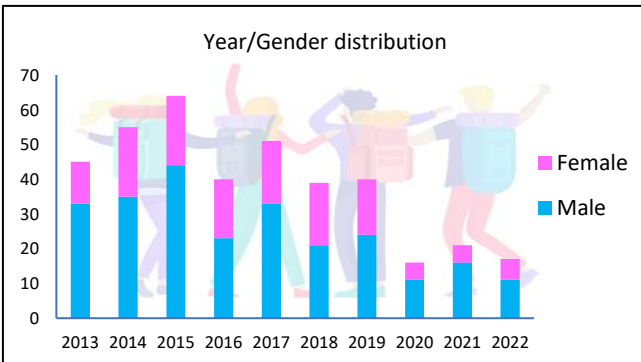
Injuries are categorised into Minor (Injury Severity Score (ISS) <13); and Major (ISS >12)

In the ten year period from 2013 to 2022 there have been 388 international visitors who have sustained a major injury resulting in admission to RPH following a general trauma event.

- 251 (64.7%) were males
- 137 (35.3%) were females
- 198 (51%) were from the metro area
- 184 (47.4%) were from regional WA
- 6 (1.6%) of injuries were other
- All 388 patients sustained major injuries with an ISS of greater than 12, and had a median length of stay (LOS) of 7 days

Ages range from 16 to 88. Whilst some visitors were on holiday and student visas, 80 were on a working visa. The data shows that a much larger proportion of younger international visitors injured whilst in Western Australia are under the age of 35.

- The 16-30 age group were the largest: 223 (57.5%). Of these,
- 144 (37.1%) were males,
- 79 (20.4%) females



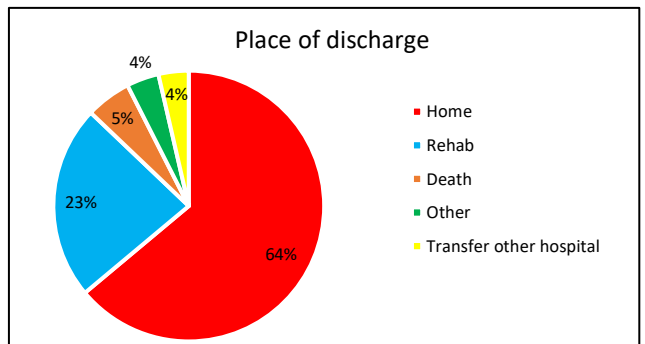
The mechanisms of injury for the international patients were:

- 243 (63.8%) road trauma
- 71 (18.6%) falls (from standing, < 3m or > 3m)
- 31 (8%) struck or struck by an object
- 18 (4.6%) water-related
- 7 (1.8%) crush or cutting injury
- 7 (1.8%) sports
- 11 (2.8%) other

67 (17.3%) patients had consumed alcohol
9 (2.3%) had consumed drugs

- 176 (45.4%) were in cars, with 77 (19.8%) being the driver
- 22 (5.6%) were assaulted
- 8 (2.1%) involved swimming pools or oceans

Overall, the majority of the 388 international visitors were discharged home from hospital: 249 (64.2%)
A further 103 (26.5%) required rehabilitation. 21 (5.4%)



Unfamiliar road rules, vast distances and ocean swimming are a few of the challenges that international visitors face. Targeted campaigns and injury prevention messages, particularly targeting workplace training, should focus on these challenges, with an emphasis on self care and awareness whilst visiting from overseas.