

## Magpie-related injury

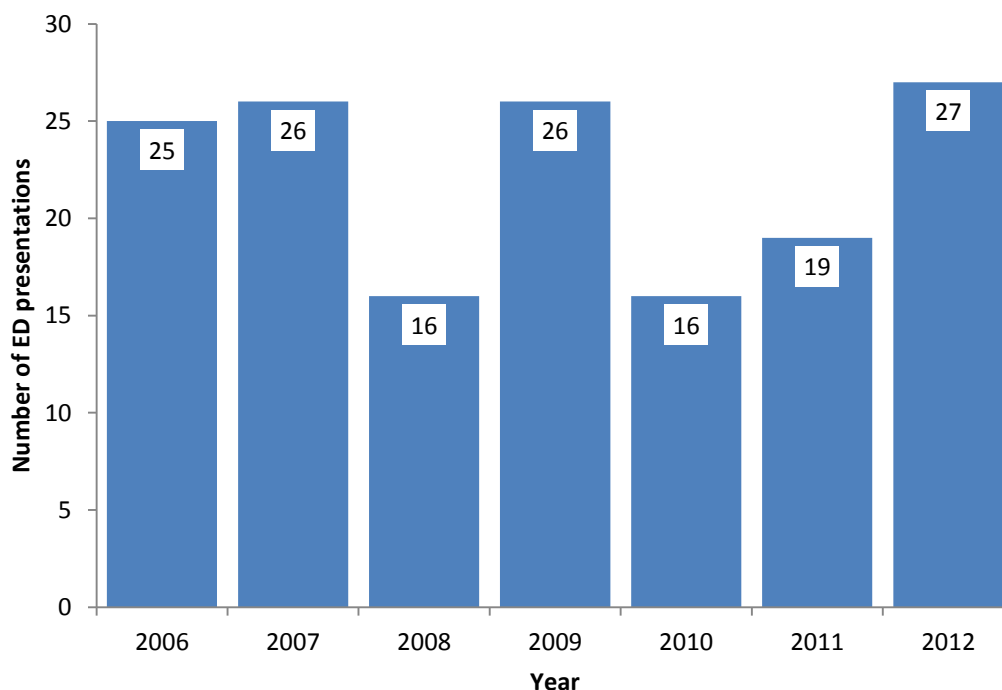
**Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.**

Data were selected from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) which is collected from the 39 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 2012 (7 years)  
**Search Strategy:** Injuries associated with magpies were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "magpie", 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 seven years between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2012 there were 155 magpie-related injury emergency department (ED) presentations, an average of 22 per year.

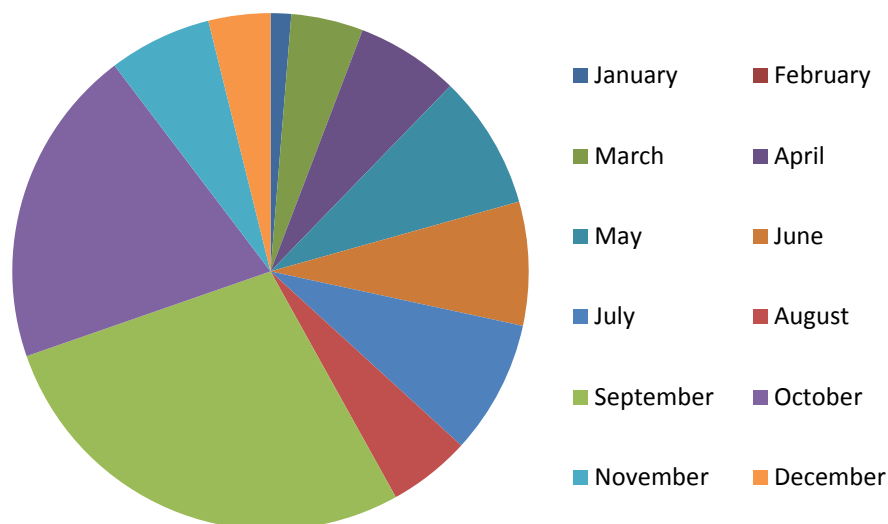
**Figure 1 ED presentations for magpie-related injury by year 2006-2012 (n=155)**



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2012

**Time of year:** More than half of the presentations occurred during the Spring months, in particular September (28%) and October (20%).

**Figure 2 ED presentations for magpie-related injury by month 2006-2012 (n=155)**

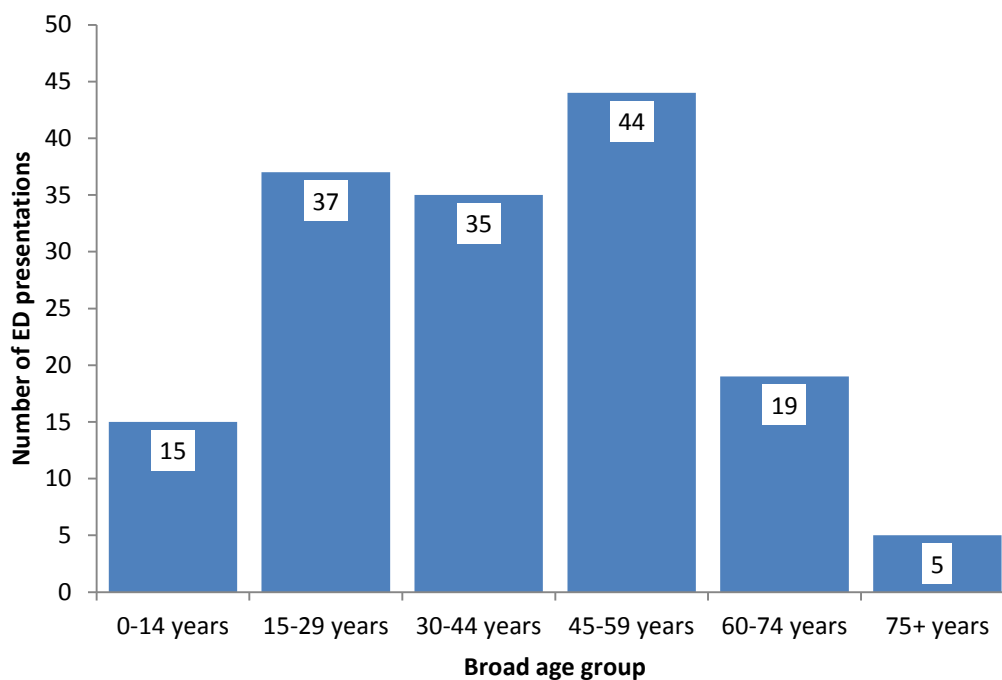


Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2012

**Gender:** Males (57%) presented more frequently than females (43%).

**Age:** There was no obvious pattern to the injuries, other than that 75% of magpie-related injury presentations were to those aged between 15-59 years.

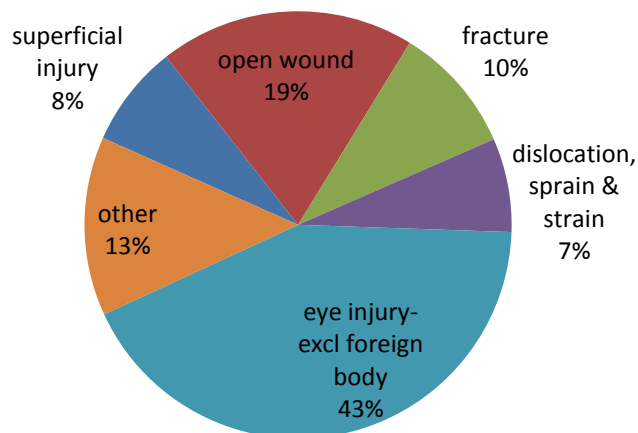
**Figure 3 ED presentations related to magpies by broad age group (n=155)**



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2012

**Nature of injury:** The most common type of injury was an eye injury, which accounted for 43% of presentations, followed by open wounds (19%).

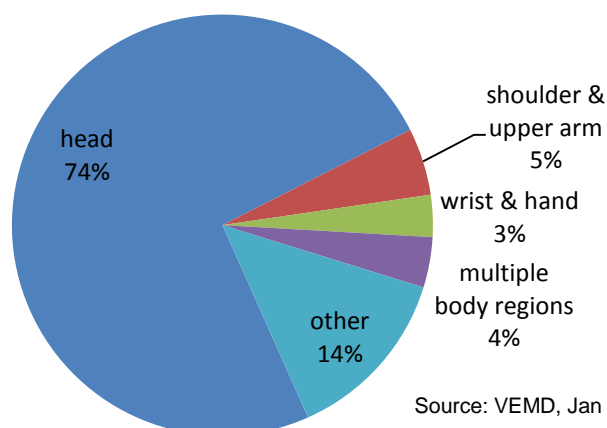
**Figure 4 ED presentations for magpie-related injury by nature of injury 2006-2012 (n=155)**



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2012

**Body region:** The most commonly injured body site was the head (74% - includes the eye).

**Figure 5 ED presentations for magpie-related injury by body region 2006-2012 (n=155)**



Source: VEMD, Jan 2006 to Dec 2012

#### Sample of case narratives:

- *Walking along the street and swooped by magpie*
- *Pecked in eye by magpie*
- *Fell off bike after being swooped by magpie*
- *Magpie swooped and struck eye*
- *Attacked by magpie on the weekend, went for eye and hit with claws, now red eye and swollen*

#### Safety tips:

- Avoid magpies during nesting.
- If unavoidable, contact your local council to discuss the possibility of removal.

**Magpies are a protected species in Australia.**

**Resources:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/TheAustralianMagpie.htm>