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Injury Deaths Australia 1979 - 1998

(State, Year of Death Registration, Counts, Rates per 100,000 Population, Age Group and Sex)

(A NISU Routine Surveillance Data Report)

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Introduction

The National Injury Surveillance Unit has developed a data set which reports Australian injury related deaths from 1979 on, in a uniform fashion. The volume of data available is very large. We plan to release one set of summary tables each year - the latest set of summary tables includes 1998. These tables present injury and poisoning death counts and rates per 100,000 population by five year age groups and sex. Injury and poisoning external causes codes (ICD9 E) are aggregated in five ways in these tables.

For the purpose of electronic publication via the World Wide Web, these aggregations are divided into 5 sections. Each section contains counts and rates for males, females and persons. For the less detailed aggregations (sections 1 to 4), summaries are included for each State and Australia while, for the most detailed aggregation (section 5), summaries are for Australia only.

Depending on your browser, you should be able to use this information in another application by either cut and paste, or save as a text file.

NISU has also developed more detailed versions of these data - for more information contact [NISU](#).

Explanatory Notes - Data Sources

Death Data

Death data are obtained in unit record form from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In these tables, each death has been reported according to the State or Territory in which it was registered, which may differ from place of usual residence. Also, each death is reported according to the calendar year in which it was registered. About 9% of deaths occurred in a year other than the year in which it was registered.

Population Data

Population data are obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Values up to and including 1992 are final estimates, adjusted following the 1991 Census. Estimates for 1995 are the latest available from ABS. State and Territory populations are based on place of usual residence.

Age adjustment

Age adjustment of data is used to calculate overall population rates which take into account the age distribution of the underlying population. This permits more reliable comparisons to be made between States with different age profiles and over time as age profiles shift. In accordance with Australian Institute of Health and Welfare guidelines, age adjustment is to the 1991 Australian population. These age adjusted rates appear in rate tables under the heading Age Adj.

Use of data based on small numbers of deaths

The tables in this report have been abridged to suppress rate information based on 3 or fewer cases. Care must be taken when interpreting rates based on small numbers of deaths. Information on methods for comparing full enumeration based rate data, taking into account the number of cases can be obtained from [NISU](#).

Age classifications

The age of the deceased was unknown for a small number of deaths. These are included only on case count based tables under the heading **NS**

Drowning: Interpretation of time series.

Drowning is classified in a number of ways in this document. It is presented in Sections 1, 3 and 5. The level of detail is greatest in Section 5. This detailed information became available after the addition of special drowning codes to the ABS deaths data. These codes were introduced in States and Territories at various times during the 1980s. Nation-wide application commenced with deaths registered in 1992.

The drowning data tables in Section 5 further divide deaths coded to E910, according to the new drowning codes. This publication covers the period 1991-1995, and the detailed drowning codes were only available from 1992. Hence, the drowning tables in Section 5 show a break in the time series, and care must be used when interpreting them. There are two phases.

Pre 1991

No detailed drowning codes were available at national level. Section 5 does not contain any more information than Section 3.

1992 onwards

Drowning codes were available at national level, and the data are summarised in Section 5. The reliability of the newly introduced coding system is unknown, and caution should be used when interpreting differences between 1992 and subsequent values.

Injury Cause Classifications

Information in the mortality collection originates with coroners, medical practitioners and persons familiar with the deceased, is recorded by State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and is further processed by the ABS. The key data item for present purposes, 'Cause of death', contains the four digit International Classification of Diseases (ICD9) external causes code (E-Code) attributed by ABS.

This publication includes all deaths which have a Cause of death code (E-Code) in the range 800.0 to 999.9. The E-Codes are defined by the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) *Supplementary Classification of External Causes of Injury and Poisoning*. Revision 9 of the ICD has been used to code deaths registered in Australia since the beginning of 1979. Readers should recognise that characteristics of the ICD9 coding system and of the data collection system in use results in some injury deaths being coded in ways that lead to their omission from these tables.

Categories of mode of injury death

Many of the E-Code categories have been aggregated by NISU for more informative presentation in tables. They are based on the National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance December 1995 edition. Categories available are as follows.

Contents

[Section 1](#) - National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance Cause Categories.

This classification considers causes of injury regardless of intent. Accidental and intentional injuries are counted together to the extent permitted by the data source.
Peruse a [list](#) of the categories available.

[Section 2](#) - National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance Intent Categories.

This classification considers whether injuries were accidental, self inflicted or inflicted by another person.
Peruse a [list](#) of the categories available.

[Section 3](#) - Major E-Code Groups (summary of all injury causes).

This classification is based on the major sections of the ICD External Causes classification. Major groups of injuries are identified - self inflicted and intentional injuries are contained in separate groups.
Peruse a [list](#) of the categories available.

[Section 4](#) - Transport Groups.

This classification considers those cases where there was a transport related cause. It divides public road, other road and other vehicle categories and water and air transport related categories.
Peruse a [list](#) of the categories available.

[Section 5](#) - Detailed mode of injury groups.

These are the most detailed data. Please note that data is ordered by Accidental, Self Inflicted

(suicide) and Intentional (interpersonal violence) causes.
Peruse a [list](#) of the categories available.

Drowning codes are included in the ABS deaths data set and permit a more detailed classification of drowning from 1992 on. However, please consider the [guidelines for drowning](#) before interpreting such data.

Section 6 - Injury Death Data Summaries

- [Firearm related deaths](#)
- [Injury by Firearms Australia 1994](#)
- [Youth Suicide and Self-Injury Australia](#)

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This classification considers causes of injury regardless of intent. Accidental and intentional injuries are counted together to the extent permitted by the data source.

NDSIS Cause

Go straight to the [Query Form](#)

Limitations in ICD9 Ecode classifications do not permit exact replication of the NDSIS Cause categories. Full documentation of the NDSIS coding system is available from NISU. The following differences should be noted when using deaths data.

Note 1: ICD9CM does not enable good identification of "horse related injuries" or "dog related injuries". When data collected according to NDSIS Item 2A are compared with aggregated ICD data, the three Item 2A "Animal" categories should be combined. The resulting single "Animal related" category is nearly equivalent to the following ICD codes, which should be used to define the comparison group:

ICD-9-CM: E810-E825/.5; E826-E829/.2,.3; E905/all but .7; E906.

Note 2: ICD-9-CM does not generally allow the height of a fall to be specified. When data collected according to NDSIS Item 2A are compared with aggregated ICD data, the two Item 2A "Falls" categories should be combined. The resulting single "Falls" category is nearly equivalent to the following ICD codes, which should be used to define a comparison group:

ICD-9-CM: E880-E888; E957, E968.1, and E987

Note 3: The ICD codes shown in the table are the nearest equivalents to the Item 2A category "Drowning, submersion - swimming pool", but the correspondence is not perfect. ICD-9-CM has no specific category for drowning and immersion in a swimming pool. Non-intentional cases are included in the residual category "Other accidental drowning and submersion". Thus, comparisons of NDSIS Item 2A data with ICD data must be made very cautiously. Good comparisons can be made with Australian drowning deaths registered in 1992 or later, by use of the `ABS Drowning' data item. A more detailed analysis of drowning using this information is included from 1992 onwards in Detailed Mode Of Injury Group tables.

Note 4: ICD-9-CM provides many more categories for coding "accidental" external causes than for other intent groups, and specific codes for non-accidental instances of the types of event covered by some Item 2A categories are not provided. The ICD codes shown in the table include only "accidental" instances of the type of event covered by some Item 2A categories (groups 1 to 7, 11, 16, 21, 22, 24, and 26). Provision of codes for non-accidental instances is incomplete for some other groups. Accordingly, it is advisable to take account of both Item 2A and Item 2B when comparing data collected according to the NDS-IS Level 1 categories with aggregated ICD data.

Row labels	ICD-9 E-Codes
Motor vehicle - driver.	E810-E825/0
Motor vehicle - passenger or unspecified occupant	E810-E825/1
Motorcycle - driver	E810-E825/2
Motorcycle - passenger or unspecified whether driver or	E810-E825/3

passenger	
Pedal cyclist or cycle passenger	E800-E807/3; E826-E829/1; E810-E825/6
Pedestrian	E800-E807/2; E810-E825/7; E826-E829/0
Other transport related circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes railways, water transport, air transport • Includes drowning associated with watercraft • Excludes machinery accident in watercraft 	E800-E807/0,1,8,9; E810-E829/4,8,9; E958/5,6; E988/5,6; E830-E835; E837-E848
Animal related (See note 1)	E810-E825/5; E826- E829/.2,.3; E905 all except.7; E906
Fall - (See note 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes fall, jump, being pushed from high place • Excludes fall in/on/from transport and falls resulting in drowning 	E880-E888; E957; E968.1; E987
Drowning, submersion - swimming pool (See note 3)	E910.8
Drowning, submersion - other than swimming pool (See note 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes drowning in unspecified place • Excludes drowning associated with watercraft 	E910/0-7,9; E954; E964; E984
Other threat to breathing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes inhalation of food, suffocation in enclosed space, strangulation, etc 	E911-E913; E953; E963; E983
Fire, flames, smoke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes asphyxiation or poisoning related to fires, explosion related to conflagration • Excludes transport related 	E890-E899; E958.1; E968.0; E988.1; E990
Exposure to hot drink, food, water, other fluid, steam, gas, or vapour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes scalds 	E924.0; E958.2; E968.3; E988.2

<p>Exposure to hot object or solid substance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes contact burns, etc • Includes burn if unspecified whether due to solid, liquid or gas 	E924.8
<p>Poisoning - drugs and medicinal substances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes adverse effects of medication in normal use 	E850-E858; E930.0-E950.5; E962.0; E980/0-5
<p>Poisoning - other substances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes poisoning if unspecified whether medication or other subst. 	E860-E869; E950.6-E952.9; E962.1-E962.9; E980.6-E980.9; E972; E981-E982; E997.2
<p>Firearms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excludes explosives 	E922; E955/0-4; E965/0-4; E970; E985/0-4; E991/0-2
<p>Cutting, piercing object</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excludes machinery, power tools or appliances 	E920/3,4,8,9; E956; E966; E974; E986
<p>Struck by object or person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excludes: pinching or jamming between objects; machinery in operation; firearm projectile; cutting object 	E916-E918; E958.0; E960.0; E968.2; E973; E988.0
<p>Machinery in operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes power tools, appliances • Includes machinery in context of watercraft • Excludes machinery in the context of other transport 	E836; E919; E920/0-2
<p>Electricity</p>	E925; E958.4; E988.4
<p>Hot conditions (natural origin), sunlight</p>	E900.0
<p>Coldconditions (natural origin)</p>	E901.0; E958.3
<p>Other specified external cause (including late effects)</p>	E870-E879; E900/1,9; E901/1,8,9; E902-E904; E905.7; E907-E909; E914-E915; E921; E923; E924/1,9; E926; E927; E928/0-8; E929; E955/5,9; E958/7,8; E959; E960.1; E961; E965/5-9; E967; E968/4-8; E969; E971; E975-E978; E985.5;

	E988/3,7,8; E989; E991/3,9; E992-E999
Unspecified external cause	E928.9; E958.9; E968.9; E988.9

Use this form to search for information on injury deaths in Australia from 1979 to 1998. The information is grouped by NDSIS Cause categories, state and year of death registration, age group (10) and sex.

You may make multiple selections for Group, Year and State.

Select group(s) required	Select year(s) of death registration	Males, females or all persons counts or rates
ALL GROUPS	ALL	Persons Rates
Motor vehicle driver	1998	
Motor vehicle passenger or unspec occ	1997	
Motor cycle driver	1996	Select state(s)
Motor cycle passenger or unspecified	1995	ALL STATES
Pedal cyclist or passenger	1994	AUST
Pedestrian	1993	NSW
Animal related	1992	VIC
Other transport	1991	QLD
Fall	1990	
Drowning, incl. pool, quenching tank	1989	
Drowning other	1988	
Other threat to breathing	1987	
Fire flames smoke	1986	
Hot drink food steam etc	1985	



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National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance Cause Categories

Motor vehicle driver	Motor vehicle passenger or unspec occ	Motor cycle driver
Motor cycle passenger or unspecified	Pedal cyclist or passenger	Pedestrian
Animal related	Other transport	Fall
Drowning, incl. pool, quenching tank	Drowning other	Other threat to breathing
Fire flames smoke	Hot drink food steam etc	Hot object or substance
Poisoning drugs and medicinals	Poisoning other or unspecified substance	Firearms
Cutting, piercing object	Strike/struck by object or person	Machinery in operation
Electricity	Hot conditions	Cold conditions
Other specified external cause	Unspecified external cause	



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This classification considers whether injuries were accidental, self inflicted or inflicted by another person.

NDSIS Intent

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Row labels	ICD-9 E-Codes
Accident <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no obvious human intention to produce the injury 	E800-E869; E880-E929
Intentional self harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence is available that the injured person intended to produce the injury 	E950-E959
Sexual assault by bodily force	E960.1 (includes rape only)
Maltreatment by parent	E967.0 (of child)
Other and unspecified assault <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes neglect or abandonment by parent, spouse or partner 	E960.0; E961-E966; E967.1-E969
Event of undetermined intent	E980-E989
Legal intervention or operations of war	E970-E978; E990-E999
Complication of medical or surgical care	E870-E876; E878-E879; E930-E949

Use this form to search for information on injury deaths in Australia from 1979 to 1998. The information is grouped by NDSIS Intent categories, state and year of death registration, age group (10) and sex.

You may make multiple selections for Group, Year and State.

Select group(s) required	Select year(s) of death registration	Males, females or all persons counts or rates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL GROUPS <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional Self Harm <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Assault <input type="checkbox"/> Maltreatment by parent or guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other Assault <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined Intent <input type="checkbox"/> Legal intervention or war <input type="checkbox"/> Medical misadventure or adverse effects	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1998 <input type="checkbox"/> 1997 <input type="checkbox"/> 1996 <input type="checkbox"/> 1995 <input type="checkbox"/> 1994 <input type="checkbox"/> 1993 <input type="checkbox"/> 1992 <input type="checkbox"/> 1991 <input type="checkbox"/> 1990 <input type="checkbox"/> 1989 <input type="checkbox"/> 1988 <input type="checkbox"/> 1987 <input type="checkbox"/> 1986	<input type="checkbox"/> Persons Rates <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Select state(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL STATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUST <input type="checkbox"/> NSW <input type="checkbox"/> VIC <input type="checkbox"/> QLD

Accident	ALL	
Intentional Self Harm		
Sexual Assault	1997	
Maltreatment by parent or guardian	1996	ALL STATES
Other Assault	1995	
Undetermined Intent	1994	
Legal intervention or war	1993	NSW
Medical misadventure or adverse effects	1992	VIC
	1991	QLD
	1990	SA
	1989	
	1988	
	1987	
	1986	
	1985	



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National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance Intent Categories

Accident

Intentional Self Harm

Sexual Assault

Maltreatment by parent or guardian

Other Assault

Undetermined Intent

Legal intervention or war

Medical misadventure or adverse effects



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This classification is based on the major sections of the ICD External Causes classification. Major groups of injuries are identified - self inflicted and intentional injuries are contained in separate groups.

Major E-Code groups

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Row labels	ICD9 E-Codes
Transportation	E800-E848
Drowning	E910
Poisoning, pharmaceuticals	E850-E858
Poisoning, other substances	E860-E869
Falls	E880-E888
Fires/burns/scalds	E890-E899; E924/0,8,9
Other unintentional	E900-E909; E911-E923; E924/1; E925-E929
Intentional, self inflicted	E950-E959
Intentional, inflicted by another	E960-E978; E990-E999
Undetermined intent.	E980-E989
Medical misadventure, complications, etc.	E870-E879; E930-E949

Use this form to search for information on injury deaths in Australia from 1979 to 1998. The information is grouped by major E-Code groups, state and year of death registration, age group (10) and sex.

You may make multiple selections for Group, Year and State.

<p>Select group(s) required</p> <p>ALL GROUPS</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Drowning</p> <p>Poisoning, pharmaceuticals</p> <p>Poisoning, other substances</p> <p>Falls</p> <p>Fires/flame/scalds</p> <p>Other unintentional</p> <p>Intentional, self inflicted</p> <p>Intentional, inflicted by another</p> <p>Undetermined intent</p> <p>Medical misadventure, complications, etc</p> <p>All causes</p>	<p>Select year(s) of death registration</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>1998</p> <p>1997</p> <p>1996</p> <p>1995</p> <p>1994</p> <p>1993</p> <p>1992</p> <p>1991</p> <p>1990</p> <p>1989</p> <p>1988</p> <p>1987</p> <p>1986</p> <p>1985</p>	<p>Males, females or all persons counts or rates</p> <p>Persons Rates</p> <hr/> <p>Select state(s)</p> <p>ALL STATES</p> <p>AUST</p> <p>NSW</p> <p>VIC</p> <p>QLD</p>
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Major E-Code Groups (summary of all injury causes)

Transportation	Drowning	Poisoning, pharmaceuticals
Poisoning, other substances	Falls	Fires/flame/scalds
Other unintentional	Intentional, self inflicted	Intentional, inflicted by another
Undetermined intent	Medical misadventure, complications, etc	All causes



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This classification considers those cases where there was a transport related cause. It divides public road, other road and other vehicle categories and water and air transport related categories.

Transport Groups

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Row labels	ICD-9 E-Codes
Rail transport	E800-E807
Public Rd/Driver	E810-E819/.0
Public Rd/Passenger	E810-E819/.1
Public Rd/Motor cycle	E810-E819/.2-.3
Public Rd/Pedal cycle	E810-E819/.6
Public Rd/Pedestrian	E810-E819/.7
Public Rd/Other specified	E810-E819/.4,.5,.8
Public Road Unspecified	E810-E819/.9
Not Road/Driver	E820-E825/.0
Not Road/Passenger	E820-E825/.1
Not Road/Motor cycle	E820-E825/.2,.3
Not Road/Pedal cycle	E820-E825/.6
Not Road/Pedestrian	E820-E825/.7
Not Road/Other specified	E820-E825/.4,.5,.8
Not Road/Unspecified	E820-E825/.9
Other Vehicle/Pedestrian	E826-E829/.0
Other Vehicle/Pedal cycle	E826-E829/.1
Other Vehicle/Animal	E826-E829/.2,.3
Other road vehicle	E826-E829/.4,.8,.9
Other vehicle NEC	E846-E848
Water/Water skier	E830-E838/.4
Water/Swimmer	E830-E838/.5
Water/Other	E830-E838/.0-.3,.6,.8,.9
Air/Occupant	E840-E845/.0-.6
Air/Parachutist	E840-E845/.7
Air/Other	E840-E845/.8,.9
Total transport	E800-E848

Use this form to search for information on injury deaths in Australia from 1979 to 1998. The information is grouped by transport groups, state and year of death registration, age group (10) and sex.

You may make multiple selections for Group, Year and State.

Select group(s) required	Select year(s) of death registration	Males, females or all persons counts or rates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL GROUPS <input type="checkbox"/> Rail transport <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Motor cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Pedal cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Public Rd/Other specified <input type="checkbox"/> Public Road Unspecified <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Motor cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Pedal cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Not Road/Other specified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL <input type="checkbox"/> 1998 <input type="checkbox"/> 1997 <input type="checkbox"/> 1996 <input type="checkbox"/> 1995 <input type="checkbox"/> 1994 <input type="checkbox"/> 1993 <input type="checkbox"/> 1992 <input type="checkbox"/> 1991 <input type="checkbox"/> 1990 <input type="checkbox"/> 1989 <input type="checkbox"/> 1988 <input type="checkbox"/> 1987 <input type="checkbox"/> 1986 <input type="checkbox"/> 1985	<input type="checkbox"/> Persons <input type="checkbox"/> Rates <hr/> Select state(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL STATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUST <input type="checkbox"/> NSW <input type="checkbox"/> VIC <input type="checkbox"/> QLD



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Transport Groups

Rail transport	Public Rd/Driver	Public Rd/Passenger
Public Rd/Motor cycle	Public Rd/Pedal cycle	Public Rd/Pedestrian
Public Rd/Other specified	Public Road Unspecified	Not Road/Driver
Not Road/Passenger	Not Road/Motor cycle	Not Road/Pedal cycle
Not Road/Pedestrian	Not Road/Other specified	Not Road/Unspecified
Other Vehicle/Pedestrian	Other Vehicle/Pedal cycle	Other Vehicle/Animal
Other road vehicle	Other vehicle NEC	Water/Water skier
Water/Swimmer	Water/Other	Air/Occupant
Air/Parachutist	Air/Other	



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These are the most detailed data. Please note that data is ordered by Accidental, Self Inflicted (suicide) and Intentional (interpersonal violence) causes.

Detailed cause groups

Go straight to the [Query Form](#)

Limitations in ICD9 Ecode classifications do not permit exact replication of the NDSIS Detailed Cause categories. Full documentation of the NDSIS coding system is available from NISU. Australian drowning deaths registered in 1992 or later use an 'ABS Drowning' data item. The drowning categories presented in this classification are based on a combination of this information and relevant Ecodes.

Row labels	ICD9 E-Codes
Accidental Injuries	
TRANSPORT	
Motor vehicle traffic	E810-E819
Motor vehicle non-traffic	E820-E825
Non-motor road vehicle	E826-E829
Railway transport	E800-E807
Water transport	E830-E838
Air transport	E840-E845
Vehicles not elsewhere classified	E846-E848
DROWNING	
Swimming pool	E-Code 910 and drown code 1-4, 20, 23-26
Swimming (not in pool)	E-Code 910 and drown code 5-11, 16-19
Swept from rocks, etc.	E-Code 910 and drown code 13-15.
Fell/wandered into water (not swimming pool)	E-Code 910 and drown code 27-31 or 33
Bath	E-Code 910 and drown code 36
Other/unspecified drowning	E-Code 910 and drown code 0, 12, 21, 22, 32, 34, 35, 37-99 or missing
POISONING	
Opiates & related	E850/0-2
Other specified analgesics	E850/3-8
Barbiturates	E851
Non barbiturate sedatives/hypnotics	E852
Tranquillisers	E853
Anti-infectives	E856; E857
Other/unspecified drug, etc.	E850/9; E854; E855; E858

Alcoholic beverages, ethanol	E860/0-1
Petroleum products, solvents	E862
Agricultural & horticultural chemicals	E863
Foodstuffs; poisonous plants	E865
Motor vehicle exhaust gas	E868/2
Other/unspecified substance	E860/2-9; E861; E864; E866; E867; E868/0-1; E868/3-9; E869
FALLS	
Stairs	E880
Ladder/scaffold	E881
Building/structure	E882
Playground equipment	E884/0
Different level	E884/1-2,9
Same level: slip, trip, stumble	E885
Same level: collision in sport	E886/0
Fracture - cause unspecified.	E887
Other/unspecified fall	E883; E884/3-8; E886/9; E888
FIRE & FLAMES	
Housefires	E890
Clothing ignition	E893
Hot substance or object, steam	E924/0,8-9
Other/unspecified thermal	E891; E892; E894-E899
OTHER UNINTENTIONAL	
Firearm	E922
Excessive heat	E900
Excessive cold	E901
Exposure/neglect	E904
Aspiration, food	E911
Aspiration, non-food	E912
Suffocation	E913
Foreign body	E914-E915
Struck by falling object	E916
Dog bite	E906/0
Collision in sport	E917/0
Other collision	E917/1-9
Caught/crushed	E918
Machinery	E919
Cutting/piercing	E920
Explosion	E921; E923
Electric current	E925
Other/unspecified non-intentional	E902; E903; E905; E906/1-9; E907; E908; E909; E924/1; E926-E929
Intentional Injuries	
SUICIDE	
Motor vehicle exhaust (Suicide)	E952/0

Hanging (Suicide)	E953/0
Firearm (Suicide)	E955/0-4
Poison, solids/liquids (Suicide)	E950
Cutting/piercing (Suicide)	E956
Other/unspecified (Suicide)	E951; E952/1-9; E953/1-9; E954; E955/5-9; E957-E959
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE	
Unarmed fight/brawl (Interpersonal violence)	E960/0
Firearm (Interpersonal violence)	E965/0-4
Cutting/stabbing (Interpersonal violence)	E966
Child battering/maltreatment (Interpersonal violence)	E967
Other/unspecified (Interpersonal violence)	E960/1-9; E961-E964; E965/5-9; E968-E978; E990-E999
Other categories	
Undetermined intent	E980-E989
Medical misadventure, complications.	E870-E879; E930-E949

Use this form to search for information on injury deaths in Australia from 1979 to 1998. The information is grouped by detailed mode of injury groups, state and year of death registration, age group (10) and sex.

You may make multiple selections for Group and State.

Because of the volume of data available, searches here are restricted to one year's data at a time. For that reason, you are also advised to restrict your search to one state (or Australia) to keep the amount of data returned to a manageable size.

Select group(s) required	Select year(s) of death registration	Males, females or all persons counts or rates
ALL GROUPS	1998	Persons Rates
Motor vehicle traffic	1997	
Motor vehicle non-traffic	1996	
Non-motor road vehicle	1995	
Railway transport	1994	
Water transport	1993	
Air transport	1992	
Vehicles nec	1991	
Swimming pool	1990	
Swimming (not in pool)	1989	
Swept from rocks, etc	1988	
Fell/wandered into water (not swimming pool)	1987	
Bath	1986	
Other/unspecified drowning	1985	
Opiates & related	1984	
		Select state(s)
		ALL STATES
		AUST
		NSW
		VIC
		QLD



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Detailed mode of injury groups

Motor vehicle traffic	Motor vehicle non-traffic	Non-motor road vehicle
Railway transport	Water transport	Air transport
Vehicles nec	Swimming pool	Swimming (not in pool)
Swept from rocks, etc	Fell/wandered into water (not swimming pool)	Bath
Other/unspecified drowning	Opiates & related	Non-opiate analgesic/antipyretic/antirheumatic
Barbiturates	Non barbiturate sedatives/hypnotics	Tranquillisers
Anti-infectives	Other/unspecified drug, etc	Alcoholic beverages, ethanol
Petroleum products, solvents	Agricultural & horticultural chemicals	Foodstuffs; poisonous plants
Motor vehicle exhaust gas	Other/unspecified substance	Stairs
Ladder/scaffold	Building/structure	Different level:playground equipment
Different level: other	Same level: slip, trip, stumble	Same level: collision in sport
Fracture - cause unspec.	Other/unspecified fall	Housefires
Clothing ignition	Hot substance or object, steam	Other/unspecified thermal
Firearm missile	Excessive heat	Excessive cold
Exposure/neglect/hunger/thirst	Aspiration, food	Aspiration, non-food
Mechanical suffocation	Foreign body	Struck by falling object
Dog bite	Strike/struck by object or person:in sports	Strike/struck by object or person:other
Caught in or between objects	Machinery	Cutting/piercing
Explosion	Electric current	Other non-intentional (incl. unspecified, late effects)
Motor vehicle exhaust SUI	Hanging SUI	Firearm SUI
Poison, solids/liquids SUI	Cutting/piercing SUI	Other/unspecified SUI
Unarmed fight/brawl IPV	Firearm IPV	Cutting/stabbing IPV
Child battering/maltreatment IPV	Other/unspecified IPV	Undetermined intent
Medical misadventure, complications		



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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare NISU

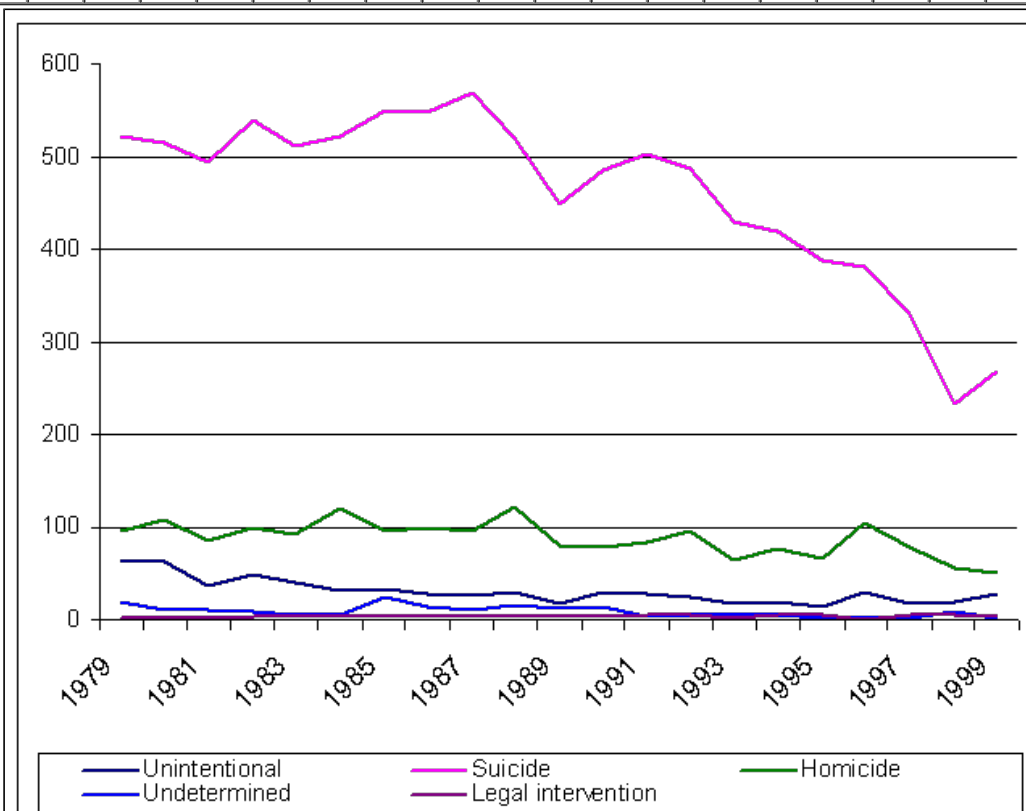
Following the issue of Monitor 8 and the article on guns, we received a request for data on firearm related deaths over a longer period. We thought the information we found might be of interest to others, so here it is.

The data presented here were initially extracted from the detailed data tables on this site for the period 1979-1994, but have since been updated to 1999.

Please refer to the [documentation](#) accompanying these tables so that you understand the definitions of the data and the time periods reported.

Numbers of Firearm Related Deaths Australia 1979-1999 by Intent

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Unintentional	65	62	36	48	40	32	35	28	27	30	19	30	29	24	18	20	15	30	19	21	28
Suicide	523	516	495	541	512	523	550	548	571	521	450	486	505	488	431	420	388	382	330	234	269
Homicide	97	109	87	100	92	120	97	101	96	123	80	79	84	96	64	76	67	104	79	57	50
Undetermined	20	11	11	8	6	7	24	15	10	17	13	15	5	7	6	6	3	5	2	8	2
Legal intervention	3	2	3	4	4	5	4	4	7	4	7	4	6	7	3	7	6	0	7	7	4
Total	708	700	632	701	654	687	710	696	711	695	569	614	629	622	522	529	479	521	437	327	353



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Injury by Firearms Australia 1994

J Harrison, J Moller, S Bordeaux
June 1996

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- [Key Indicators of Firearm related death](#)
 - [Age and sex distribution](#)
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 - [State and Territory differences](#)
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Key Facts

- 522 deaths caused by firearms were registered in Australia in 1994.
- In addition to deaths, about 500 hospital admissions each year are due to non fatal firearm related injuries.
- Firearm deaths comprise 7.3% of all injury deaths.
- Most firearm deaths are suicides; most admitted cases are due to accidents.
- Firearm death rates have declined in recent years.
- Firearm death rates are generally higher in rural and remote areas than in urban areas.
- Australia has a higher firearm related homicide rate than England & Wales and Switzerland, but lower than Canada and much lower than the United States.

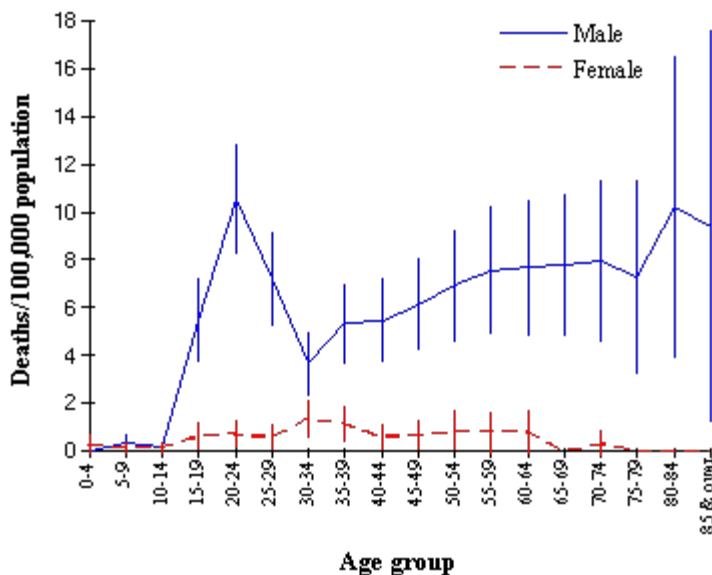
Key Indicators of Firearm related death

	Males	Females	Persons
Cases	468	54	522
Percent of all injury deaths	9.2%	2.6%	7.3%
Crude rate/100,000 pop	5.3	0.6	2.9
Age adjusted rate/100,000 pop	5.3	0.6	2.9
Change in age adj. rate since 1993	-4%	33%	0%
Average years lost before age 75 yrs	33	39	34

Age and sex distribution

- More than 90 percent of people dying

Age-specific rates of fatal injury by firearms, Australia 1994, by sex



- due to firearm injuries were males.
- For males, rates were highest for young adults and in old age.
- For females, there was less variation of rates with age. Rates were low in old age.

(Note vertical lines show 95% confidence intervals)

Age-adjusted rates of fatal injury by firearms, Australia 1994, by intent and sex



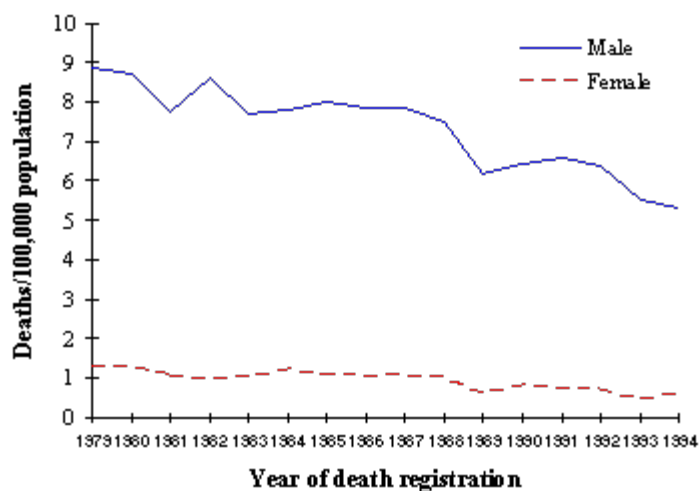
- Suicide accounted for 85% of male firearm deaths, homicide for 10%, and 3% were registered as accidental. Intent was not stated for the remainder.
- For females, homicide accounted for 52% of firearm deaths, suicide for 36% and 10% were registered as accidental. Intent was not stated for 2%.

The routine deaths data set holds no information about the assailant, in the cases of firearm homicide. Other data (Australian Institute of Criminology) show that most homicides are perpetrated by males, especially males aged 15 to 29 years.

Trends in death rates

- Firearm death rates have declined in recent years, especially for males.

Age-adjusted rates of fatal injury by firearms, Australia 1979 to 1994, by sex



- Contributing most to the decline were a drop in the rate of firearm suicide, and in the rate of firearm homicide.

Suicide using firearms and other methods: males, Australia 1979 to 1994

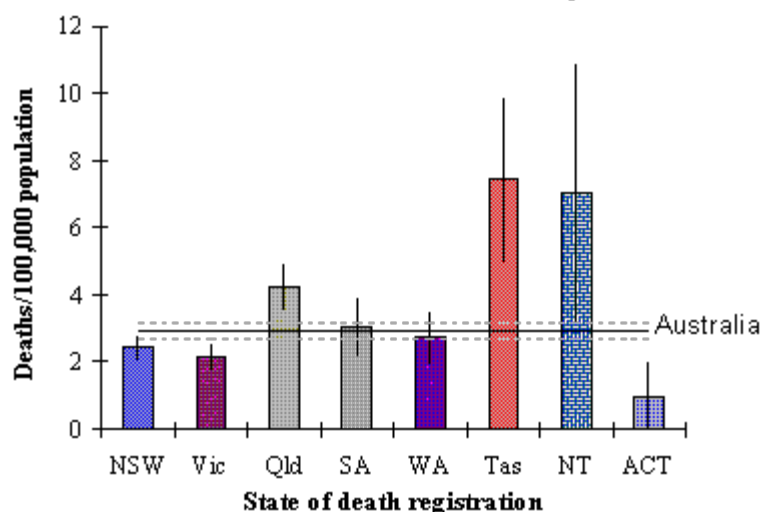


- The male rate of suicide using other methods has risen while the firearm related suicide rate has fallen.
- For female suicide and for male and female homicide, death rates due to firearms have dropped in relation to rates due to other methods.

State and Territory differences

- The rate of registered deaths due to firearms was significantly higher than the national average rate in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.
- Rates recorded for Victoria and the ACT were significantly lower than the national rate.
- A high firearm suicide rate for older males contributed to the high rate in Tasmania.
- One-third of the firearm deaths registered in the Northern Territory were recorded as homicides, higher than the national average (15%).

Age-adjusted rates of fatal injury by firearms, Australia 1994, by State



(Note vertical lines show 95% confidence intervals)

Urban / Rural differences

Total Firearm death rate, males, by type of region: Annual Average 1990-1992		
Type of region	Rate per 100,000	Relative risk compared with capital city
Capital City	4.1	1.0
Other major Urban	7.2	1.8
Rural Major	9.0	2.2
Rural Other	13.3	3.2
Remote major	10.3	2.5
Remote other	21.0	5.1

Source: Australian Injury Prevention Bulletin 8 1994

- Firearm death rates are generally higher in rural and remote regions, with the highest rate in low population density "rural other" and "remote other" regions.
- The overall suicide rate was high in "rural other" and "remote other" regions particularly among 15-24 and 45-54 year old males. While numbers of firearm deaths in these regions are too small to definitively assess age specific patterns, it appears that firearms make a significant contribution to deaths in these high risk categories.

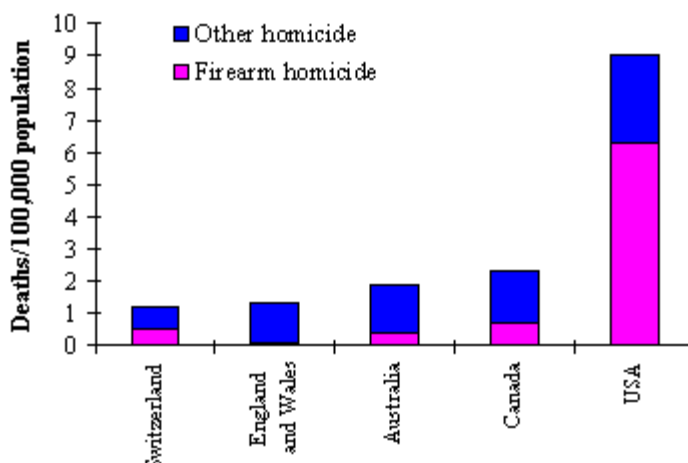
International differences

International firearm and other homicide rates per 100,000 persons, 1994					
	Switzerland	England & Wales	Australia	Canada	USA
Firearm	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.7	6.3
Other	0.7	1.2	1.5	1.6	2.7
Total	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.3	9.0

Source Australian Institute of Criminology May 1996, and Killias 1993 (1994 data except Switzerland 1983-1986.)

- The Australian firearm homicide rate

International comparison of total and firearm related homicide



is higher than England and Wales, about equal to Switzerland, but much lower than Canada and the United States.

- The proportion of firearm homicide is minimal in England and Wales but represents 70% of United States homicides.
- In Australia the proportion of firearm homicide is 21%, in Canada 26% and Switzerland 40%

Percentage of households owning a firearm				
Switzerland	England & Wales	Australia	Canada	USA
27.2	4.7	19.6	29.1	48.0

Source: Killias 1993

- Rates of homicide and suicide, and proportions due to firearms, vary widely between countries.
- Availability of firearms also varies between countries based on estimates of proportion of households with a firearm.
- Association has been found between firearm ownership, and both suicide and homicide. This has been found when comparing levels for whole countries (eg Killias 1993), though such studies have important limitations. It has also been found when comparing individuals in households which did or did not have a firearm (Brent et al 1992; Kellermann et al 1992, 1993).

Hospitalisation

Firearm related hospital separations Australia (excl NT) 1992/93			
	Total Hospital Separations	Died in hospital	Total Hospital Bed days
1992/93			
Unintentional	368	7	2539
Self harm	104	18	1020
Violence	95	7	627
Total	567	32	4186

- Approximately two thirds of injuries related to firearms resulting in hospitalisation are unintentional. This is in sharp contrast with deaths data. Events recorded as self harm account for about 17% to 18% of cases and violence for about 15% of cases.
- Less than 10% of hospitalised cases die in hospital, with the exception of those as a result of self harm. This suggests that the majority of these cases are in addition to those recorded in death statistics.
- 30% of injuries involved the head of the victim and treatment of all hospitalised cases required 4186 bed days

Hospitalised cases; body regions injured		
	n	%
Head, face	170	30.0
Lower limb	145	25.6

Upper limb	117	20.6
Neck, trunk	47	8.3
Other mainly superficial	88	15.5
Total	567	100.0

Data issues

Sources

- Deaths data are supplied by coroners and State registrars to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Data in this document are extracted from unit record files. Tables are based on State and year of death registration.
- Hospital Separations data are supplied by State and Territory Health Authorities to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Data in this paper are extracted from unit record files.
- Additional information was drawn from the following publications.

Australian Injury Prevention Bulletin 8: The Spatial distribution of injury deaths in Australia, NISU, Adelaide, 1994.

Killias M. International correlations between gun ownership and rates of homicide and suicide. *Can Med Assoc J* 1993;148:1721-1725

Australian Institute of Criminology Data on Firearms and Violent Death, Canberra, May 1996

Definitions

- Firearm related injuries are defined below:

Description	International Classification of diseases External causes codes
Unintentional	E922
Self Harm	E955.0-.4 ,.9
Violence	E965.0-.4
Intent Unknown	E985.0-.4

Note: Incidents classed as legal intervention E970 have been excluded (n=7, Australia 1994).

Age-adjustment

- Most all-ages rates have been adjusted to overcome the effect of differences in the proportion of people of different ages (and different injury risks) in the populations that are compared. Direct standardisation was employed, taking the Australian population 1991 as the standard.

Confidence intervals

- Confidence intervals (95%: based on a Poisson assumption about the number of cases in a time period) have been placed around rates as a guide to the size of the this variation. Chance variation alone would be expected to lead to a rate outside the interval only once out of 20 occasions.

Additional References

Brent DA, Perper JA, Allman CJ, et al. The presence and accessibility of firearms in the home of adolescent suicides: a case-control study. JAMA. 1992;266:2989-2995.

Kellermann AL, Rivara FP, Somes G, et al. Suicide in the home in relation to gun ownership. N Engl J Med. 1992;327:467-472.

Kellermann AL, Rivara FP, Rushforth NB, et al. Gun ownership as a risk factor for homicide in the home. N Engl J Med. 1993;329:1084-1091.

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