
Morbidity and Discharge Patterns in Hospitalisations for Domestic Assault, Queensland, 2014-15.

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Statbite #69 showed that hospitalisations for domestic assault are increasing annually at a faster rate than total hospitalisations, and that the majority of admissions are for women assaulted by a spouse or domestic partner.

The morbidity and discharge patterns of these hospitalisations vary according to sex and age of the victim. The top 5 principal diagnoses for these admissions are presented in Tables 1 and 2, and separation mode is presented in Table 3.

Table 1: Top 5 Principal Diagnoses (PD) ICD10-AM (3 digit), admitted patient episodes of care with external cause of Assault by spouse or domestic partner/parent/other family member, public and private acute hospitals, Queensland, 2014-15 (1)

Age	PD/PD Group (ICD10-AM)	PD Description	Female	Male	Persons
00-04	S00 - S09	Injuries to the head	10	12	22
	T74	Maltreatment syndromes	8	7	15
	S40 - S49	Injuries to the shoulder and upper arm	3	2	5
	Z04	Examination and observation for other reasons	2	3	5
	L03	Cellulitis	1	2	3
	S70 - S79	Injuries to the hip and thigh	3	-	3
	Other	Other	14	11	25
05-15	S00 - S09	Injuries to the head	15	21	36
	T74	Maltreatment syndromes	6	4	10
	S60 - S69	Injuries to the wrist and hand	3	3	6
	S30 - S39	Injuries to the abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine and pelvis	4	-	4
	S20 - S29	Injuries to the thorax	1	3	4
	Other	Other	13	11	24
16-64	S00 - S09	Injuries to the head	612	209	821
	S20 - S29	Injuries to the thorax	65	49	114
	S30 - S39	Injuries to the abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine and pelvis	88	23	111
	S60 - S69	Injuries to the wrist and hand	40	33	73
	S50 - S59	Injuries to the elbow and forearm	44	20	64
	Other	Other	370	102	472
	65+	S00 - S09	Injuries to the head	13	15
	T74	Maltreatment syndromes	5	1	6
	S20 - S29	Injuries to the thorax	2	2	4
	S50 - S59	Injuries to the elbow and forearm	4	-	4
	Z75	Problems related to medical facilities and other health care	3	1	4
	Other	Other	21	11	32
Total			1,350	545	1,895

Table 2: Top 5 Principal Diagnoses (PD) ICD10-AM (4 digit), admitted patient episodes of care with external cause of Assault by spouse or domestic partner/parent/other family member, public and private acute hospitals, Queensland, 2014-15 (1)

Age	PD (ICD 10-AM)	PD Description	Female	Male	Persons
00-04	S00.8	Superficial injury of other parts of head	6	2	8
	T74.1	Physical abuse	3	4	7
	S06.5	Traumatic subdural haemorrhage	1	5	6
	S09.9	Unspecified injury of head	1	4	5
	T74.0	Neglect or abandonment	2	2	4
05-15	S09.9	Unspecified injury of head	3	5	8
	T74.2	Sexual abuse	4	2	6
	S00.1	Contusion of eyelid and periocular area	2	4	6
	S00.8	Superficial injury of other parts of head	3	2	5
	S06.0	Concussive injury	2	3	5
16-64	S09.9	Unspecified injury of head	97	36	133
	S00.8	Superficial injury of other parts of head	90	12	102
	S06.0	Concussive injury	54	17	71
	S00.1	Contusion of eyelid and periocular area	49	8	57
	S02.6	Fracture of mandible	20	22	42
65+	S01.0	Open wound of scalp	2	5	7
	S00.8	Superficial injury of other parts of head	3	2	5
	T74.1	Physical abuse	3	1	4
	Z75.1	Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere	3	1	4
	S02.6	Fracture of mandible	2	1	3

Table 3 shows that a high proportion of women aged 16-64 discharged against medical advice:

Table 3: Separation mode, admitted patient episodes of care with external cause of Assault by spouse or domestic partner/parent/other family member, all ages, public and private acute hospitals, Queensland, 2014-15 (1)

Separation mode	00-04 years		05-15 years		16-64 years		65+ years		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Home/Usual Residence	36	27	37	32	1,069	355	26	22	1,604
Hospital Transfer	4	7	-	6	56	37	9	2	121
Discharged against medical advice	-	-	2	-	70	37	1	3	113
Other	1	2	3	4	15	1	-	-	26
Episode change	-	-	-	-	4	2	7	1	14
Non-return from leave	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	6
Residential Aged Care	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6
Died	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	5
Total	41	37	42	42	1,219	436	48	30	1,895

Table 3 shows that the proportion of women aged 16-64 in this sample who discharged against medical advice was 5.7%. For all-cause morbidity (total separations) the proportion was only 0.6%*. Therefore, the proportion of women aged 16-64 admitted following domestic assault that subsequently discharge against medical advice was 9.5 times greater than the state average.

* Note: Excludes episodes of care for renal dialysis (DRGV7.0 L61Z), unqualified newborns, posthumous organ procurement, boarders and episodes ending in episode change or death.

(1) Tables 1, 2 and 3 exclude separations for unqualified newborns, posthumous organ procurement and boarders. Note 2014-15 data are preliminary and subject to change.