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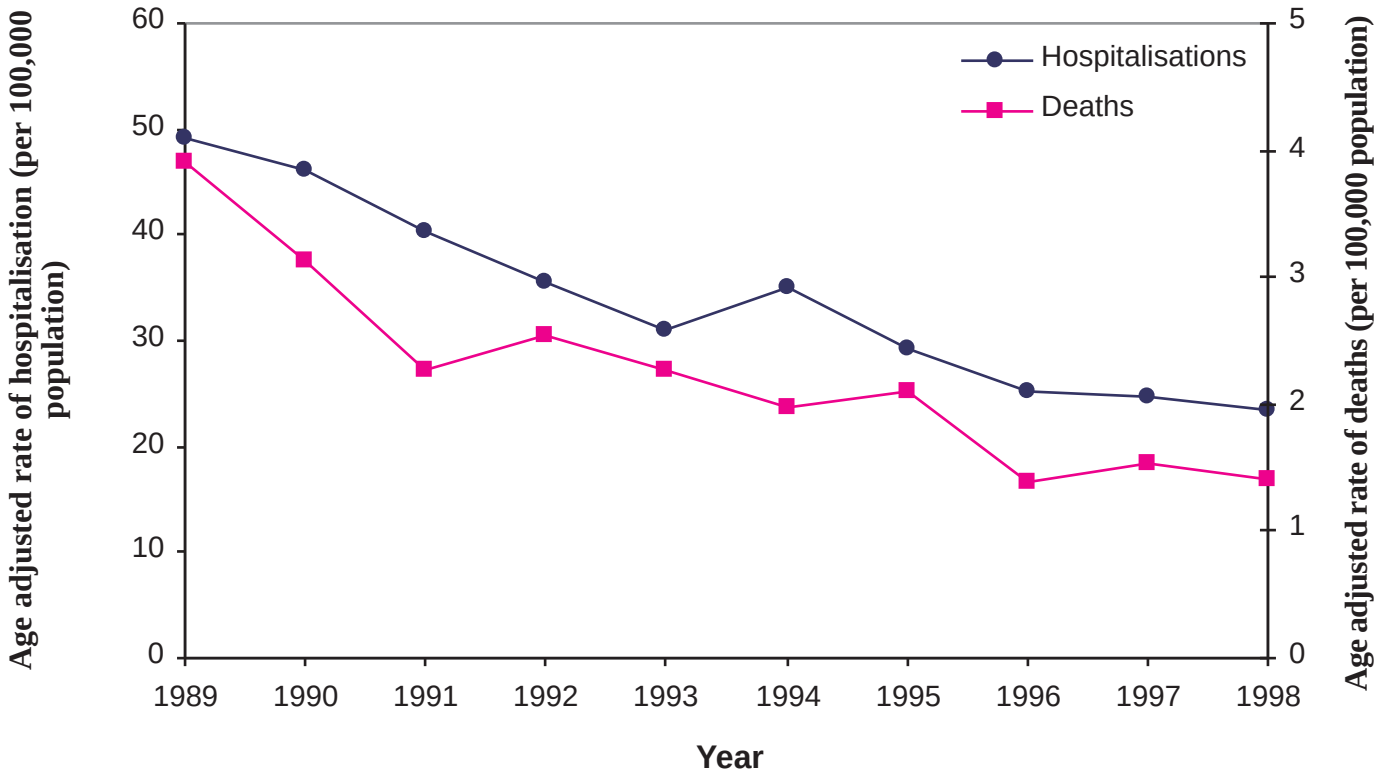
This fact sheet presents information on rates of motorcycle crashes on a public road in New Zealand in relation to trends, age and distance travelled from 1989 to 1998.

Figure 1: Trends in death and hospitalisation[1] due to motorcycle crashes on a public road in New Zealand (1989-1998)



[1] *Includes motor vehicle traffic crashes (ICD-9 Ecodes 810-819) where the injured person was the driver/rider or passenger of a motorcycle.*

- There were 809 deaths due to motorcycle crashes on a public road in New Zealand between 1989 and 1998, an average of 81 deaths per year.
- There were 12,239 hospitalisations due to motorcycle crashes on a public road in New Zealand between 1989 and 1998, an average of 1,224 hospitalisations per year.
- The number of deaths and hospitalisations decreased substantially between 1989 and 1998:
  - In 1989 there were 139 deaths, compared to 52 in 1998, a 63% reduction.
  - In 1989 there were 1,749 hospitalisations, compared to 870 in 1998, a 50% reduction.
- 89% of those who died and 88% of those hospitalised were male.
- 13% of those who died and 11% of those hospitalised were passengers on motorcycles.
- 60% of the deaths and 41% of the hospitalisations resulted from a collision with another motor vehicle.
- 16% of the deaths and 46% of the hospitalisations resulted from a non-collision crash due to loss of control.
- 22% of the deaths and 7% of the hospitalisations resulted from a collision with an object on the road, other than a motor vehicle (e.g. interhighway divider).
- The most common injury for those hospitalised was a lower limb fracture (31% of all injuries).

Figure 2: Rates of serious injury[2] due to motorcycle crashes on a public road in New Zealand (1989 and 1998)

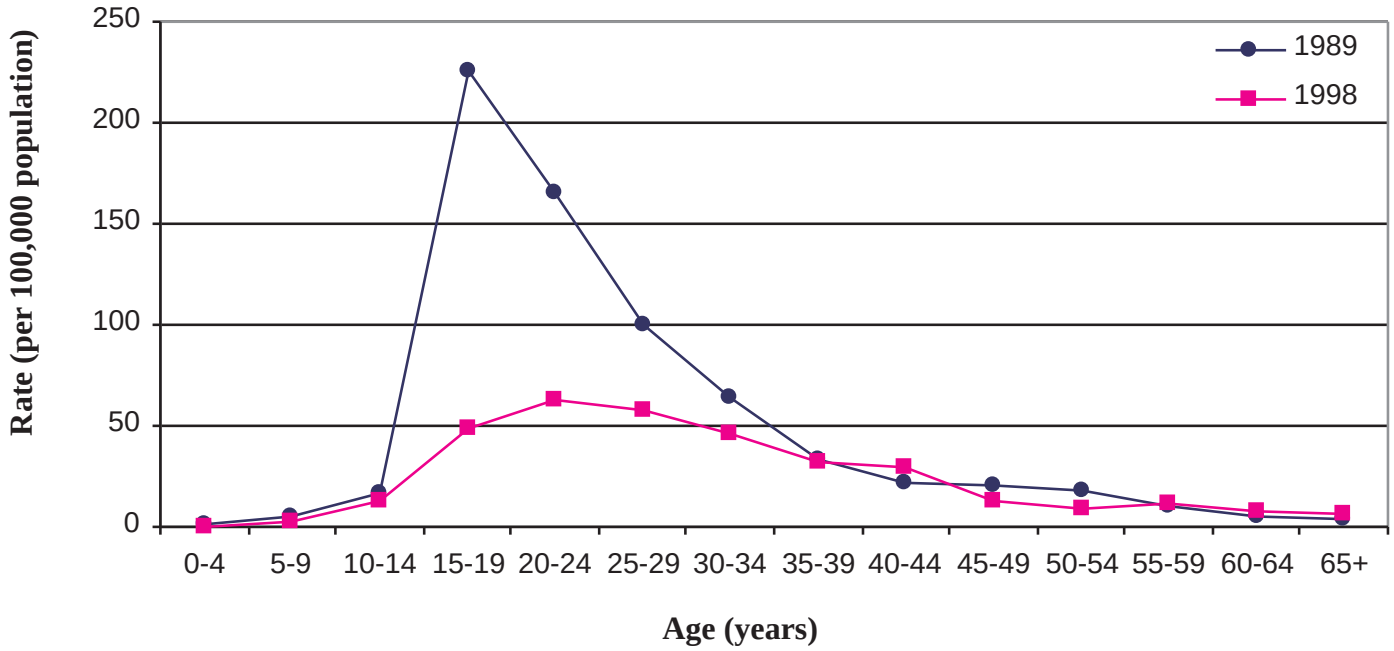
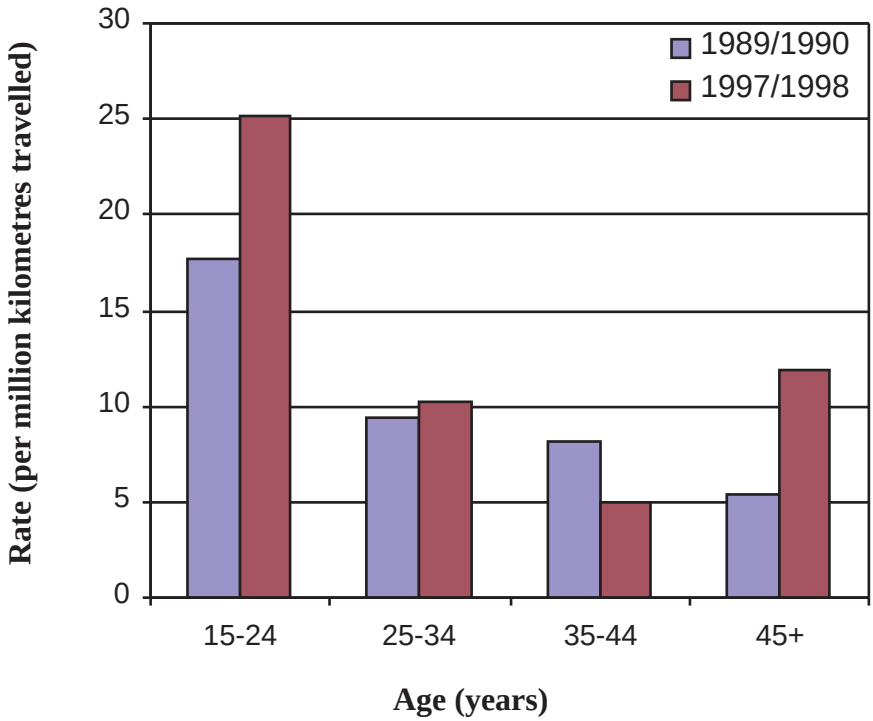


Figure 3: Rates of serious injury[2] per million kilometres travelled[3] (1989/90 and 1997/98)



Rate of serious injury (figure 2)

- The variation in serious injury rates between age groups decreased from 1989 to 1998 with the largest reduction occurring in the 15-19 and 20-24 year olds.
- The highest serious injury rate was in the 15-19 year age group in 1989 and the 20-24 year olds in 1998.

Injury and distance travelled (figure 3)

- Although the serious injury rate per head of population decreased, the rate of serious injury per million kilometres travelled between 1989/90 and 1997/98 increased with the exception of the 35-44 year olds.
- The 15-24 year age group had the highest rate of serious injury per million kilometres travelled for both 1989/90 and 1997/98.

Summary

- The overall decrease in serious injury rates per head of population from 1989 to 1998 is partly due to less distance travelled by the high risk age group (15-24 year olds).

2 Includes both deaths and hospitalisations

3 Based on the 1989/90 and 1997/98 Travel Surveys, Land Transport Safety Authority

Data Source: Morbidity and Mortality Data, 1989 to 1998, New Zealand Health Information Service, Ministry of Health, Wellington.

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