

NATIONAL ALCOHOL INDICATORS PROJECT - BULLETIN 15
TRENDS IN ESTIMATED ALCOHOL-ATTRIBUTABLE ASSAULT HOSPITALISATIONS
IN AUSTRALIA 2003/04 TO 2012/13

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Introduction and Aims: The National Alcohol Indicators Project was established in early 1999. The main aim of the project is to monitor trends in alcohol related harm and risky drinking for all Australian jurisdictions. This bulletin aims to show trends in estimated alcohol-attributable assaults using hospital morbidity data from all Australian jurisdictions between 2003/04 and 2012/13.

Design and Methods: National Hospital Morbidity Data were obtained from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for all states. A subset of data was extracted to identify assaults using assault related external cause ICD-10 codes. In order to estimate the number of alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations the alcohol aetiological fraction method was applied. AAF adjusted counts were then converted to crude rates per 10,000 population (state, sex and age specific).

Results: In 2012/13 about 10,360 people aged 15+ years were admitted to hospital for alcohol-attributable assaults in Australia (rate 5.7 per 10,000 persons). The rate was highest among males aged 20-29 years old (15.0 per 10,000 persons). Rates of male alcohol-attributable assault hospitalisations were higher than female rates for all age categories across all jurisdictions except the NT. By 2012/13 rates of male alcohol-attributable assaults were either lower or similar to 2003/04 levels across all jurisdictions except the NT for every age group (15+, 15-19, 20-29 years).

Discussions and Conclusions: Across all jurisdictions, apart from the NT, young males (15-29 years) appeared to be at highest risk of alcohol-attributable assault. The female trend showed less variation over time and between age groups, with the exception of the NT where the female trend was highly variable.

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