



INTENTIONAL INJURY & DEATHS AMONG ADULTS IN VICTORIA: SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE

FACT SHEET

The following has been extracted from the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit's (VISU) latest issue of Hazard (#83). VISU is based at the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC).

Each year in Victoria:

(from July 2006 to June 2016)

6939 Emergency department presentations

4091 Hospital admissions

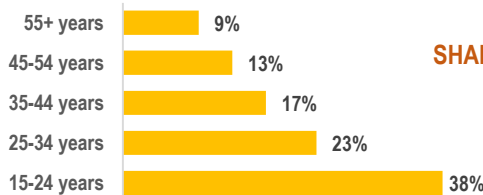
546 Deaths (to June 2014 only)

Emergency Department presentations

(N=24,888 from July 2013 to June 2016)



35% **65%**



CAUSES OF SELF-HARM:

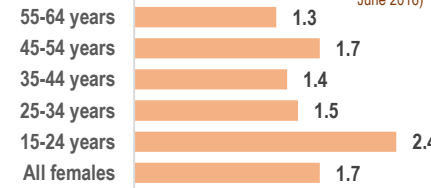
**POISONING:
PHARMACEUTICALS**
46%

SHARP OBJECT/CUTTING
22%

**POISONING: OTHER
SUBSTANCES**
10%

Female to Male ED presentation rate ratio by age group

(from July 2006-June 2016)

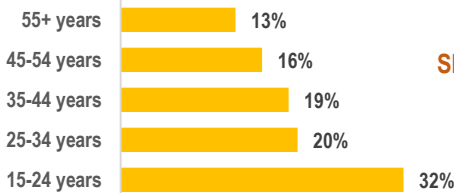


Hospital admissions

(N=15,921 from July 2013 to June 2016)



33% **67%**



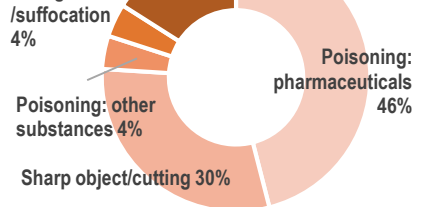
CAUSES OF SELF-HARM:

**POISONING:
PHARMACEUTICALS**
76%

SHARP OBJECT/CUTTING
14%

**POISONING: OTHER
SUBSTANCES**
5%

% of total bed days (n=67,104)

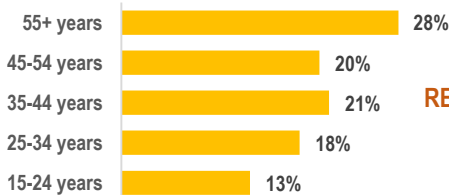


Deaths

(N=4,371 from July 2006 to June 2014)



77% **23%**



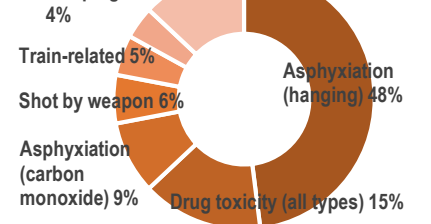
AREA OF RESIDENCE:

**MELBOURNE
METROPOLITAN AREA**
69%

REGIONAL/RURAL VICTORIA
27%

OTHER
4%

Cause of death



Key messages

1. ED presentation rates for self-harm injury increased significantly over the 10-year study period (annual increase of 3%).
2. Females were over-represented in both non-fatal self-harm Emergency Department presentations (65%) and hospital-treated admissions (67%) over the 3-year study period (2013/14 to 2015/16).
3. Males accounted for 77% of deaths and the annual average male suicide rate was 3.4 times the adult female rate over the 8-year study period. Victorian trends in suicide rates remained fairly stable for both adult males and females.
4. Need to develop data linkage studies to identify those at risk of suicide, based on patterns of ED presentations & various clinical factors. Linkage data also has the potential to investigate self-harm rates of repetition, and outcome, in Victoria.