



## A Summary of Alcohol-related Injury Hospitalisations 1997 – 2002

### Introduction:

This is a summary of data from admissions to a public hospital, for at least one night, with a primary diagnosis of injury and at least one of the diagnoses being the toxic effect of alcohol (ethanol) between 1997 and 2002. The data does not include day patients, readmissions for the same injury or patients discharged dead.

### Findings:

Over the three years 1997 to 1999 **1250** people were admitted to hospital with an injury where at least one of the diagnoses was 'toxic effect of alcohol'. This compares with **1496** for the 2000 – 2002 period, representing a **19.7% increase**. The rate of admissions (per 100,000) increased from 10.9 to 12.8.

There were increases in the number of admissions in all but three of the 18 five year age groups and increases in the rate of admissions in all but four of the age groups.

The number of admissions for **10 – 14 year olds** increased from 39 – 73 (**87%**) between the two time periods. The rate of admissions per 100,000 for 10 – 14 year olds increased from 4.6 – 8.1. The increase for females aged 10 – 14 years were more marked than those for males in the same age group.

<b>10-14 yr olds</b>		1997-1999	2000-2002
<b>Female</b>	number of admissions	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>
	rate per 100,000	<b>4.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Male	number of admissions	21	26
	rate per 100,000	4.9	5.6

Seventy eight percent (**78%**) of hospitalisations during 2000-2002 for the 10 -14 year old age group had as the principal diagnosis 'toxic effect of ethanol'. This is likely to represent those admitted for **alcohol poisoning**. This compares with 35% of hospitalisations for the 15-19 year old group for the same period.

Across the population as a whole the number of alcohol poisonings remained static.

The data points to a substantial increase in risk of alcohol-related injury for **females**. The number of female admissions increased from 696 – 912 (**31%**) between the two periods. This compares to 554 – 584 (5%) for males.

<b>All ages</b>		1997-1999	2000-2002
<b>Female</b>	number of admissions	<b>696</b>	<b>912</b>
	rate per 100,000	<b>12.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>
Male	number of admissions	554	584
	rate per 100,000	9.8	10.2

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Alcohol Healthwatch

For a copy of the data tables please contact Alcohol Healthwatch  
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Original Data Source – New Zealand Health Information Service