



VICTORIAN INJURY SURVEILLANCE UNIT

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

High-quality injury surveillance data is crucial to preventing injuries and promoting safety. The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) analyses, interprets and disseminates data on injury deaths, hospital admissions and emergency department presentations in the state of Victoria. Established in 1988, VISU's initial focus was confined to child injury prevention. The service expanded from 1990 to address injury issues across all age groups and utilised surveillance data at three levels of injury severity (deaths, hospital admissions and ED presentations).

Further Information



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANNEKE BERECKI-GISOLF

Email: Janneke.Berecki-Gisolf@monash.edu

Web: monash.edu/muarc/visu

Expertise

The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) has been analysing, interpreting and disseminating data on injury deaths, hospital admissions and emergency department presentations across the state, nationally and internationally for more than 20 years. VISU expertise includes ICD-10-AM-based data selection methodology, statistical analysis and injury epidemiology.

Data are used to underpin government injury prevention policies, stimulate research and to develop and evaluate prevention strategies and measures. These include community awareness initiatives and education, legislative and regulatory changes and safety-related environmental, equipment and product design improvements.

Outcomes

Data and separate reports are published for professional and community audiences. This critical information is provided to around 250 organisations and agencies each year, including Commonwealth, state and local government departments and agencies, health and injury prevention organisations, media, business and industry, education institutes, research groups and the community.

Research Activities

VISU collects and holds Victorian injury surveillance data on three major datasets: the ABS Death Unit Record File; the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset; and the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset. The Unit analyses the datasets in order to: identify and describe injury issues and problems; monitor trends and outcomes; identify intervention points and potential countermeasures to injury; support planning and evaluation of preventive strategies; and generate research hypotheses.

Hazard

VISU has been publishing Hazard since 1988. The publication provides an analysis of major or emerging issues in the field of injury and injury prevention. It aims to raise awareness of the identified injury and to stimulate preventative action. Hazard reports information on the causes and severity of injury, the risk and contributory factors to injury and the locations, products and activities associated with injury. It includes commentary and recommendations on injury prevention implementation and evaluation.

Injury Atlas of Victoria

VISU's Injury Atlas of Victoria is an interactive online platform to access injury data across the state. Injury data can be visualised in maps showing the number of hospital admissions by Local Government Areas, while charts can be created for injury causes by age group, gender and body region.

Visit vicinjuryatlas.org.au/