

## Golf cart-related injury

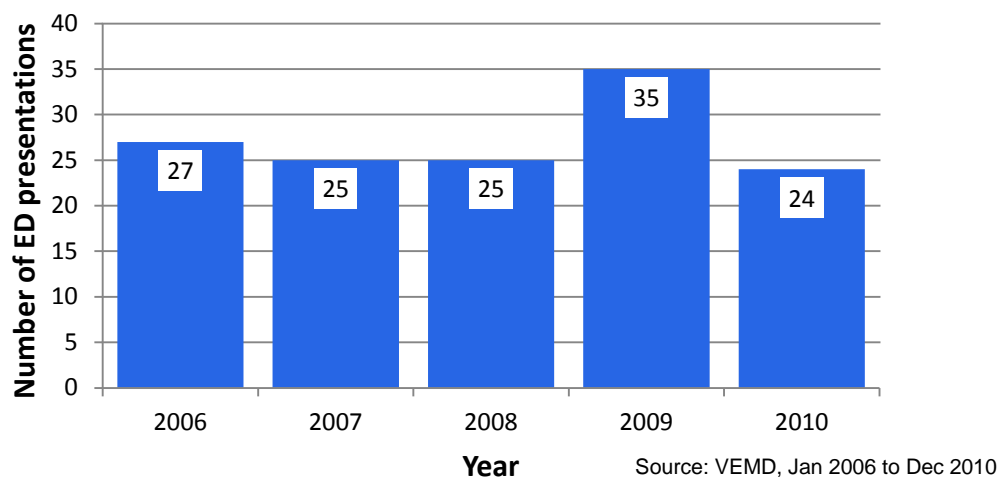
**Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.**

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:** ED presentations related golf carts were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "golf" and "cart" or "buggy" 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 five years between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010 there were 136 golf-cart injury related emergency department (ED) presentations, an average of 27 per year. Of these cases, 15% were subsequently admitted to a hospital ward. There were no recorded fatalities.

**Figure 1 Golf cart-related injury ED presentations by year, 2006-2010 (n=136)**



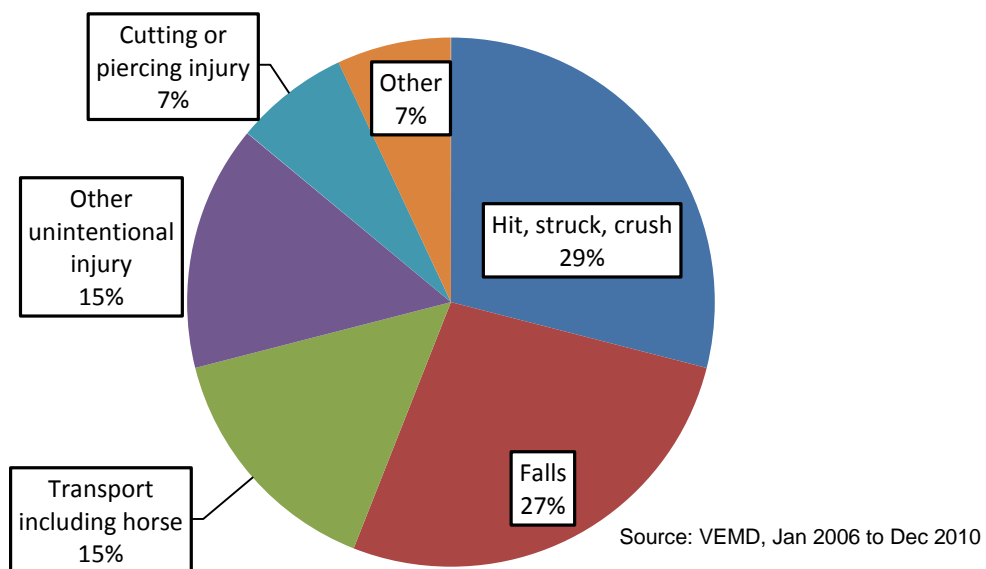
**Gender:** Males (73%) presented much more frequently than females (27%).

**Sample of case narratives:**

- Patient driving golf buggy, doing donuts when patient ejected from vehicle causing sprain to knee
- Patient driving golf cart 20km/h, struck wall catapulted out of cart
- After consuming a large amount of alcohol patient has fallen out of golf cart which then ran over patient
- Rolled a golf cart, jammed arm, pain proximal radius, graze to arm
- Golf buggy with driver turned sharply and child flung into a pole
- Painful left leg after golf buggy flipped. Patient states speed was approx 50km/h

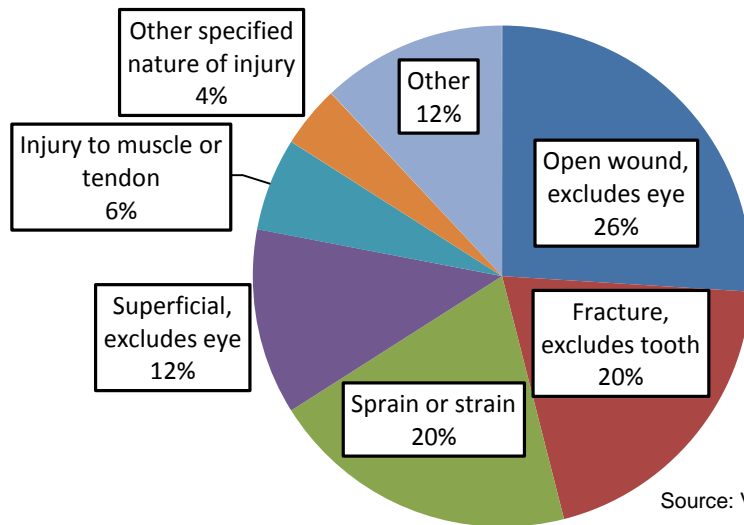
**Injury cause:** Hit, struck or crush injury (29%) was the most common cause of injury. Falls were also common (27%).

**Figure 2 Golf cart-related ED presentations by injury cause (n=136)**



**Nature of injury:** Open wounds were most common (26%). Sprains and strains (20%) and fractures (20%) were commonly the result of a cart running over the foot, ankle or leg.

**Figure 3 Golf cart injury ED presentations by nature of injury (n=136)**



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

**Safety tips:**

- Drive responsibly.
- Don't forget to apply the handbrake.
- Obey the rules of the golf course or university.