

Ride-on mower-related injury

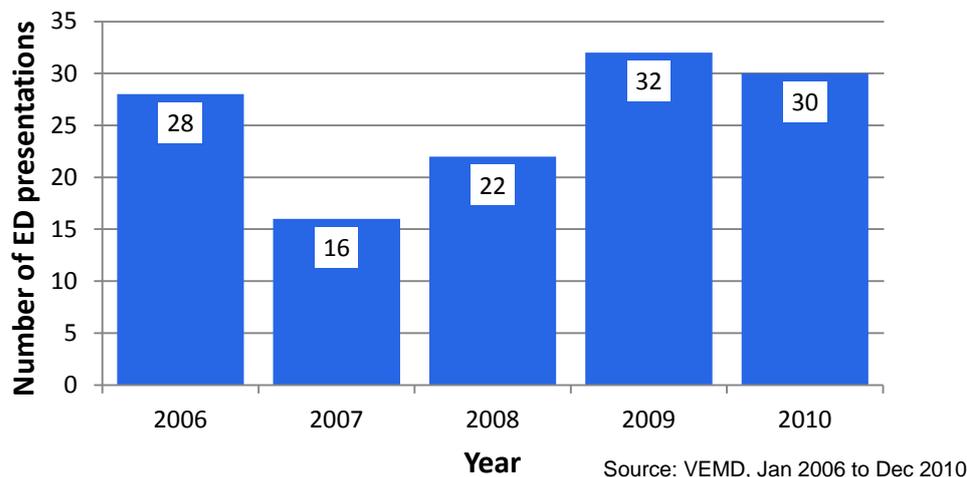
Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.

Data were selected using a text search of case narratives from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) which records emergency department (ED) presentations to 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 (10 years)
Search Strategy: Injuries associated with ride on mowers were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "ride" and "mow" 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: Over the 5-year period between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010 there were 128 ride-on mower injury ED presentations, an average of 26 per year. Nearly one quarter (23%) of these cases were subsequently admitted to a hospital ward. There were no recorded fatalities.

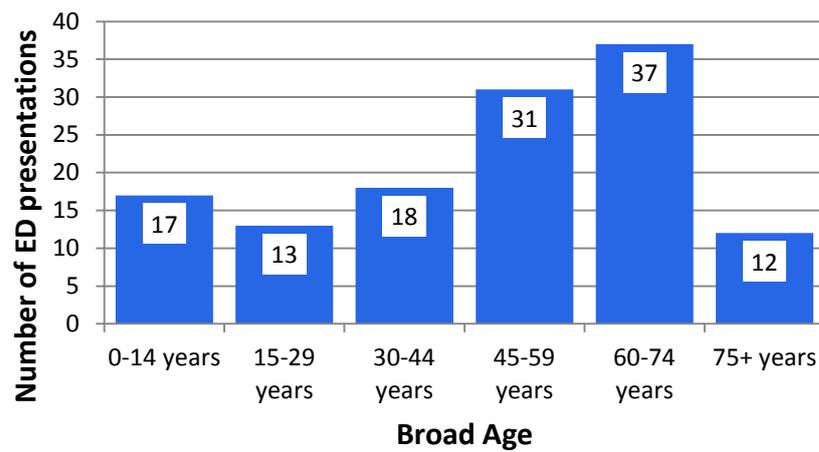
Figure 1 Frequency of ride-on mower injury ED presentations by year 2006-2010 (n=128)



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VISU is funded by the Victorian Department of Health

Figure 2 Ride-on mower injury ED presentations by age group, 2006-2010 (n=128)



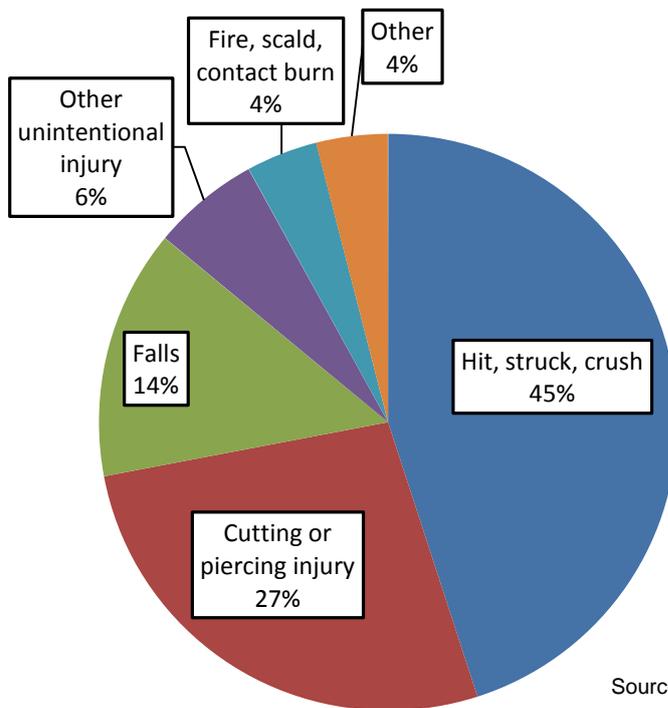
Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Age: The age groups most frequently injured were persons aged 60-74 years (29%) and persons aged 45-59 years (31%).

Gender: Males (81%) presented far more frequently than females (19%).

Injury cause: Hit, struck or crush injury (45%) was the most common cause of injury. These injuries were mainly due to the mower running over the operator's hands and feet or rollover on uneven ground which pinned or crushed the operator's or passenger's leg. Cutting or piercing injury (27%) was the second most common ride-on mower injury. Children were disproportionately injured by falling from, being run over by or being burned by exhaust from ride-on mowers.

Figure 3 Ride-on mower injury ED presentations by cause, 2006-2010 (n=128)



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Sample of case narratives:

- *Mowing lawn, caught ring finger under ride-on mower.*
- *Ride-on mower got stuck in a hole so she got off to pull it out and it ran over her foot*
- *Patient was mowing lawns at home on a ride-on mower when accidentally rolled off an embankment and was pinned underneath the mower.*
- *Patient ran in front of a ride-on mower getting her right foot caught with the mower blades.*
- *Left foot run over by front tyre of ride-on lawn mower*
- *On ride-on mower and put hand into rotating blade to pull out rubbish.*

Body site injured: The most commonly injured body site was feet (20%) followed by hands (16%). Eye injury (7%) was mostly caused by projectiles thrown up by the rotating blade.

Nature of injury: The most common injury was open wounds (31%), followed by fractures (16%).

Departure status: 66% of patients were discharged to home, 23% were admitted for further treatment and 6% were transferred to another hospital.

Safety tips:

- Consult mower manual to determine the best way to deal with uneven ground.
- Avoid contact with blades, even when machine is not in use.
- Clear all debris from the area before mowing.
- Wear eye protection and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Never take passengers or mow when bystanders present.

Further information:

<http://www.mihsr.monash.org/miri/research/research-areas/home-sport-and-leisure-safety/visu/hazard/haz41.pdf>

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;107/6/e106>