TRANSPORT-RELATED TRAUMA

There has been an increased focus on the incidence of road trauma. In Australia this is reflected in the Australian National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (NRSS) target of reducing the annual number of deaths and serious injury (hospitalisations) on the roads by 30 per cent by 2020. The NRSS target is a joint strategy signed by the Australian, State and Territory governments. New Zealand’s Road Safety Strategy is currently under consultation.

Similar to the previous financial year, forty-five per cent of all severe injuries were caused by transport-related trauma. Injury severity was similar across injury cause with an ISS of 16 to 24 the most prevalent. 2.4% of on road motor vehicle injuries were coded as having involved a heavy vehicle.

IN-HOSPITAL FACTS BY CAUSE

**Motor Vehicle Occupants**
- 2,032
- 619 Pedestrians
- 1,252 Motorcyclists
- 609 Pedal cyclists

**Injury Characteristics**
- 61% Male
- Median Age: 33 years
- 40-54 years old: Most at Risk
- Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 50% of on-road injuries bi-nationally, motorcycle accidents 25%, pedal cycle and pedestrian 12.5% each. Proportions varied slightly according to jurisdiction (Figure 1).

**Most at Risk**
- 16-25 year olds
- 40-54 year olds
- 79% on-road
- 4.0% died in hospital
- 50% deaths aged 65+
- 64% male

**Deaths**
- 7.3% died in hospital
- 50% died in hospital
- 40% died in hospital
- 14.6% died in hospital
- 40% deaths aged 65+ yrs
- 16% died in hospital
- 31.5% of deaths died in hospital
- 40% deaths aged 65+ yrs

**Angry Monday highest number of injuries**
- Thursday highest number of injuries
- 87% on-road
- 84% on-road
- Double the injuries on Saturday & Sunday
- Double the injuries on Saturday
- 4.0% died in hospital
- 3.0% died in hospital
- 4.0% died in hospital
- 3.0% died in hospital
- 57% deaths aged 65+

**Injury cause**
- Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 50% of on-road injuries bi-nationally, motorcycle accidents 25%, pedal cycle and pedestrian 12.5% each. Proportions varied slightly according to jurisdiction (Figure 1).
BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is poorly reported with only four of the seven Australian States and Territories reporting a BAC. New Zealand collects BAC from all seven hospitals. Figure 2 shows the number of transport related injuries by jurisdiction and the number of patients who had a BAC recorded. When looking at BAC by cause of injury, large proportions did not report a BAC (figure 3). This is one of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) recommended process indicators and in time the ATR anticipates better reporting of BAC.
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