

# EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS DUE TO GLASS INJURIES FROM WINDOWS, DOORS AND SHOWER SCREENS, VICTORIA 2015/16 TO

Data selected from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD)  
July 2015-June 2021

## About the data:

\* VEMD data for the period July 2015 - June 2021 was analysed for this report. Each record represents the first presentation for treatment of injuries arising from an incident. The VEMD collects data from Victorian public hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments. 100% state wide coverage of these hospitals applies from 2004. Casey Hospital was added when it opened in 2005. The Bass Coast Regional Hospital is the most recent addition to the VEMD and started collecting data in July 2011.

## Selection criteria:

\*Cases were selected if the financial year of ED presentation was 2015/16-2020/21.

\* VEMD records were extracted if the "Description of event" text variable contained the terms "glass door", "shower screen", "shower door" or "window" and their variations and derivatives. Cases selected using the text variable were manually checked for relevance. Cases where the injury was not due to broken glass/lacerations were excluded: for example the person collided with the object (e.g. hit their head, no broken glass) or a body part was trapped or jammed e.g. in a window. Cases where a person fell through an open window, or fell while climbing through an open window, were also excluded, as were those cases where the person collided with the window sill or ledge.

\*Cases were retained if the "Human Intent" was coded to "Non-intentional harm".

\* Cases were limited to incidence (excludes return visits and pre-arranged admissions).

**Table 1: Window injuries by financial year**

	Frequency	Percent
2015/16	255	18.0
2016/17	261	18.5
2017/18	238	16.8
2018/19	176	12.5
2019/20	236	16.7
2020/21	247	17.5
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 2: Window injuries by age group**

	Frequency	Percent
0-4 years	138	9.8
5-9 years	157	11.1
10-14 years	167	11.8

15-19 years	171	12.1
20-24 years	190	13.4
25-29 years	171	12.1
30-34 years	119	8.4
35-39 years	91	6.4
40-44 years	58	4.1
45-49 years	40	2.8
50-54 years	31	2.2
55-59 years	20	1.4
60-64 years	18	1.3
65-69 years	13	0.9
70-74 years	8	0.6
75-79 years	7	0.5
80-84 years	5	0.4
85+ years	9	0.6
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 3: Window injuries by sex**

	Frequency	Percent
Male	964	68.2
Female	449	31.8
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 4: Window injuries by main injury type**

	Frequency	Percent
Open wound	986	69.8
Superficial injury	163	11.5
Injury to muscle & tendon	34	2.4
Fracture	30	2.1
Dislocation, sprain, strain	25	1.8
Foreign body	22	1.6
Intracranial injury	15	1.1
Crushing injury	10	0.7
Injury to nerves & spinal cord	5	0.4
Injury to blood vessels	5	0.4
Other & unspecified injury	118	8.4
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 5: Window injuries by body region of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Wrist & hand	583	41.3
Elbow & forearm	302	21.4
Head	163	11.5
Ankle & foot	100	7.1
Knee & lower leg	77	5.4
Shoulder & upper arm	59	4.2
Abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine & pelvis	25	1.8
Hip & thigh	12	0.8

Thorax	8	0.6
Multiple body regions	42	3.0
Other specified/code not required	16	1.1
Unspecified body region	26	1.8
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 6: Window injuries by main cause of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Cutting/piercing	689	48.8
Hit/struck/crush	358	25.3
Fall	225	15.9
Other specified	95	6.7
Unspecified	46	3.3
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 7: Window injuries by place of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Home	1,034	73.2
School, public buildings	37	2.6
Trade & service area	20	1.4
Residential Institution	12	0.8
Other specified places	136	9.6
Unspecified places	174	12.3
Total	1,413	100.0

**Table 8: Window injuries by departure status**

	Frequency	Percent
Admissions/transfers	367	26.0
Presentations	1,046	74.0
Total	1,413	100.0

**Note there were no deaths in hospital during this period**

**Table 9: Glass door injuries by financial year**

	Frequency	Percent
2015/16	227	19.5
2016/17	202	17.4
2017/18	207	17.8
2018/19	190	16.3
2019/20	189	16.2
2020/21	149	12.8
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 10: Glass door injuries by age group**

	Frequency	Percent
0-4 years	149	12.8
5-9 years	164	14.1
10-14 years	114	9.8
15-19 years	110	9.5
20-24 years	100	8.6
25-29 years	92	7.9
30-34 years	68	5.8
35-39 years	65	5.6
40-44 years	58	5.0
45-49 years	53	4.6
50-54 years	26	2.2
55-59 years	25	2.1
60-64 years	36	3.1
65-69 years	26	2.2
70-74 years	18	1.5
75-79 years	18	1.5
80-84 years	24	2.1
85+ years	18	1.5
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 11: Glass door injuries by sex**

	Frequency	Percent
Male	730	62.7
Female	434	37.3
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 12: Glass door injuries by main injury type**

	Frequency	Percent
Open wound	717	61.6
Superficial injury	173	14.9
Fracture	59	5.1
Intracranial injury	27	2.3
Injury to muscle & tendon	26	2.2
Dislocation, sprain, strain	23	2.0
Foreign body	15	1.3
Crushing injury	15	1.3
Eye injury - excluding foreign body	9	0.8
Other & unspecified injury	100	8.6
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 13: Glass door injuries by body region of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Head	361	31.0
Wrist & hand	289	24.8
Elbow & forearm	144	12.4
Knee & lower leg	105	9.0
Ankle & foot	82	7.0
Shoulder & upper arm	48	4.1
Hip & thigh	20	1.7
Thorax	12	1.0
Abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine & pelvis	10	0.9
Neck	7	0.6
Multiple body regions	64	5.5
Other specified/code not required	6	0.5
Unspecified body region	16	1.4
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 14: Glass door injuries by main cause of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Hit/struck/crush	431	37.0
Cutting/piercing	428	36.8
Fall	179	15.4
Other specified	86	7.4
Unspecified	40	3.4
Total	1,164	63.0

**Table 15: Glass door injuries by place of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Home	806	69.2
School, public buildings	37	3.2
Trade & service area	50	4.3
Residential Institution	6	0.5
Other specified places	125	10.7
Unspecified places	140	12.0
Total	1,164	100.0

**Table 16: Glass door injuries by departure status**

	Frequency	Percent
Admissions/transfers	286	24.6
Presentations	878	75.4
Total	1,164	100.0

**Note there were no deaths in hospital during this period**

**Table 17: Shower screen injuries by financial year**

	Frequency	Percent
2015/16	66	17.8
2016/17	73	19.7
2017/18	59	15.9
2018/19	52	14.1
2019/20	68	18.4
2020/21	52	14.1
Total	370	100.0

**Table 18: Shower screen injuries by age group**

	Frequency	Percent
0-4 years	33	8.9
5-9 years	29	7.8
10-14 years	18	4.9
15-19 years	19	5.1
20-24 years	33	8.9
25-29 years	35	9.5
30-34 years	48	13.0
35-39 years	25	6.8
40-44 years	19	5.1
45-49 years	22	5.9
50-54 years	24	6.5
55-59 years	14	3.8
60-64 years	11	3.0
65-69 years	11	3.0
70-74 years	10	2.7
75+ years	19	5.1
Total	370	100.0

**Table 19: Shower screen injuries by sex**

	Frequency	Percent
Male	229	61.9
Female	141	38.1
Total	370	100.0

**Table 20: Shower screen injuries by main injury type**

	Frequency	Percent
Open wound	225	60.8
Superficial injury	49	13.2
Foreign body	16	4.3
Fracture	11	3.0
Injury to muscle & tendon	7	1.9
Dislocation, sprain, strain	6	1.6
Crushing injury	5	1.4
Other & unspecified injury	51	13.8
Total	370	100.0

**Table 21: Shower screen injuries by body region of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Wrist & hand	94	25.4
Ankle & foot	67	18.1
Head	33	8.9
Elbow & forearm	31	8.4
Shoulder & upper arm	25	6.8
Knee & lower leg	21	5.7
Hip & thigh	12	3.2
Abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine & pelvis	13	3.5
Thorax	9	2.4
Multiple body regions	40	10.8
Other & unspecified	25	6.8
Total	370	100.0

**Table 22: Shower screen injuries by main cause of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Cutting/piercing	165	44.6
Fall	90	24.3
Hit/struck/crush	82	22.2
Other specified	25	6.8
Unspecified	8	2.2
Total	370	100.0

**Table 23: Shower screen injuries by place of injury**

	Frequency	Percent
Home	309	83.5
Trade & service area	6	1.6
Industrial & construction area	5	1.4
Other specified places	17	4.6
Unspecified places	33	8.9
Total	370	100.0

**Table 24: Shower screen injuries by departure status**

	Frequency	Percent
Admissions/transfers	75	20.3
Presentations	295	79.7
Total	370	100.0

**Note there were no deaths in hospital during this period**