

fare regularly publishes transport injury-specific analyses, including reports on land transport injuries (both traffic and non-traffic), rail-related transport injuries and transport injuries involving Indigenous Australians. The most recent of these reports is Henley and Harrison's.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the statistics mentioned above, they also report that the national age-standardised rate of non-traffic transport injuries was 66.5 per 100 000 population. In the previous year, this rate was 67.2 per 100 000 population.<sup>3</sup> The next report in this series, to be published shortly, will include analysis of national trends in the rate of non-traffic transport injuries over the period 2000–01 to 2007–08.

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1 Chong S, Du W, Hatfield J. Trends in the incidence of hospitalisation for injuries resulting from non-traffic crashes in New South Wales, July 1998 to June 2007. *Med J Aust* 2010; 193: 223–226.

2 Henley G, Harrison JE. Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2006–07. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2009. (AIHW Cat. No. INJCAT 129; Injury research and statistics series no. 53.) <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/inj/injcat-129-11033/injcat-129-11033.pdf> (accessed Oct 2010).

3 Berry JG, Harrison JE. Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia, 2005–06. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008. (AIHW Cat. No. INJCAT 113; Injury research and statistics series no. 42). <http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2008/injcat113.pdf> (accessed Oct 2010). □

## Trends in the incidence of hospitalisation for injuries resulting from non-traffic crashes in New South Wales, July 1998 to June 2007

**Clare E Bradley, James E Harrison and Geoffrey I Henley**

**TO THE EDITOR:** It is incorrect for Chong and colleagues to state that “during the financial year 2006–07, 32 777 people were admitted to hospital in Australia due to road crashes”. It is also wrong for them to claim “it is often not clear how many of these road crashes are traffic crashes, and how many are non-traffic crashes”.<sup>1</sup> Henley and Harrison report that there were 52 066 people seriously (but not fatally) injured due to land transport injury in 2006–07, and 32 777 of these (63.0%) occurred in traffic (on-road) accidents.<sup>2</sup> A further 13 639 (26.2%) land transport injury cases in that year were explicitly described as non-traffic (off-road) accidents.

The National Injury Surveillance Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Wel-

**Shanley S S Chong, Wei Du and Julie Hatfield**

**IN REPLY:** We acknowledge our error in reporting Henley and Harrison's findings,<sup>1</sup> and commend Bradley and colleagues for providing information about traffic and non-traffic transport injuries separately. We are also pleased that the National Injury Surveillance Unit will soon publish a report including analysis of trends in non-traffic transport injuries, extending our analyses beyond New South Wales. This is consistent with our conclusion that more needs to be done to understand non-traffic crashes.<sup>2</sup> We defend our claim that the statistics in many reports and articles often do not clearly distinguish between traffic and non-traffic crashes and injuries.

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1 Henley G, Harrison JE. Serious injury due to land transport accidents, Australia 2006–07. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2009. (AIHW Cat. No. INJCAT 129; Injury re-search and statistics series no. 53.) <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/inj/injcat-129-11033/injcat-129-11033.pdf> (accessed Oct 2010).

2 Chong S, Du W, Hatfield J. Trends in the incidence of hospitalisation for injuries resulting from non-traffic crashes in New South Wales, July 1998 to June 2007. *Med J Aust* 2010; 193: 223–226. □