

Television tip-over-related injury

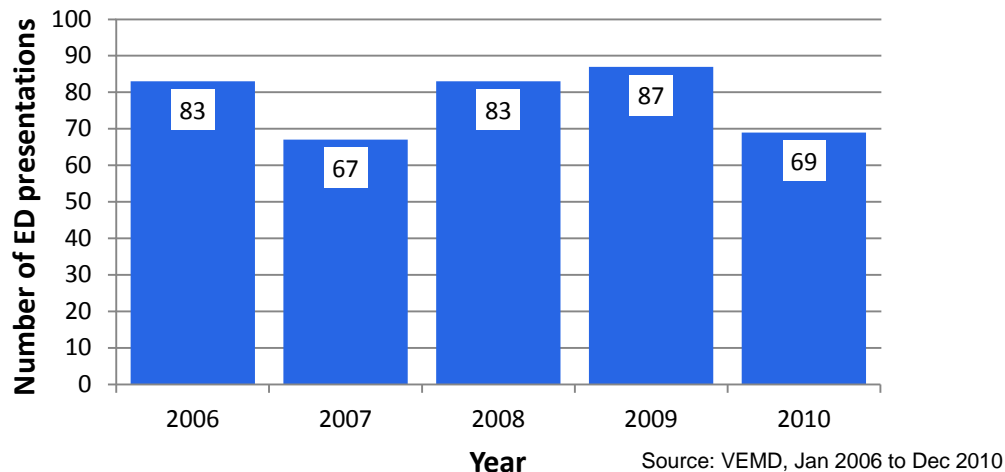
Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.

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: Injury associated with television tip-over were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "tv" and "television" and spelling variations coupled with "fall", "tip", "topple", "pull" and "fell", 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.

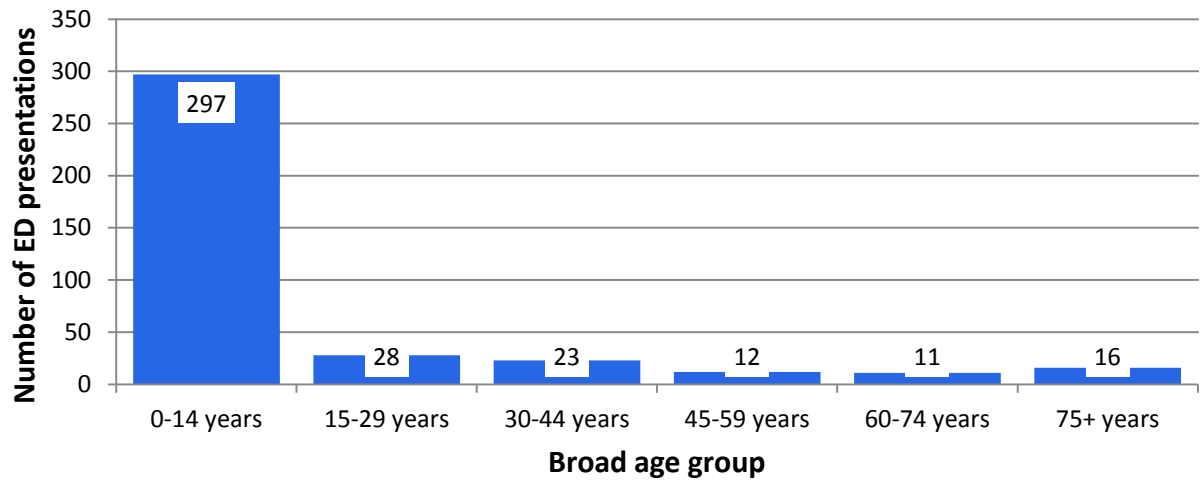
Frequency: In the 5-year period between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010 there were 389 television tip-over-related emergency department (ED) presentations, an average of 77 per year.

Figure 1 ED presentations for television tip-over-related injury by year (n=389)



Gender: Males (52%) presented more frequently than females (48%).

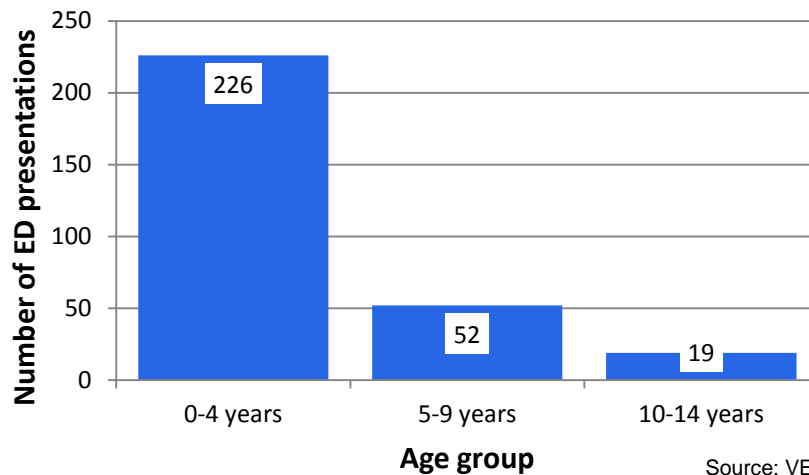
Figure 2 ED presentations for television tip-over-related injury by broad age group (n=389)



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Age: 58% of all presentations were 0-4 year olds. Two year olds were most at risk, representing 21% of ED presentations.

Figure 3 ED child presentations for television tip-over-related injury by age group (0-14) (n=297)

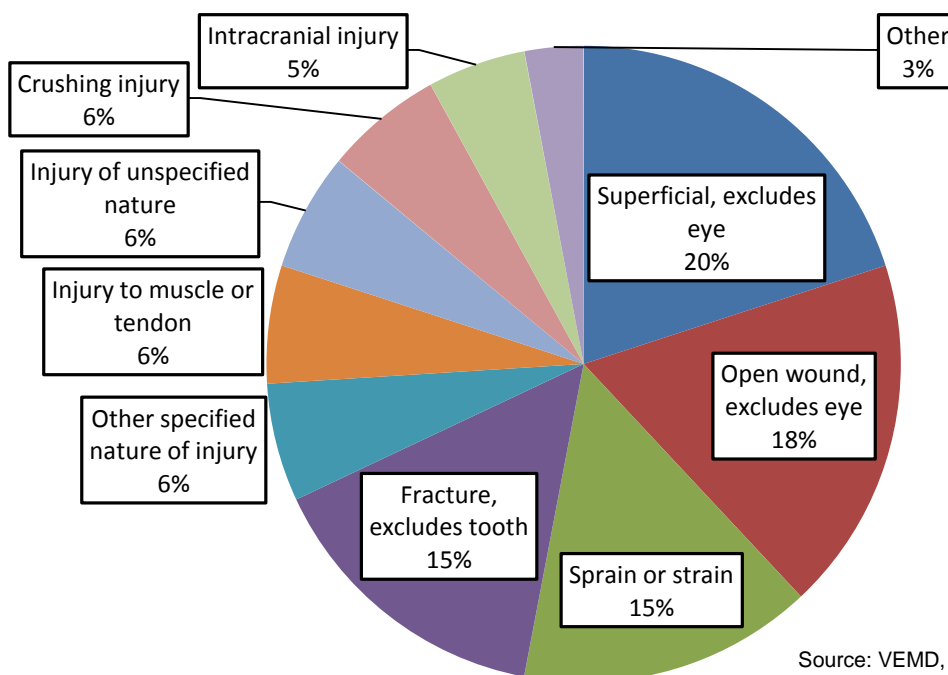


Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Sample of case narratives:

- *TV fell 2 meters onto patient's head no loss of consciousness, nil neck pain. Now dizzy laceration to parietal region.*
- *Standing on chair to turn TV around, when TV fell off top of wardrobe onto top of head*
- *Patient brought in by ambulance, lives at aged care facility. Has had a fall tonight and grabbed hold of television*
- *Lying on floor when television fell and landed on head and right arm. Slight headache, no loss of consciousness.*

Figure 3 ED presentations for television tip-over-related injury by type of injury (n=389)



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2010

Injury type: The most common injury types were superficial injury and open wounds both (18%), fracture (15%) and sprains and strains (15%).

Body site: The most commonly injured body site was the head (19%), followed by the feet (16%), and face (12%).

Safety tips:

- Secure your TV; do not let children climb on or near it.
- Do not leave children unsupervised near a TV.

Further information:

DiScala et al. Arch Pediatric Adolescent Medicine 2001;155:145-148

<http://www.gtp.com.au/kidsafesa/inewsfiles/4986%20prevention%20of%20crush%20injuries%20F5%20V2proof.pdf>