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# Hospitalisations for Domestic Assault, Queensland, 2005-06 to 2014-15.

Health Statistics Unit, Queensland Health

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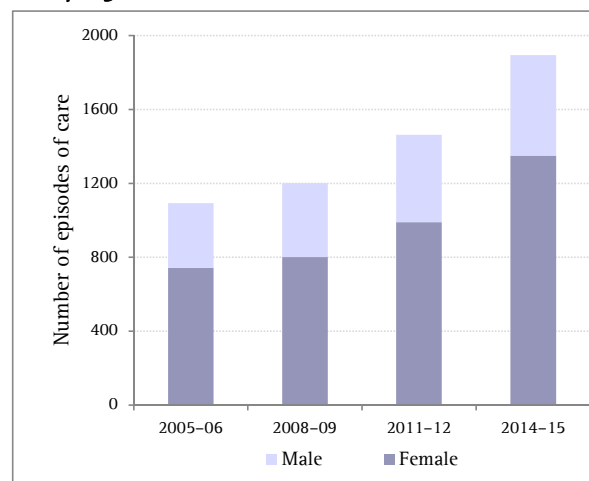
Admitted patient episodes of care for domestic assault are able to be identified via ICD10-AM coded morbidity data. The ICD 10-AM external cause codes X85-Y09 (Assault) includes a fifth character subdivision to describe the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim:

- 0 spouse or domestic partner
- 1 parent
- 2 other family member.

Episodes of care between 2005-06 and 2014-15 with an external cause code in the range X85 – Y09 and fifth character subdivision '0', '1' or '2' were extracted from the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC), for all public and private acute hospitals in Queensland.

Figure 1 shows a large growth in hospitalisations for domestic assault between 2005-06 and 2014-15, and that a far greater number of females than males are hospitalised with an external cause code of domestic assault.

**Figure 1. Admitted patient episodes of care for domestic assault, Queensland, 2005-06 to 2014-15**



Source: Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC).

Excludes separations for unqualified newborns, posthumous organ procurement and boarders.

Note: 2014-15 data are preliminary and subject to change.

**Table 1: Admitted patient episodes of care with external cause of Assault by spouse or domestic partner/parent/other family member, average length of stay (ALOS), public and private acute hospitals, Queensland, 2005-06 to 2014-15**

		2005-06		2008-09		2011-12		2014-15	
Sex	Age	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS
Female	00-04	43	3.9	35	4.6	30	3.9	41	2.7
	05-15	35	2.0	32	1.8	38	3.7	42	1.5
	16-64	645	2.3	719	1.9	888	2.6	1,219	1.7
	65+	20	7.4	15	5.8	34	9.4	48	7.2
<b>Female Total</b>		<b>743</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Male	00-04	58	4.7	49	4.6	40	6.2	37	3.6
	05-15	33	4.1	31	1.5	25	2.5	42	1.4
	16-64	251	2.5	311	2.6	382	2.7	436	2.3
	65+	8	4.8	9	3.4	26	7.0	30	5.5
<b>Male Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Persons	00-04	101	4.3	84	4.6	70	5.2	78	3.1
	05-15	68	3.0	63	1.7	63	3.2	84	1.4
	16-64	896	2.4	1,030	2.2	1,270	2.6	1,655	1.9
	65+	28	6.6	24	4.9	60	8.4	78	6.6
<b>Persons Total</b>		<b>1,093</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Excludes separations for unqualified newborns, posthumous organ procurement and boarders. Note: 2014-15 data are preliminary and subject to change.

Restricting the relationship between perpetrator and victim to 'spouse or domestic partner' greatly increases the proportion of females in hospitalisations for this form of assault.

**Table 2: Admitted patient episodes of care with external cause of Assault by spouse or domestic partner, public and private acute hospitals, Queensland, 2005-06 to 2014-15**

		2005-06		2008-09		2011-12		2014-15	
Sex	Age	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS	Episodes	ALOS
Female	16-64	546	2.2	580	1.8	722	2.7	1,004	1.6
	65+	8	2.9	9	7.7	17	10.7	17	2.6
<b>Female Total</b>		<b>554</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Male	16-64	103	2.4	105	1.8	151	2.5	149	1.9
	65+	2	10.0	4	5.8	5	5.0	10	6.0
<b>Male Total</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Persons	16-64	649	2.2	685	1.8	873	2.7	1,153	1.7
	65+	10	4.3	13	7.1	22	9.4	27	3.9
<b>Persons Total</b>		<b>659</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Excludes separations for unqualified newborns, posthumous organ procurement and boarders. Note: 2014-15 data are preliminary and subject to change.

Comparing tables 1 and 2 and further analysis of data shows that:

- 82% of domestic assault hospitalisations in 2014-15 for females aged 16-64 recorded spouse or partner as the perpetrator
- 65% of domestic assault hospitalisations in 2014-15 for persons aged 65+ recorded other family member as the perpetrator
- 70% of domestic assault hospitalisations in 2014-15 for persons aged 0-15 recorded parent as the perpetrator

The incidence of hospitalisation for domestic assault is increasing annually, at a higher rate than hospitalisation admissions for all causes. Between 2005-06 and 2014-15, Queensland public and private acute hospitals reported a 53% increase in hospital admissions for all causes, whereas admissions for domestic assault have risen by 73%.

It must be noted, however, that the identification of domestic assault may be underestimated as a result of reluctance or inability of the patient to divulge complete circumstances under which the injury was sustained.

This *Statbite* has presented a very brief summary of hospitalisations in Queensland acute hospitals for domestic assault. Further detail on this topic will be presented in subsequent *Statbites*.