

Trends in car, bus, truck and van traffic injuries



Motor vehicle crashes on a public road are a major cause of death and hospitalisation in New Zealand. The following is a summary of injuries to occupants of motor vehicles, other than motorcyclists¹, involved in traffic crashes in New Zealand.

As a result of bus, car, truck and van crashes from 1989 to 1998:

- ◆ There have been 4,369 deaths, an average of 437 deaths per year.
- ◆ 34,586 people were hospitalised, an average of 3,459 per year.
- ◆ Those aged 15-24 years represented 36% of deaths and 34% of hospitalisations although this age group is only 15% of the New Zealand population.
- ◆ Over half the deaths (53%, n=2,308) and 41% (n=14,186) of those hospitalised were involved in a collision with another motor vehicle.
- ◆ The rate of hospitalisations has decreased from 104 per 100,000 population in 1989 to 86 per 100,000 population in 1998.
- ◆ The rate of deaths has decreased from 15 per 100,000 population in 1989 to 10 per 100,000 population in 1998.
- ◆ Males aged 20-25 years had the the largest reduction in hospitalisation rates from 327 per 100,000 population in 1989 to 191 per 100,000 population in 1998.

¹IPRU Fact Sheet 30 contains information on motorcycle crashes.

²Includes motor vehicle traffic (ICD-9 Ecodes 810-819) where the injured person was the driver or passenger of a motor vehicle, excluding motorcyclists. Hospitalisation data exclude readmissions for the same injury event, stays of less than 1 day and those discharged dead.

Figure 1: Trends in death and hospitalisation² due to motor vehicle injuries, excluding motorcyclists, on a public road in New Zealand (1989-1998)

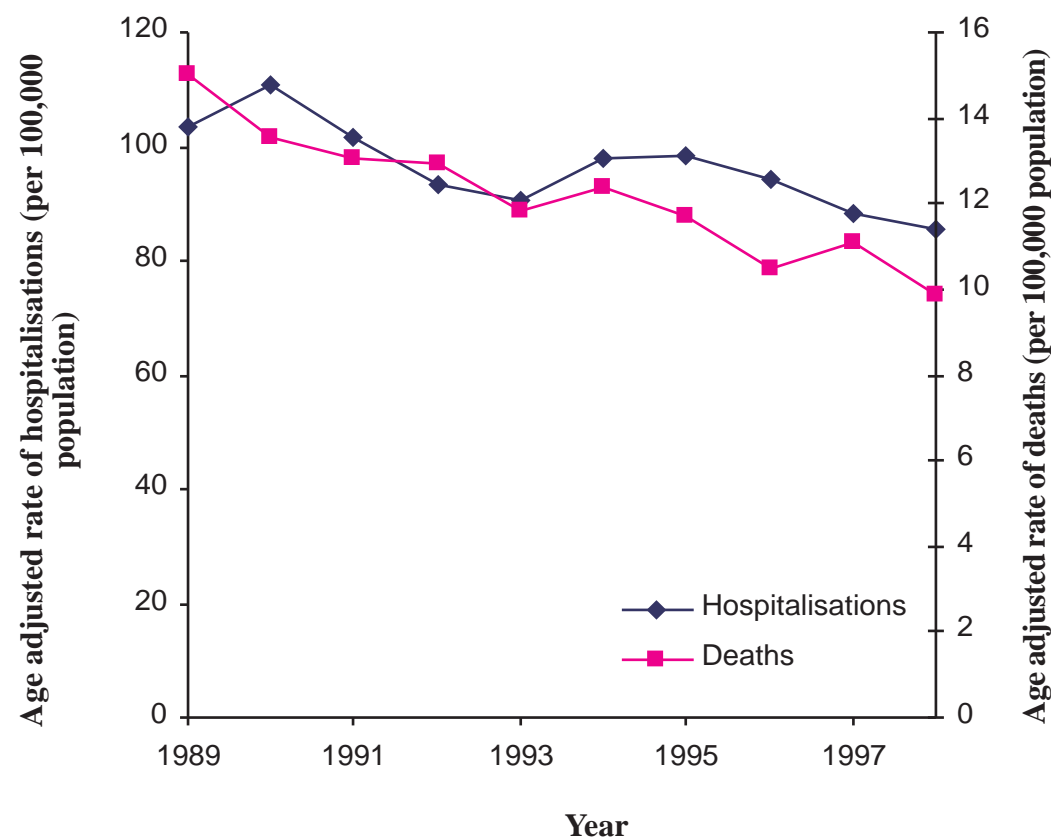
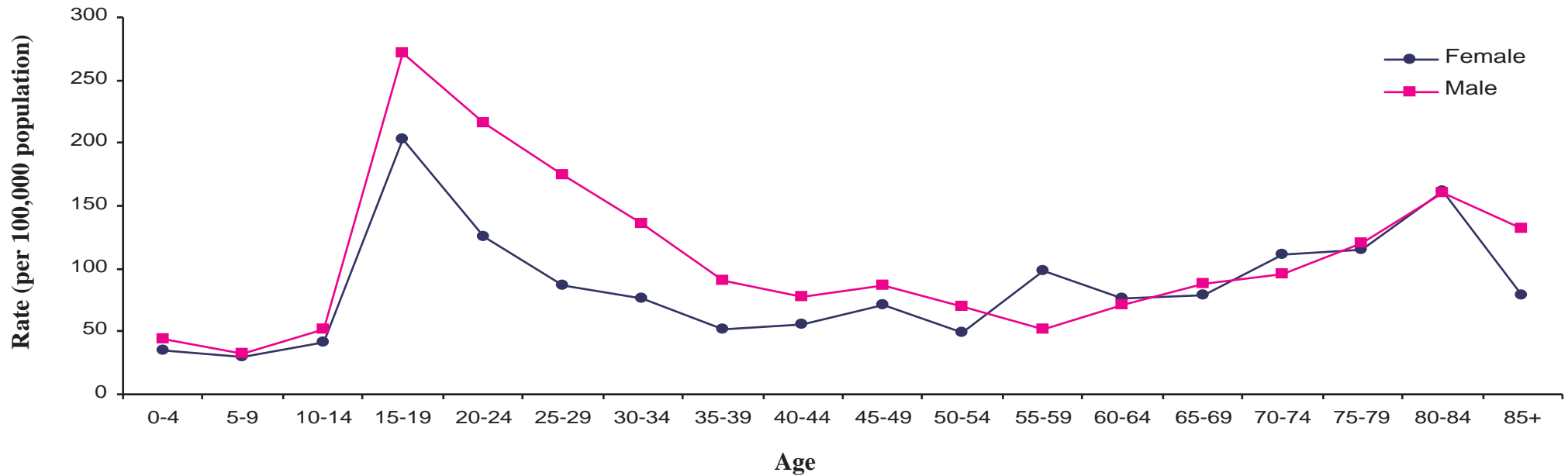


Figure 2: Rates of serious³ injury to occupants involved in motor vehicle crashes, excluding motorcyclists, on a public road in New Zealand for - 1998 (per 100,000 population)



- ◆ The rate of serious injury in 1998 for males was 129 per 100,000 population compared to 84 per 100,000 population for females.
- ◆ 9.6% (n=339) of all serious injuries in 1998 were for children aged less than 15 years.
- ◆ Males aged 15-19 years presented the highest rate of serious injury (272 per 100,000 population), followed by 20-24 year old males (216 per 100,000 population) and 15-19 year old females (204 per 100,000 population).
- ◆ Males had higher rates of serious injury than females for those aged between 15 and 54 years.
- ◆ There were no gender differences in serious injury rates for those aged 55 years and older.
- ◆ 48% of serious injuries to female were due to a collision with another motor vehicle, compared to 39% for males.

³Includes deaths and hospitalisations

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

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