



SPINAL CORD INJURY STATISTICS (2007/08)

Age: Spinal cord injuries were most frequent in the 15–24 year age group.

Transport-related injuries

- ♻ During 2007/08 46% of all spinal cord injuries were from motor accidents
- ♻ 78% of accidents were traffic crashes
- ♻ 49% were unprotected road users, predominantly motorcyclists - 79%
- ♻ Motorcyclists formed the youngest group with an average age of 32 years.
- ♻ 79% of motor vehicle occupants who acquired a spinal cord injury were male
- ♻ 44% were in the 15–34 years age range and 89% were driving.

Unprotected road users

Users of land transport without the protection of a structure such as a car body. They include motorcyclists (drivers or pillion passengers), pedal cyclists and pedestrians and account for 14% of spinal cord injury accidents

- ♻ 56% of those injured were in the 15–34 years age group.
- ♻ 79% were motorcyclists, 10% were pedal cyclists and 10% were pedestrians.
- ♻ 61% of the motorcycle accidents that related to a spinal cord injury were in the 15–34 years age group while 50% of pedestrian and 25% of pedal cycle cases were in the same age grouping.
- ♻ 57% of motor and pedal cyclists had used a helmet

Leisure Activities: 35% of spinal cord injuries were caused by leisure activities

Water-related

- ♻ Water-related accidents accounted for 9% of the SCI cases reported during 2007–08

Sport

In 2007/08 45% of spinal cord injuries were from sporting activity causes. This included:

- ♻ 25% from the major football codes. Football game injuries were as a result of direct contact between the patient's head and/or shoulders and another player
- ♻ 9% horse-related activities
- ♻ 73% of these occurred in people under the age of 35 years.

References:

Norton L 2010. Spinal cord injury, Australia 2007-08. Cat. no. INJCAT 128. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 26 April 2013 www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442468335.

Review of Paediatric Spinal Injuries in Traffic-Related Incidents By Lynne E. Bilston and Julie Brown. Final Report to the Motor Accidents Authority of New South Wales, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, December 2005

