

Umbrella-related injury

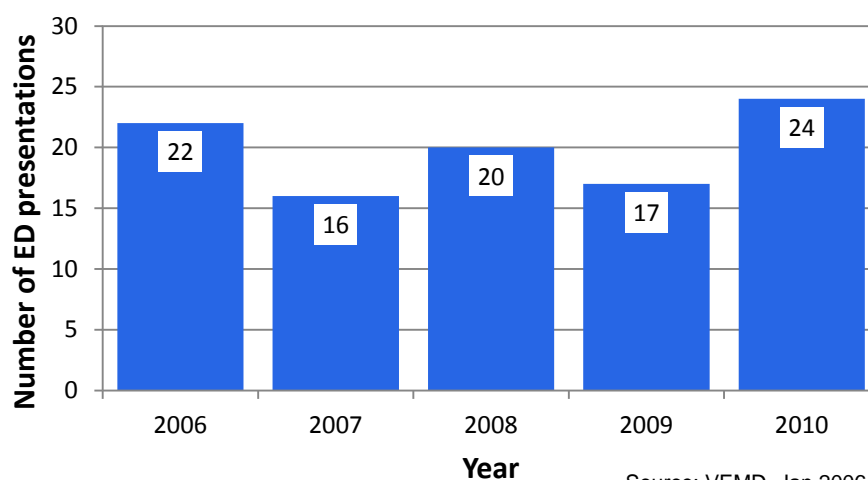
Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.

Data were selected from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) which is collected from the 38 Victorian hospitals with a 24-hour emergency service. Data quality varies across the hospitals so the counts reported here are underestimates.

Data source: Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) January 2006 – December 2010 (5 years)
Search Strategy: Umbrella associated injuries were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "umbrella" and spelling variations contained in the 250 character 'Description of Injury Event' field. Selected cases were checked and any irrelevant cases were excluded from the dataset prior to analysis.

Frequency: In the years between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010 there were 99 umbrella-related injury ED presentations, an average of 20 per year. Eight per cent of these cases were subsequently admitted to a hospital ward. There were no recorded fatalities. These injury events were caused by both personal umbrellas and those set up in commercial venues.

Figure 1 ED presentations for umbrella-related injury by year 2006-2010 (n=99)



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Gender: Females (57%) presented more frequently than males (43%).

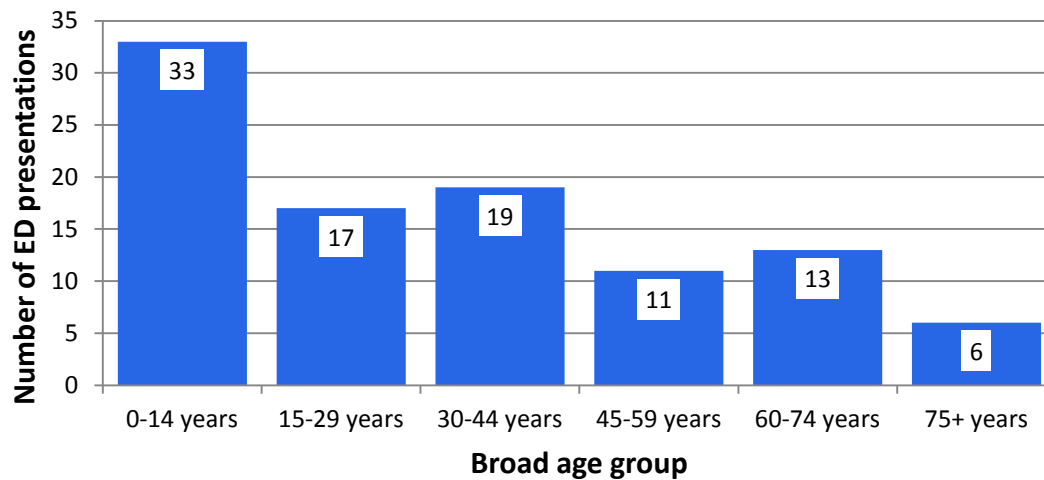
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Figure 2 Umbrella-related injury ED presentations by broad age group (n=99)

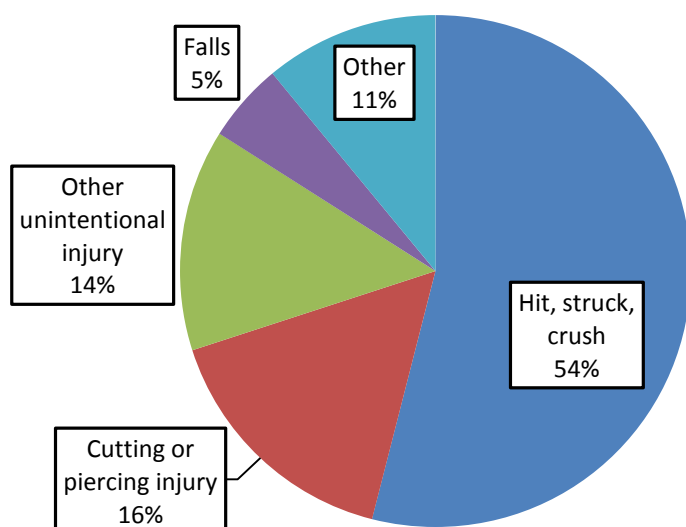


Age: Children aged 0-14 years old presented most frequently (33%).

Sample of case narratives:

- *Umbrella was blown over onto patient at cafe*
- *Jumped off a roof holding an umbrella landing on heels - has pain in mid back*
- *Head injury no loss of consciousness, patient at a ice cream parlour, sitting outside and outdoor umbrella struck patient onto left side of head*
- *Assaulted by neighbour with umbrella*
- *Tear of right conjunctiva. Hit by an umbrella while playing with it at home this afternoon*
- *Poked right eye with rubber end of umbrella this am. Swollen since. Crying this evening and tears were blood stained.*

Figure 3 ED presentations for umbrella-related injury by injury cause (n=99)



Injury cause: Hit, struck or crush injury (54%) was the most common cause of injury, followed by cutting or piercing injury (16%).

Injury type: Open wounds were the most common injury type (31%). Eye injury accounted for (18%) of all injuries.

Departure status: 84% of patients were discharged to home. 8% were admitted for further treatment.

Safety tips:

- Keep personal umbrellas pointed away from the body, be mindful of others.
- Carefully secure large umbrellas to avoid tip over.
- Do not allow children to use an umbrella as a toy.