

# Injury as a leading cause of death and hospitalisation



Injury is the leading cause of death from age 1 through to 34. It is also a significant cause of morbidity, being one of the two main causes of inpatient treatment in public hospitals for those aged 5 to 34. These tables highlight the significance of injury for specific age groups. In addition, they provide information on the significance of unintentional, self-harm, and assault injury events. This factsheet updates IPRU Factsheet No 24.

## DEATHS

### Ten Leading Causes of Death – New Zealand 1998-2002

#### Age Groups (years)

Rank	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All ages
1	Perinatal 40.8%	Unintentional Injury 38.0%	Unintentional Injury 40.5%	Unintentional Injury 44.0%	Unintentional Injury 43.4%	Unintentional Injury 32.2%	Cancers 30.1%	Cancers 43.0%	Cancers 46.5%	Heart 46.2%	Heart 40.8%
2	Congenital 23.7%	Congenital 14.0%	Cancers 24.4%	Cancers 19.4%	Suicide 27.9%	Suicide 24.5%	Heart 20.5%	Heart 28.1%	Heart 30.9%	Cancers 26.3%	Cancers 28.5%
3	Ill defined 19.3%	Cancers 11.0%	Congenital 9.1%	Congenital 8.0%	Cancers 8.1%	Cancers 15.6%	Unintentional Injury 16.3%	Unintentional Injury 6.8%	Respiratory 5.8%	Respiratory 9.9%	Respiratory 8.5%
4	Unintentional Injury 4.9%	Infectious 10.0%	Nervous 8.7%	Suicide 7.7%	Nervous 4.2%	Heart 8.7%	Suicide 13.3%	Endocrine 4.8%	Endocrine 5.4%	Endocrine 3.4%	Unintentional Injury 4.0%
5	Nervous 2.7%	Nervous 8.3%	Homicide 3.7%	Nervous 6.8%	Congenital 3.1%	Nervous 3.6%	Endocrine 3.8%	Suicide 4.3%	Unintentional Injury 2.7%	Mental 3.2%	Endocrine 3.6%
6	Respiratory 2.6%	Respiratory 4.4%	Endocrine 2.9%	Heart 3.1%	Heart 3.0%	Mental 2.6%	Nervous 3.6%	Respiratory 3.1%	Digestive 2.2%	Digestive 2.9%	Digestive 2.6%
7	Infectious 2.2%	Homicide 4.2%	Infectious 2.5%	Respiratory 2.5%	Homicide 2.6%	Homicide 2.4%	Respiratory 2.6%	Nervous 2.8%	Nervous 1.9%	Nervous 2.9%	Mental 2.6%
8	Heart 1.1%	Heart 3.2%	Respiratory 2.1%	Homicide 2.2%	Endocrine 2.0%	Endocrine 2.1%	Infectious 1.8%	Digestive 2.3%	Suicide 1.7%	Unintentional Injury 1.7%	Nervous 2.6%
9	Homicide 0.8%	Ill defined 2.9%	Heart 1.7%	Infectious 1.8%	Mental 1.7%	Congenital 1.8%	Digestive 1.7%	Infectious 1.1%	Congenital 0.6%	Genitourinary 1.5%	Suicide 1.8%
10	Cancers 0.7%	Endocrine 2.0%	Blood 1.2%	Endocrine 1.5%	Infectious 1.4%	Infectious 1.6%	Mental 1.6%	Congenital 0.9%	Musculo-skeletal 0.6%	Musculo-skeletal 0.9%	Genitourinary 1.3%
All Other	1.3%	2.0%	3.3%	3.1%	2.6%	4.8%	4.7%	2.8%	1.9%	1.4%	3.6%
Total	1,655	408	242	325	2,014	2,520	3,941	7,364	13,739	105,663	137,871

Data Source: New Zealand Health Information Service Mortality Collection

See overleaf for a description of abbreviations

# HOSPITALISATIONS \*

## Ten leading causes of hospitalisation – New Zealand 1999 - 2003\*\* Age Groups (years)

Rank	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
1	Perinatal 24.2%	Unintentional Injury 21.5%	Unintentional Injury 27.4%	Pregnancy 35.4%	Pregnancy 48.8%	Pregnancy 21.8%	Digestive 12.8%	Heart 18.5%	Heart 23.1%	Pregnancy 13%
2	Respiratory 21.8%	Respiratory 17.1%	Respiratory 12.0%	Unintentional Injury 18.5%	Unintentional Injury 10.6%	Unintentional Injury 12.4%	Heart 12.6%	Cancers 13.3%	Cancers 14.6%	Unintentional Injury 11.5%
3	Infectious 9.4%	Digestive 13.9%	Digestive 10.0%	Digestive 7.0%	Digestive 6.4%	Digestive 9.9%	Ill defined 11.4%	Digestive 11.8%	Digestive 10.1%	Heart 10.5%
4	Unintentional Injury 7.3%	Ear 11.6%	Ill defined 8.9%	Ill defined 6.3%	Genitourinary 6.2%	Genitourinary 9.3%	Unintentional Injury 11.3%	Ill defined 10.0%	Unintentional Injury 8.8%	Digestive 9.4%
5	Congenital 6.9%	Ill defined 6.0%	Musculo-skeletal 5.7%	Respiratory 5.9%	Ill defined 5.2%	Ill defined 8.5%	Cancers 10.6%	Unintentional Injury 8.5%	Respiratory 8.8%	Respiratory 8.7%
6	Ear 6.9%	Infectious 6.0%	Ear 5.1%	Genitourinary 5.8%	Mental 4.0%	Musculoskeletal 6.3%	Genitourinary 9.2%	Musculo-skeletal 7.5%	Ill defined 8.7%	Ill defined 8.0%
7	Digestive 6.6%	Skin 3.8%	Infectious 4.9%	Mental 4.2%	Musculo-skeletal 3.5%	Cancers 5.6%	Musculo-skeletal 8.2%	Respiratory 7.3%	Musculo-skeletal 6.1%	Cancers 7.8%
8	Ill defined 6.6%	Genitourinary 3.7%	Skin 4.2%	Musculo-skeletal 3.6%	Respiratory 3.5%	Mental 5.1%	Respiratory 6.0%	Genitourinary 5.6%	Genitourinary 4.4%	Genitourinary 5.6%
9	Skin 2.6%	Musculo-skeletal 3.4%	Nervous 3.9%	Skin 3.0%	Cancers 2.4%	Heart 5.0%	Mental 3.7%	Nervous 5.4%	Eye 4.3%	Musculo-skeletal 5.1%
10	Genitourinary 2.4%	Congenital 3.2%	Genitourinary 3.7%	Infectious 2.4%	Skin 2.2%	Respiratory 4.6%	Nervous 3.7%	Skin 2.6%	Skin 2.3%	Mental 2.7%
All other	5.4%	10.0%	14.2%	8.0%	7.2%	11.7%	10.6%	9.5%	8.7%	17.7%
<b>Total</b>	302607	98511	77049	280540	392185	297135	246887	267363	767626	2729903

Notes: \* Counts include all daypatient and inpatient discharges from a public hospital  
\*\* Data on which these tables are based are for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2003

Abbreviations	Description	Abbreviations	Description
Blood:	Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	Infectious:	Infectious and parasitic disease
Cancers:	Neoplasms	Mental:	Mental disorders
Congenital:	Congenital anomalies	Musculoskeletal:	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue
Digestive:	Diseases of the digestive system	Nervous:	Diseases of the nervous system
Ear:	Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	Perinatal:	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period
Endocrine:	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	Pregnancy:	Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium
Eye:	Diseases of the eye	Respiratory:	Diseases of the respiratory system
Genitourinary:	Diseases of the genitourinary system	Suicide:	Suicide
Homicide:	Homicide	Skin:	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue
Heart:	Diseases of the circulatory system	Unintentional:	Unintentional injuries
Ill defined:	Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions		

Data Source: National Minimum Data Set, New Zealand Health Information Service

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