

Shopping trolley-related injury to children

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.

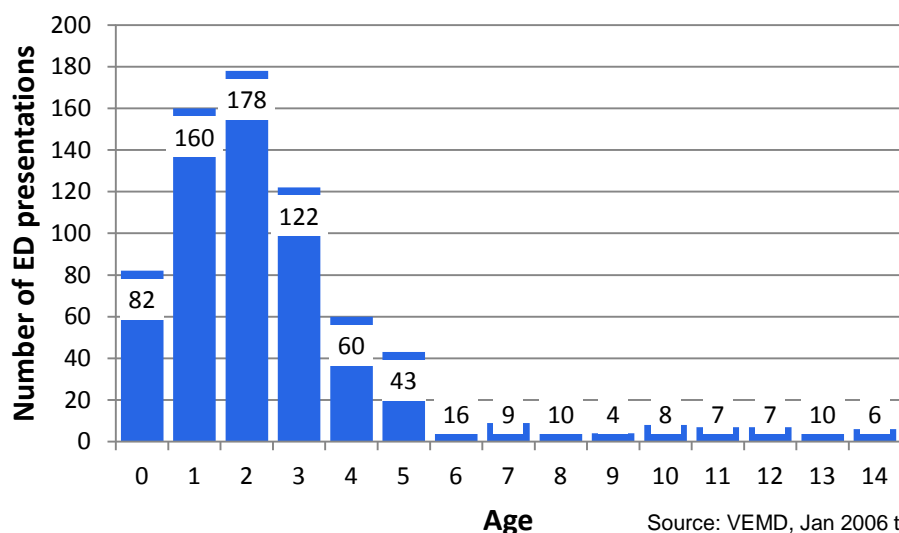
Data source: Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) January 2006 – December 2010 (5 years)
Search Strategy: Child injury associated with shopping trolleys were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "trolley" and "cart" contained in the 250 character 'Description of Injury 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 1st 2006 and December 31st 2010 there were 722 Emergency Department presentations in Victoria for injuries in children aged 0-14 related to shopping trolleys. Most cases were treated in the ED and discharged home, 5% were more seriously injured and admitted to hospital for further observation and treatment

Gender: Males were more likely to present to ED with shopping trolley-related injuries than females (56% male, 44% female).



Figure 1 ED injury presentations related to shopping trolleys by age (0-14 years) (n=722)



Age: 89% of all shopping trolley-related injury ED presentations among children involved those aged 0-5.

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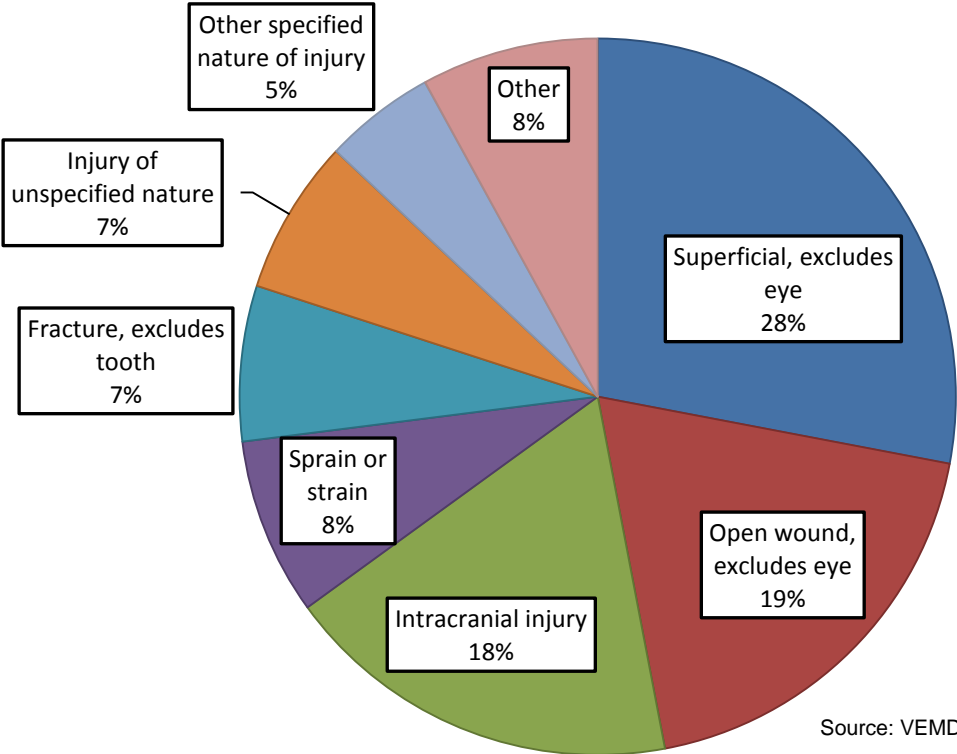
Cause: Falls was the most common cause, accounting for 70% of all presentations followed by hit, struck and crush injuries (17%).

Sample of case narratives:

- *Flipped out of shopping trolley onto hard linoleum floor, unsure if hit head, cried straight away.*
- *Fell from shopping trolley, hit head on hard concrete, cried straight away (no loss of consciousness), no vomiting, mild headache.*
- *Caught finger in wheel of shopping trolley*
- *On the supermarket trolley, trolley fell over after brother tried to get into it, wearing seatbelt.*
- *Chipped tooth and lacerated lip from bumping into trolley, cried immediately*

Injury type: The most frequently occurring injury diagnoses were superficial (28%), open wounds (19%), and intracranial injury (18%).

Figure 2 Child ED presentation for shopping trolley-related injury by type of injury (n=722)



Body site: The most frequently injured body sites were the head (43%) and face (16%).

Safety tips:

- When possible avoid placing children in shopping trolleys.
- If using a trolley, only place child in seat and use the harness. Do not use if harness is broken or absent.
- Never leave a child unattended in a shopping trolley.

- Discourage older children from climbing on a shopping trolley.

Further information:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/miri/research/research-areas/home-sport-and-leisure-safety/visu/hazard/haz42.pdf>

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;118/2/e545>

http://www.safekidsgf.com/Documents/Fact%20Sheets%202008/Shopping_Carts.pdf