

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 aetiologic 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 residential 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.

Acknowledgements:

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Trends in all ages (15+ years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations

Figure 1 shows a slight initial increase in the rate of male alcohol-attributable assault among 15+ year olds, followed by a modest decrease in most jurisdictions. The trend in alcohol-attributable assault among 15+ year old females showed less variation and stayed relatively stable over time or followed the male trend at a lower rate. In the NT rates of assault were higher than in any other jurisdiction and the female rate was higher than the male rate over the whole 9 year period.

Trends in teenage (15-19 years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations

Figure 2 shows an increase in the rate of male alcohol-attributable assault among 15-19 year olds between 2003/04 and 2006/07 or 2007/08 in most jurisdictions, which was generally followed by a decrease after 2007/08. This trend was most pronounced in VIC, QLD, TAS and the ACT. In WA and the ACT, a marked decrease can be seen from 2011/12, whereas in QLD the rate seemed to increase from 2011/12. Trends in alcohol-attributable assault among 15-19 year old females showed less variation and stayed relatively stable over time, especially for NSW, VIC, QLD and SA. Rates among 15-19 year old males and females in the NT seemed to follow the same trend from 2003/04 until 2008/09, with the female rates being higher than the male rates. After 2008/09 more fluctuation can be seen.

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

As shown in Figure 3, an increasing trend in male alcohol-attributable assault among 20-29 year olds can be seen between 2003/04 and 2007/08 or 2008/09 across most jurisdictions. After the initial increase the rate seemed to decrease across most jurisdictions, with the rate for male alcohol-attributable assault being at its lowest point in 2012/13 across all jurisdictions except QLD (lowest rate in 2011/12). The trend in alcohol-attributable assault among 20-29 year old females stayed relatively stable over time across all jurisdictions except the NT. The female trend in NSW, VIC, SA, WA and TAS showed a slight decrease over the 9 year period. In the NT the rate for female alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations was higher than the rate for males across all years.

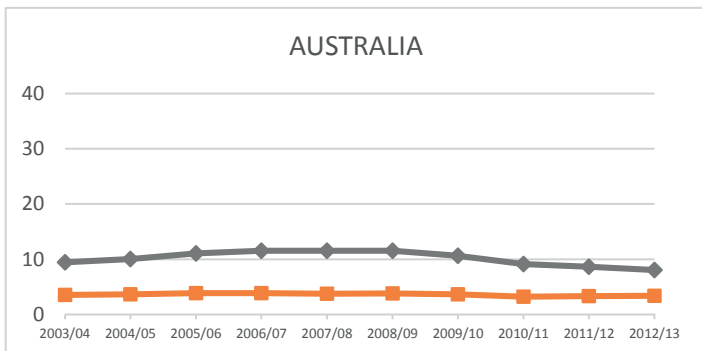
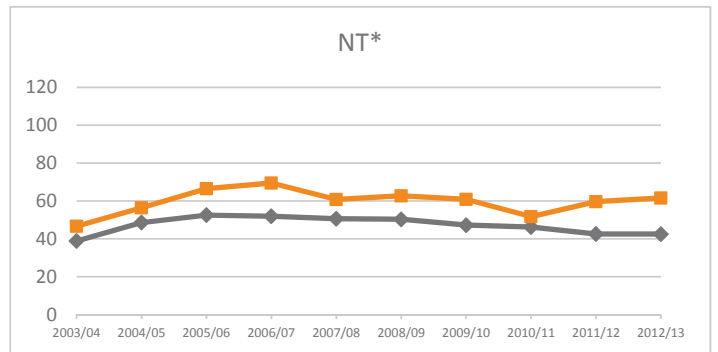
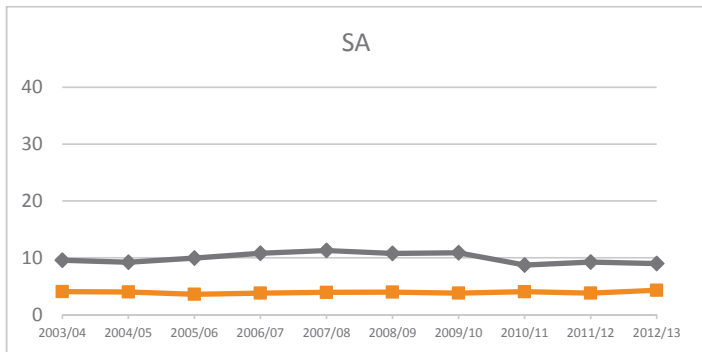
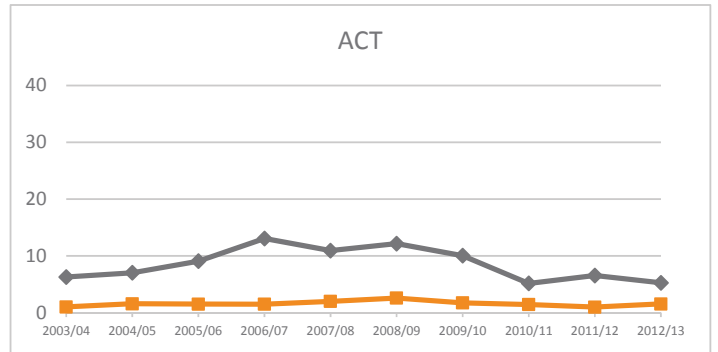
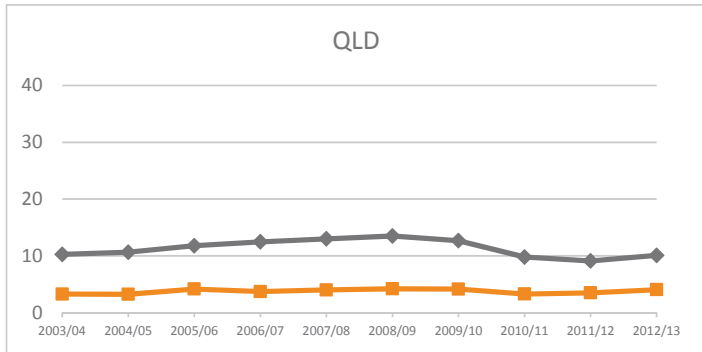
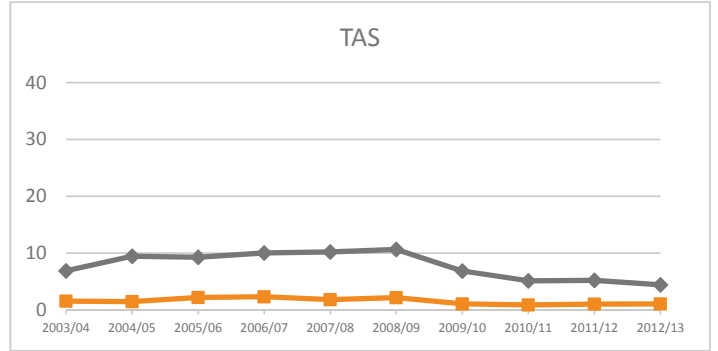
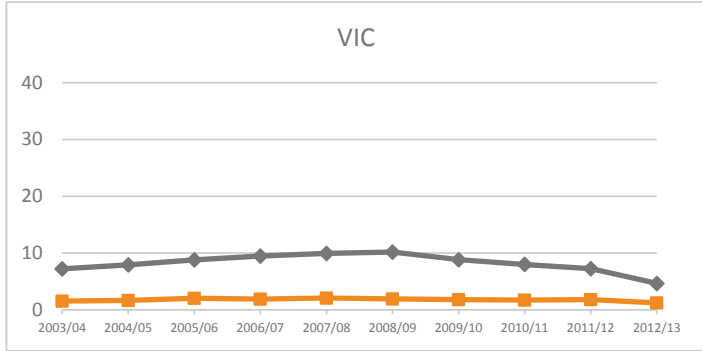
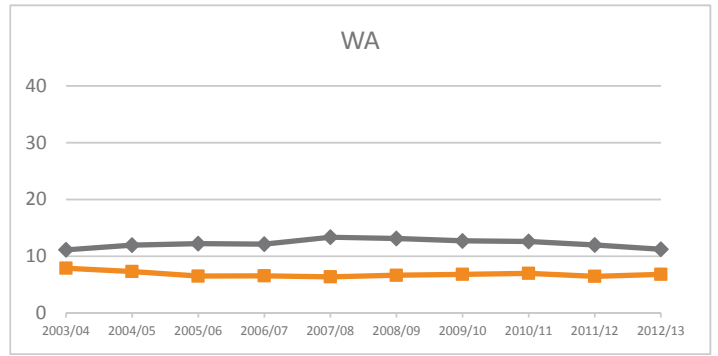
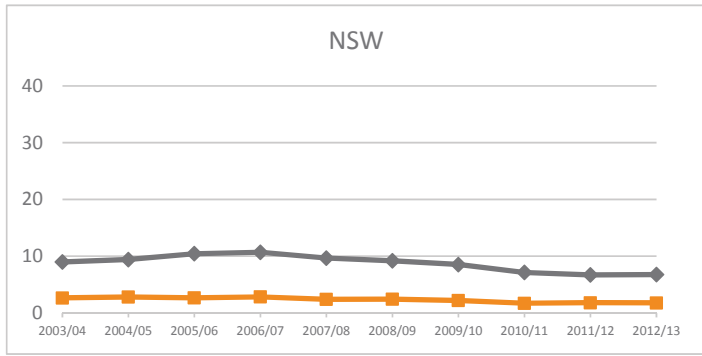
Citation:

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References:

See <http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/research/naip.cfm>

Trends in all ages (15+ years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations



* Please note: scale adjusted for the NT

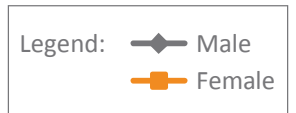
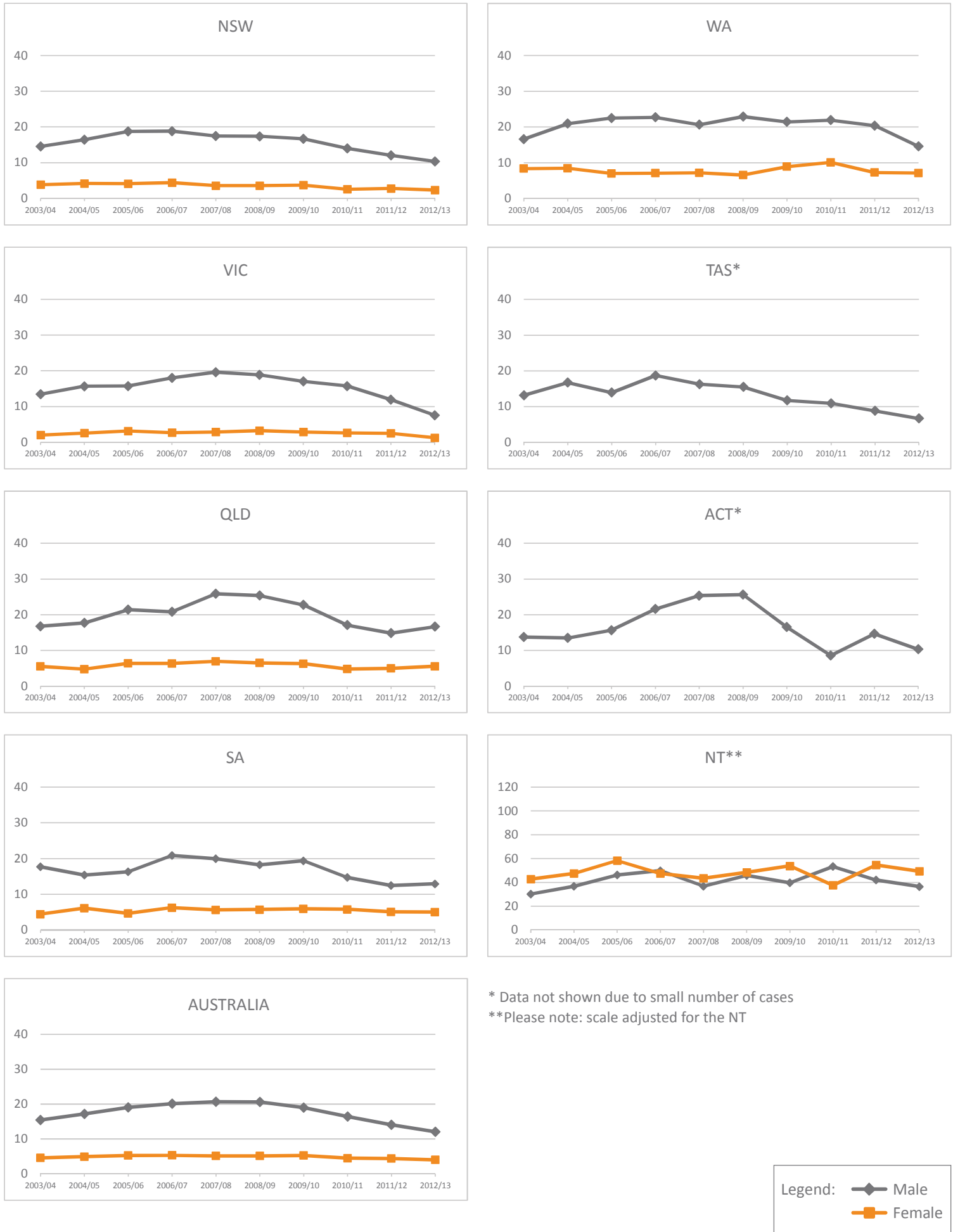


Figure 1: Alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations per 10,000 persons, aged 15 years and older, by gender, 2003/04 – 2012/13

Trends in teenage (15-19 years) alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations



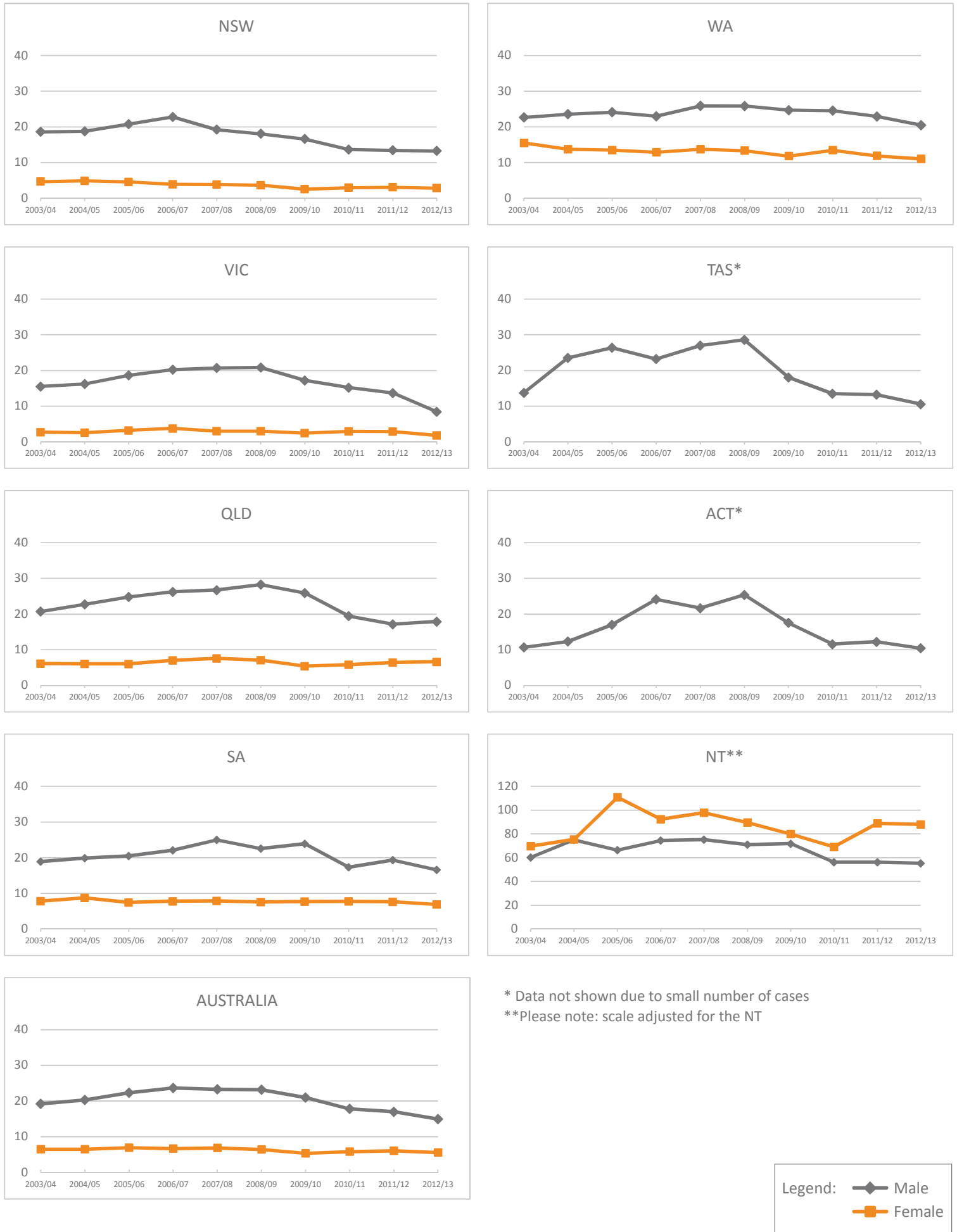
* Data not shown due to small number of cases

**Please note: scale adjusted for the NT



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

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



* Data not shown due to small number of cases

**Please note: scale adjusted for the NT



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