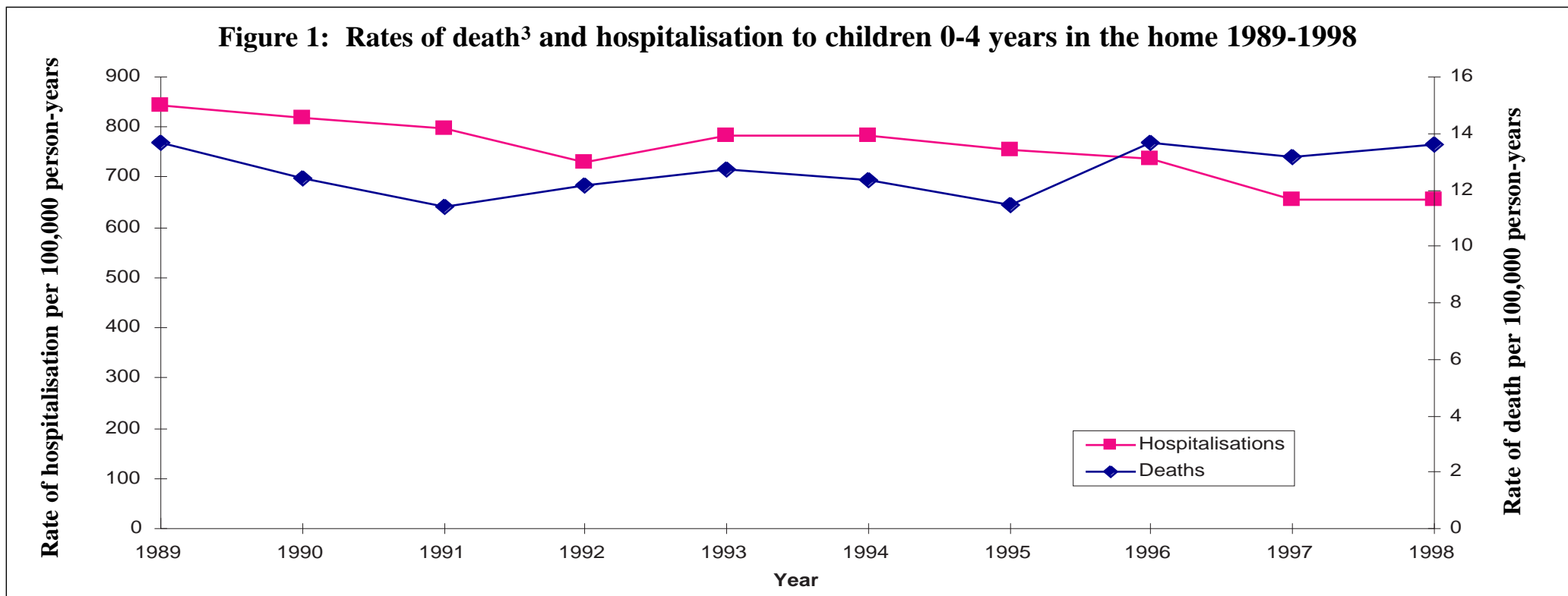


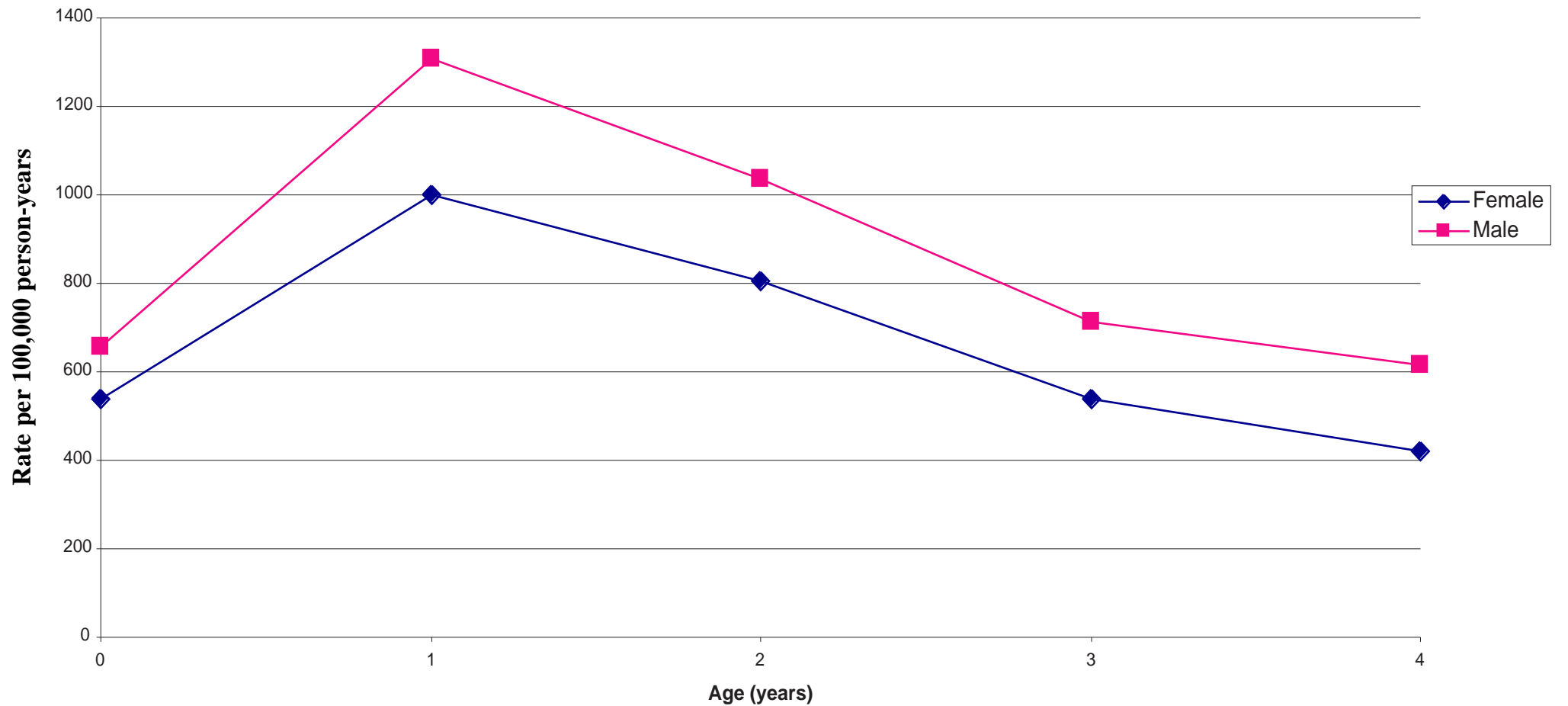
# Injuries in the Home to Children aged 0-4 years

Injury is a leading cause of death and hospitalisation for New Zealand children aged less than 5 years.<sup>1</sup> Between 1989-1998, 'home'<sup>2</sup> was recorded as the location of injury in 53% of deaths and 55% of hospitalisations. In contrast, 29% of deaths and 4% of hospitalisations occurred on the road. The location was unspecified in 32% of events resulting in hospitalisations.



- ◆ From 1989-1998, there were 355 deaths (an average of 36 per year) in 0-4 year olds, from injury in the home giving a rate of 12.5 per 100,000 person-years.
- ◆ From 1989-1998, there were 21,373 hospitalisations (an average of 2,137 per year) among 0-4 year olds, from injury in the home giving a rate of 755 per 100,000 person-years.

**Figure 2: Age and gender specific rates of serious injury<sup>4</sup> for 0-4 year olds in the home (1989-1998)**



- ◆ The rate of serious injury for males for the period 1989-1998 was 867 per 100,000 person-years and that for females was 663 per 100,000 person-years.
- ◆ The highest rates of serious injury occurred among children aged 1-2 years.

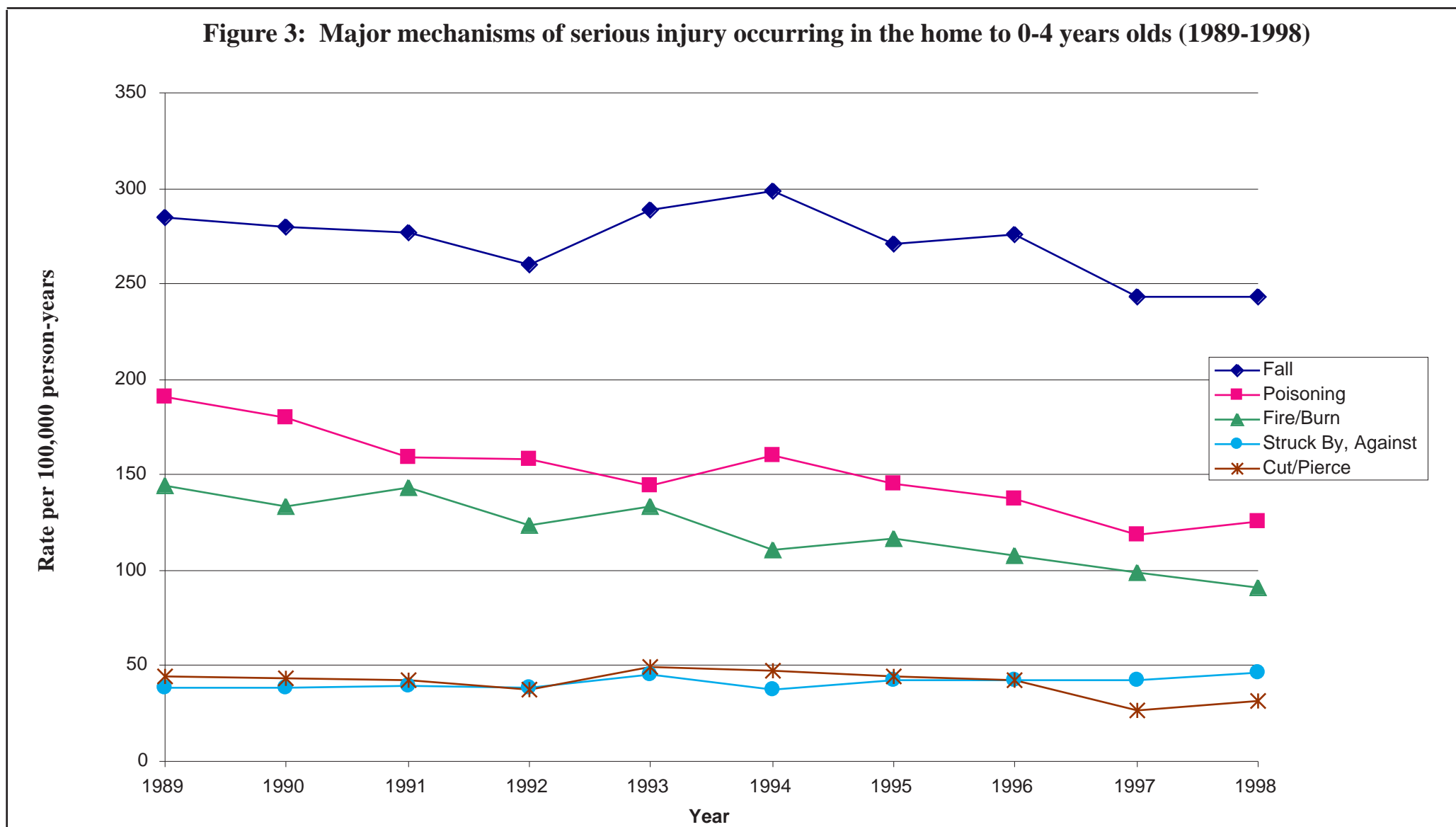
1 IPRU Fact Sheet 24: Injuries in relation to other health problems

2 Defined as the home environment, not necessarily the child's own home

3 Smoothed Rate: Because of large variations in yearly estimates rates for deaths have been calculated using 3 years of data, e.g. the 1990 rate uses data from 1989-1991

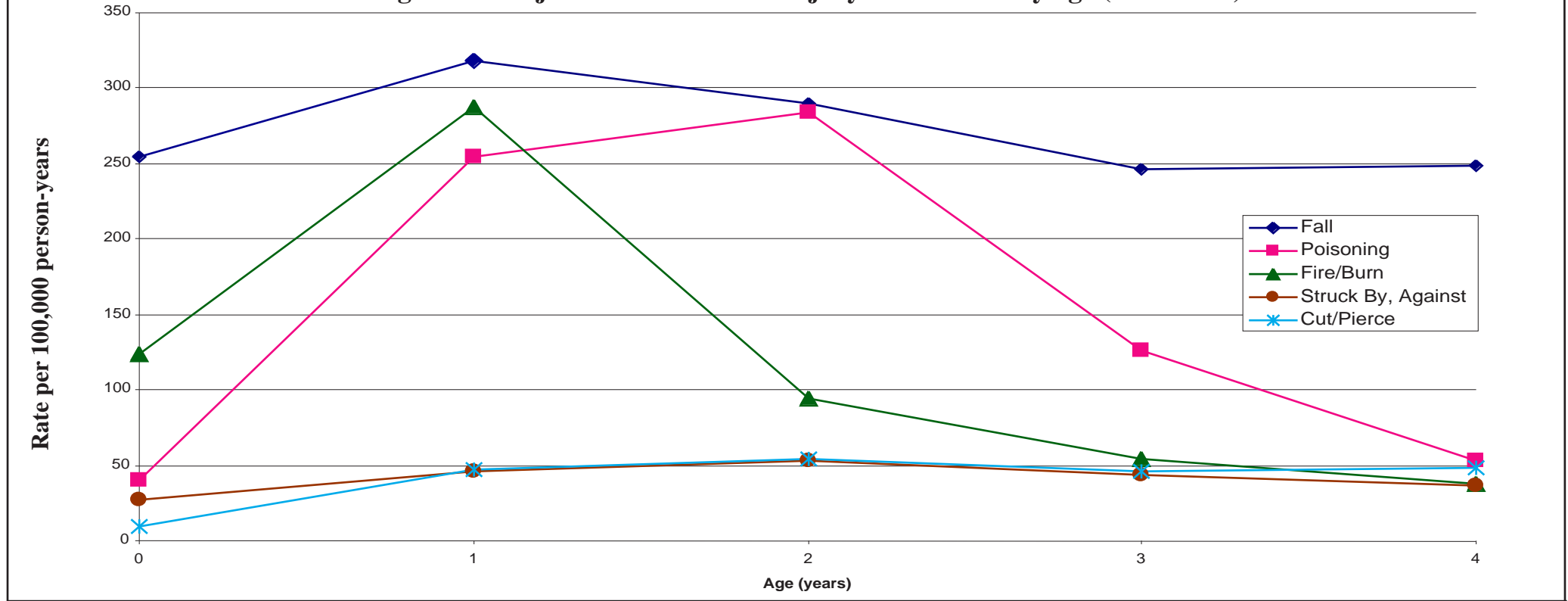
4: Serious injury includes hospitalisations and deaths combined

**Figure 3: Major mechanisms of serious injury occurring in the home to 0-4 years olds (1989-1998)**



- ◆ From 1989-1998 there was little change in the rate of serious injury for the major mechanisms.
- ◆ The major mechanisms of injury resulting in hospitalisation were falls (36%), poisonings (20%) and fire/burn (16%).
- ◆ The major mechanisms of injury resulting in death were suffocation (35%), drowning (22%), and fire/burn (14%). Homicide accounted for 14% of the fatalities in this age group.

**Figure 4: Major causes of serious injury in the home by age (1989-1998)**



- ◆ The rate for falls was the highest for all ages between 0-4 years.
- ◆ For 0 and 1 year olds, fire/burn was a leading cause of home injury. Of these, 96% were due to scalds from a hot substance or object, caustic or corrosive material, or steam.
- ◆ For 1, 2 and 3 years olds, poisonings was a leading cause of home injury.

**NB:** Trends in hospitalisations are influenced by factors other than the incidence of injury e.g. changes in service delivery and changes in access over time. These effects should be borne in mind when interpreting the results.

*Data Source:*  
 New Zealand Health Information Service Mortality Data 1989-1998  
 New Zealand Health Information Service Morbidity Data 1989-1998. Includes all discharges of children under 5 years of age from public hospitals with a primary diagnosis of injury and ICD place of occurrence code '0'. It excludes the following: readmissions for prior injury, stays of less than one day, patients who died, medical/surgical complications, medical misadventure, adverse effects due to drugs, legal interventions and operations of war.

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