OVERVIEW

- In 2012/13 about 10,360 people aged 15+ years were admitted to hospital for alcohol-attributable assaults in Australia (rate 5.7 per 10,000 persons). The rate was highest among males aged 20-29 years old (15.0 per 10,000 persons).

- Levels of alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations were notably high in the Northern Territory compared to the other jurisdictions.

- Rates of male alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations were higher than female rates for all age groups (15+, 15-19, 20-29 years) across all jurisdictions except the NT.

- By 2012/13 rates of male alcohol-attributable assaults across all age groups were either lower or similar to 2003/04 levels across all jurisdictions except the NT. The rate for females has slightly increased in some states over the 9 year period.

Introduction

This bulletin shows trends in estimated alcohol-attributable assaults using hospital morbidity data from all Australian jurisdictions between 2003/04 and 2012/13.

National Hospital Morbidity Data were obtained from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for all states. For 2004/05 to 2009/10 Queensland morbidity data was obtained directly from the Queensland Health Department. A subset of data was extracted from the hospital data to identify assaults using the International Classification of Diseases Version 10 (ICD-10) assault related external cause codes as defined by English et al. (1995).

The alcohol aetiological fraction (AAF) method was applied to estimate the number of alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations. AAFs define the degree to which alcohol is estimated to be a causal factor for a particular injury or disease (Matthews et al., 2002). English et al. (1995) estimated the AAF for assault to be 0.47. To derive estimates of alcohol-attributable assaults, counts of assault-related hospital admissions (identified from ICD-10 codes) were multiplied by a factor of 0.47. AAF adjusted counts were then converted to crude rates per 10,000 population (state, sex and age specific) using ABS estimated resident population (ABS, 2015).

Australia-wide, 7,322 hospitalisations among 15+ year old males for assaultive injuries were estimated to have been attributable to alcohol in 2003/04 (9.4 per 10,000 persons). In 2012/13 the rate had slightly declined to 8.0 (7,327 hospitalisations). For 15+ year old females the rate was 3.5 per 10,000 persons in 2003/04 (2,826 hospitalisations), which decreased to 3.4 in 2012/13 (3,032 hospitalisations). In 2012/13, 71% of alcohol-attributable hospitalisations for assault were male, almost half of all admissions (47%) were for males aged 15-29 years.

Across all jurisdictions, apart from the NT, young males (15-29 years) appeared to be at highest risk of alcohol-attributable assault. The female trend showed less variation over time and between age groups, with the exception of the NT where the female trend was highly variable.

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Citation:


References:

See http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/research/naip.cfm
Trends in all ages (15+ years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations

Figure 1: Alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations per 10,000 persons, aged 15 years and older, by gender, 2003/04 – 2012/13

* Please note: scale adjusted for the NT

Legend:  
- Male
- Female
Trends in teenage (15-19 years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations

Figure 2: Alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations per 10,000 persons, aged 15-19 years, by gender, 2003/04 – 2012/13

* Data not shown due to small number of cases
** Please note: scale adjusted for the NT

Legend: ▲ Male ▼ Female

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Trends in young adult (20-29 years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations

Figure 3: Alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations per 10,000 persons, aged 20-29 years, by gender, 2003/04 – 2012/13

* Data not shown due to small number of cases
**Please note: scale adjusted for the NT