Patterns of Injuries among 0-19 year olds in the Metropolitan region, 2001-2011

Perth is Western Australia's state capital and largest city. The Perth Metropolitan area is divided into the North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) and the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS), covering around 8,000 square kilometres. Both the NMHS and SMHS offer a comprehensive range of health services.

Health Services and Hospitals in the Metropolitan region include Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Sir Charles Gairdner, Osbourne Park, Graylands, Kalamunda, King Edward Memorial, Swan Districts, Armadale, Bentley, Fiona Stanley, Fremantle, Rockingham and Royal Perth Hospital.

Demographics

330,059
Children reside in the Metropolitan region on average per year

Child Injury Stats

About 1 in 2 WA child injury deaths occur in the Metropolitan region

26,303
Metropolitan children treated each year for an injury

7,318
Metropolitan children hospitalised each year for an injury

METROPOLITAN

47
Child deaths due to injury each year

Government of Western Australia Department of Health

Kidsafe
Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia Western Australia
Both the North Metropolitan and South Metropolitan regions recorded the lowest injury death rates (9.7 deaths per 100,000 and 11.5 deaths per 100,000 respectively) and hospitalisation rates (1,727.8 per 100,000 and 1,665.3 per 100,000 respectively) among 0 to 19 year olds when compared to all other regions in WA. The Metropolitan regions also recorded the third and fourth lowest injury hospitalisation rate of Aboriginal children in WA with 2,537.5 per 100,000 in the North Metropolitan region and 2,817.2 per 100,000 in the South Metropolitan region, compared to 1,706.5 per 100,000 and 1,624.4 per 100,000 respectively for non-Aboriginal children.

When child injury hospitalisations are broken down by gender, males aged 0-19 years were more likely to be hospitalised for an injury in both the North and South Metropolitan region accounting for 2,193.0 per 100,000 and 2,127.1 per 100,000 respectively compared to females with rates of 1,237.8 per 100,000 and 1,178.1 per 100,000 respectively.

The majority of hospitalisations (89.9%, n=57,588) were due to unintentional circumstances. Causes of unintentional injury resulting in hospitalisation in the Metropolitan region include:

- **Falls (33%)**
- **Transport Accidents (16%)**
- **Poisoning (4%)**
- **Burns & Scalds (3%)**

**PRIORITIES FOR PREVENTION**

- Raise awareness within the community of the causes of childhood injury and the extent of the problem.
- Convey to the community that childhood injuries are largely preventable.
- Involve key community stakeholders such as parents, carers, child care services, educators, health professionals and sporting organisations.
- Provide culturally appropriate information with a specific focus on injuries to Aboriginal children, children of low-socio economic status and those living in remote communities.
- Encourage supervision as the most important method in the prevention of childhood injuries.
- Promote the use of child car restraints and direct parents and carers to qualified type 2 child car restraint installers.
- Educate community members on how to keep young children safe in and around water.
- Educate community members on substances that can be poisonous to children, such as medications, alcohol, cleaning products and other chemicals and encourage them to store poisons locked away and up high.

For further information on childhood injury prevention and resources that may be useful in your region please visit the Kidsafe WA website: [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)

**REFERENCES**
