

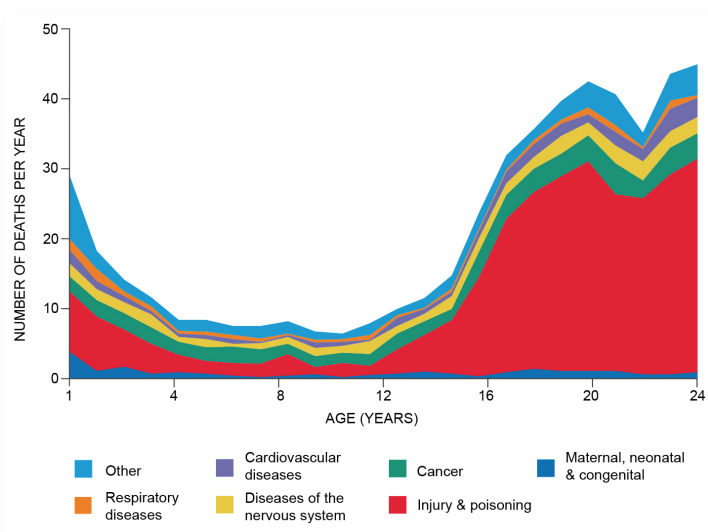
NSW PAEDIATRIC INJURY PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH FORUM

The Paediatric Injury Prevention and Management Research Forum on 1 August 2014 was the first collaborative initiative of the NSW Research Alliance for Children's Health (RACH), NSW Kids and Families and the Population Health Research Collaborative (PHRC), Sydney Children's Hospital Network. RACH and the PHRC were established to promote collaboration, research development and translation across existing groups conducting research in health services and population health relating to children and young people.

Background

Injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalisation in children and young people between one and 24 years of age in Australia. Between 2002 and 2011, nearly 3,000 children and young people died from injuries and poisonings (see figure below). Child injuries impact heavily on the health system and disproportionately affect children from disadvantaged groups. Deaths of Aboriginal children due to external causes are almost three times higher the rate for non-Aboriginal children.

Leading causes of death in young people aged 1-24 years, NSW, 2002- 2011*



*Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence. The Health of Children and Young People in NSW: Report of the Chief Health Officer 2014. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health, 2014.

Goal

The goal of this forum was to identify ways to reduce the incidence and impact of paediatric injury in NSW and strive to match the best rates and standards internationally.

Aims of the forum

The aims of the forum were to:

- Identify priorities for research to inform paediatric injury prevention and service development
- Facilitate communication between clinicians, researchers and planners
- Promote translational research to inform policy and practice.

Communication and collaboration

Seventy-eight people attended, which led to opportunities for communication between forum participants, including from academic, education, transport, and health sectors. The forum featured talks from leading researchers, clinicians and academics on childhood injuries.

Attendees were asked to identify and discuss:

- Gaps in knowledge, evidence known about effective prevention and care
- Challenges and obstacles which need to be addressed
- Actions which could make a difference
- Areas for collaboration
- Questions to drive the research.

A number of themes during the day were addressed in group discussions on:

- The need for leadership in paediatric injury prevention and management in NSW
- Data and surveillance in NSW to monitor trends and initiate timely responses
- Injury in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as a high priority
- Translation of known evidence and implementation of known interventions
- Health Services Research initiatives driven by data trends and identified gaps.

ACTIONS MOVING FORWARD

Establish a leadership role in surveillance, data analysis and facilitating the research agenda.

Create a cross-sector steering group to guide the process of identifying and defining strategies for the field of paediatric injury.

The steering group will undertake the task of priority setting for research in the field of paediatric injury in NSW to inform the evidence base for policy and guideline development across sectors.

In response to need, the steering group will facilitate the collation and analysis of datasets for the surveillance, monitoring and benchmarking, including opportunities to identify emerging issues and highlight dangerous products, equipment and settings.

Ensure that high-quality, timely service-related data is collated and available to inform further development of services for acute and ongoing management of children and young people surviving serious injury in childhood.

Develop human capital, knowledge and skills relating to paediatric injury prevention and management. This could entail accessing current expertise to facilitate mentoring opportunities.

Develop funding mechanisms that will facilitate and support research initiatives and cross-sector collaborations that will progress the research required to inform policy for injury prevention in NSW.

MESSAGES IDENTIFIED DURING THE FORUM – RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND PROMOTION OF TRANSLATION

- Different types of injury need different types of solutions and required implementation from different sectors.
- Injuries in children and young people can occur within a context of common social conditions and risk factors such as inadequate parental supervision, socio-economic disadvantage, and environments that are not planned with children in mind.
- Examples of specific injury types and settings were discussed, including sports injuries, injuries on farms and in rural settings, injuries on playground equipment, and on and off road transport injuries. This list of topics presented on the day is a sub-set of the potential injury types and settings which could be included in further development of collaborative research and translation in the field.
- Aboriginal communities are a high priority. Injury prevention needs community engagement and ownership for effective change.
- Prevention needs to be informed by solid evidence and targeted to settings, risk populations and injury types.
- Prevention research should focus on outcomes and be tightly linked to implementation science, an area which needs capacity building in NSW.
- Concussion and its consequences in children and young people need to be better understood.
- Inflicted injuries are still under-recognised and sustained professional training is required.
- Injury management in major paediatric trauma services in NSW is close to international best practice with a strong research tradition focused on quality improvement.
- High quality data of all levels need to be available in an appropriate timeframe for effective action.
- Participants were keen to engage in further opportunities to facilitate ongoing collaborations and develop leadership on injury into the future.
- There is a need for cross-sector support to develop initiatives with sustainable models for cost-effective programs.

The forum was hosted by: