

**DOG BITES****Injury resulting from dog bites****Date of report: 29/7/98****Authors: Renate Kreisfeld and Stan Bordeaux**

The following report summarises information on injury resulting from dog bites derived from three separate sources of data:

- Emergency department presentations
- Hospitalisations and
- Deaths

Emergency department data:

The following information is based on a search of our Injury Surveillance Information System (ISIS) database of presentations to hospital emergency departments. There was a total of 7591 cases in ISIS in which injuries were coded as being the result of being bitten by a dog/s.

About ISIS:

ISIS is a national collection of hospital emergency department attendance records. Over 50 hospitals and other medical centres have provided data to the collection over the period 1986-1994. It should be stressed however that the ISIS collection does not provide a comprehensive coverage of all injuries presenting to hospitals in Australia. Nonetheless, the collection is large (over 700,000 records) and can provide a good description of the circumstances leading to specific types of injury, as well as identify less common injury occurrences. Information about injury circumstances is usually self-reported by the injured person. Additional clinical information is provided by the treating medical staff.

More information on the ISIS coding system is available [here](#).

Disclaimer

This is a brief analysis written in response to a specific question from one of the Centre's clients. It uses available data and should not be viewed as a detailed piece of research. The Centre releases this information in the interests of ensuring that work done for one client can inform others. The report must not be quoted or cited without written permission from the Centre.

Briefly, these were some of the patterns observable from the analyses undertaken:

- The incidents occurred most frequently in these locations: people's own home (35%); another private home (24%); road, driveway or footpath (20%).
- There was a greater proportion of male cases (62%) than female cases (37%).
- The most frequently injured body regions were lower limbs (52%) and head/neck (34%).
- Just over half of the cases required a significant level of treatment (51%). 13% resulted in admission to hospital.

The following data tables appear below:

- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by sex](#)
- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by age group](#)
- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by primary injury sustained](#)
- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by primary body part injured](#)
- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by level of medical treatment received](#)
- Dog bites - Table of frequencies [by geographical location of the incident](#)
- Dog bites - [Summary table](#) of a random selection of relevant cases

Australian hospitalisations data, 1995/96:

During the 12-month period 1995/96, there was a total of 1405 cases of hospitalisation associated with being bitten by a dog/s.

- Male cases were slightly more frequent than female ones.
- The most commonly coded location for incidents of dog bites was the HOME (30%).
- The most frequently coded injuries were open wounds: upper limb n=365; lower limb n=246 head/neck/trunk n=675 (the latter category included 128 facial injuries).
- Overall, the mean length of stay (MLOS) in hospital was 2.6 days. The lowest MLOS was related to superficial injuries (1.0 day) and the highest to injuries of the lower limb-fractures (5.8 days) and open wounds (5.6 days).
- The MLOS was substantially higher amongst older people (65-74 years = 5.9 days; 75+ years = 8.6 days) suggesting that the outcome of such incidents is more severe for this group.

About hospitalisations data: Hospital in-patient morbidity data are provided to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare by individual State and Territory health departments. Unit record data for all hospital in-patients are based on ICD-9-CM External Cause Code E-codes or ICD-9-CM Chapter 17 Injury and Poisoning Diagnosis codes. Data are compiled on a financial rather than calendar year basis.

The following data tables appear below:

- Dog bites - Frequency of hospitalisations [by sex](#)
- Dog bites - Frequency of hospitalisations [by age group](#)
- Dog bites - Frequency of hospitalisations [by geographical location of the incident](#)
- Dog bites - Frequency of hospitalisations [by type of injury](#)
- Dog bites - Crosstabulation of mean length of hospital stay [by selected categories of injury](#)

Australian deaths data, 1979-1996:

During the period 1979-1996, a total of 11 deaths was registered in which the external causes code indicates that the person died as the result of injuries sustained when bitten by a dog. A greater proportion of these cases involved young children (36%) and older people (36%).

About deaths data: Deaths data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) mortality unit record data collection, 1979-93. The ABS obtains the information from coroners' records. The case of each death registered in Australia is classified by the ABS according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The 9th revision (ICD9) has been used for death registrations beginning in 1979. All deaths given an ICD9 'External Cause' code by the ABS are included. Data are presented according to the year in which deaths were registered.

The following data tables appear below:

- Dog bites - frequency of death [by age group](#)
- Dog bites - frequency of death [by sex](#)

- Dog bites - frequency of death [by year of registration](#)
- Dog bites - frequency of death [by State](#)

Link to Medical Journal of Australia:

The Research Centre for Injury Studies regularly receives requests for information about the breeds of dog involved in attacks on people. A South Australian study reported in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in 1997 offers some insight into this aspect of the issue. The paper entitled "The public health impact of dog attacks in a major Australian city" uses injury surveillance data on dog attacks for a major metropolitan hospital and data on community attitudes and experiences derived from a large community survey to report on differences in the representation of various dog breeds in attacks, as well as rates of dog attack by age and sex of the victim, hospital presentation and admission. The full text of this article is available [here](#).



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by sex

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Male | 4747 | 62.5 | 62.5 |
| Female | 2834 | 37.3 | 99.9 |
| Unknown | 10 | .1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by age group

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 0-4 yrs | 1780 | 23.4 | 23.4 | 23.4 |
| 5-9 yrs | 1473 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 42.9 |
| 10-14 yrs | 1175 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 58.3 |
| 15-29 yrs | 1364 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 76.3 |
| 30-44 yrs | 762 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 86.3 |
| 45-59 yrs | 589 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 94.1 |
| 60-74 yrs | 338 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 98.6 |
| 75 or more yrs | 110 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by primary injury sustained

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Cut, laceration | 1615 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Puncture | 404 | 5.3 | 26.6 |
| Bite | 4999 | 65.9 | 92.5 |
| Superficial abrasion | 262 | 3.5 | 95.9 |
| Penetrating wound | 66 | .9 | 96.8 |
| Other wound incl amputation | 26 | .3 | 97.1 |
| Haematoma or bruising | 53 | .7 | 97.8 |
| Haemorrhage | 3 | .0 | 97.9 |
| Inflammation, oedema, tenderness | 33 | .4 | 98.3 |
| Burn (partial thickness) | 2 | .0 | 98.3 |
| Foreign body in soft tissue | 8 | .1 | 98.4 |
| Damage to major blood vessel | 2 | .0 | 98.4 |
| Crushing injury | 1 | .0 | 98.5 |
| Fracture | 27 | .4 | 98.8 |
| Dislocation | 3 | .0 | 98.9 |
| Sprain or strain | 13 | .2 | 99.0 |
| Poisoning | 1 | .0 | 99.0 |
| Injury not specified | 62 | .8 | 99.9 |
| No injury detected | 11 | .1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by primary body part affected

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------|
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------|

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Not applicable | 75 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Eye | 107 | 1.4 | 2.4 |
| Ocular adnexum | 83 | 1.1 | 3.5 |
| Nose | 181 | 2.4 | 5.9 |
| Mouth external | 519 | 6.8 | 12.7 |
| Ear | 195 | 2.6 | 15.3 |
| Face, cheek, forehead, scalp | 1323 | 17.4 | 32.7 |
| Skull base | 1 | .0 | 32.7 |
| Skull vault | 17 | .2 | 32.9 |
| Neck, not elsewhere classified | 34 | .4 | 33.4 |
| Unknown | 1 | .0 | 33.4 |
| Other injury to head | 18 | .2 | 33.6 |
| Scapula | 5 | .1 | 33.7 |
| Shoulder, not elsewhere classified | 35 | .5 | 34.2 |
| Humerus | 5 | .1 | 34.2 |
| Upper arm, not elsewhere classified | 164 | 2.2 | 36.4 |
| Radius or ulna | 11 | .1 | 36.5 |
| Elbow | 56 | .7 | 37.3 |
| Forearm | 557 | 7.3 | 44.6 |
| Wrist | 164 | 2.2 | 46.8 |
| Carpal bone | 5 | .1 | 46.8 |
| Metacarpal bone | 9 | .1 | 47.0 |
| Upper extremity digit or phalanx | 637 | 8.4 | 55.4 |
| Hand or not elsewhere classified | 885 | 11.7 | 67.0 |
| Other injury to upper extremity | 11 | .1 | 67.2 |
| Hip | 38 | .5 | 67.7 |
| Femur | 19 | .3 | 67.9 |
| Upper leg or not elsewhere classified | 548 | 7.2 | 75.1 |
| Knee | 106 | 1.4 | 76.5 |
| Tibia or fibula | 23 | .3 | 76.8 |
| Lower leg or not elsewhere classified | 1064 | 14.0 | 90.8 |
| Ankle | 166 | 2.2 | 93.0 |
| Tarsal bone | 4 | .1 | 93.1 |
| Metatarsal bone | 2 | .0 | 93.1 |
| Lower extremity digit or phalanx | 21 | .3 | 93.4 |
| Foot or not elsewhere classified | 161 | 2.1 | 95.5 |
| Other lower extremity | 25 | .3 | 95.8 |
| Ribs | 2 | .0 | 95.9 |
| Pelvis | 4 | .1 | 95.9 |
| Chest or not elsewhere classified | 62 | .8 | 96.7 |
| Abdomen or not elsewhere classified | 50 | .7 | 97.4 |
| Upper back or not elsewhere classified | 42 | .6 | 97.9 |
| Lower back or not elsewhere classified | 62 | .8 | 98.8 |
| Genitalia | 32 | .4 | 99.2 |
| Other trunk injury | 46 | .6 | 99.8 |
| Mouth internal | 15 | .2 | 100.0 |
| Peripheral nerve | 1 | .0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by level of medical treatment

received

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| No treatment | 251 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Treated no referral | 3456 | 45.5 | 48.8 |
| Treated, referral to Outpatients Dept | 223 | 2.9 | 51.8 |
| Treated, referral to GP | 961 | 12.7 | 64.4 |
| Treated, other referral | 41 | .5 | 65.0 |
| Short stay ward for observation | 15 | .2 | 65.2 |
| Admitted | 939 | 12.4 | 77.5 |
| Transferred | 39 | .5 | 78.1 |
| Casualty review | 1666 | 21.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Table of frequencies by geographical location of the incident

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Ocean or estuary | 3 | .0 | .0 |
| Lake or river or dam | 29 | .4 | .4 |
| Water slide | 1 | .0 | .4 |
| Public swimming pool | 1 | .0 | .4 |
| Factory or warehouse | 16 | .2 | .7 |
| Mine or quarry | 3 | .0 | .7 |
| Construction site | 22 | .3 | 1.0 |
| Farm or primary production | 67 | .9 | 1.9 |
| Other industrial | 34 | .4 | 2.3 |
| Private enterprise | 137 | 1.8 | 4.1 |
| Government public utility | 6 | .1 | 4.2 |
| Public road | 594 | 7.8 | 12.0 |
| Private road or driveway | 76 | 1.0 | 13.0 |
| Footpath | 844 | 11.1 | 24.1 |
| Parking area | 23 | .3 | 24.5 |
| Other vehicle area | 17 | .2 | 24.7 |
| Train, tram, plane, ferry, other | 5 | .1 | 24.7 |
| Sports arena or oval or court | 83 | 1.1 | 25.8 |
| Public institution | 5 | .1 | 25.9 |
| Private institution | 10 | .1 | 26.0 |
| Own home kitchen | 63 | .8 | 26.9 |
| Own home bath, laundry, toilet | 23 | .3 | 27.2 |
| Own home living or sleeping | 506 | 6.7 | 33.8 |
| Own home garden etc | 2145 | 28.3 | 62.1 |
| Other private home kitchen | 26 | .3 | 62.4 |
| Other private home, bath, laundry, toilet | 9 | .1 | 62.5 |
| Other private home living or sleep | 247 | 3.3 | 65.8 |
| Other private home garden etc | 1524 | 20.1 | 85.9 |
| Residential institution | 8 | .1 | 86.0 |
| Other, incl tent or caravan | 14 | .2 | 86.2 |
| Child care, not playground | 1 | .0 | 86.2 |
| Child care playground | 2 | .0 | 86.2 |
| School, not playground | 11 | .1 | 86.4 |
| School playground | 38 | .5 | 86.9 |
| Other educational | 3 | .0 | 86.9 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Public playground | 35 | .5 | 87.4 |
| Private or commercial amusement area | 16 | .2 | 87.6 |
| Camping area | 14 | .2 | 87.7 |
| National or public park | 186 | 2.5 | 90.2 |
| Field or paddock | 37 | .5 | 90.7 |
| Beach | 40 | .5 | 91.2 |
| Unknown or not elsewhere specified | 667 | 8.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 7591 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Summary table of a random selection of 150 relevant cases (a)

| | Age in years | Description of the incident | Primary injury sustained | Primary body part affected | Level of medical treatment received |
|----|--------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 64 | GETTING INTO BED AND DOG ON BED BIT HER | Cut, laceration | Wrist | Casualty review |
| 2 | 70 | FEEDING DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 3 | 66 | WALKING AROUND NEIGHBOUR,BITTEN BY A DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 4 | 38 | TRYING TO BREAK UP DOG FIGHT | Bite | Hand or NEC | Admitted |
| 5 | 84 | WALKING ALONG ROAD AND BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Treated referral OPD |
| 6 | 38 | HELPING TO TRAIN A SECURITY DOG AND FOOLING AROUND WITH DOG AND WAS BITTEN | Bite | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 7 | 78 | TRYING TO GET BONE OFF DOG AND DOGS TOOTH CUT FINGER | Cut, laceration | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 8 | 61 | TRYING TO GET DOG OUT OF HOME BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 9 | 52 | ATTACKED BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 10 | 54 | PLAYING WITH THE DOG AND THE DOG BIT HIM | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 11 | 24 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 12 | 47 | WALKING ON FOOTPATH WITH FRIEND,DOG ATTACKED HER AND BIT LEG | Bite | Tarsal bone | Treated referral GP |
| 13 | 26 | AT BBQ BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 14 | 54 | BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 15 | 23 | BITTEN THRU FENCE BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 16 | 70 | WALKING AND DOG RAN OUT AND BIT HER | Superficial abrasion | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 17 | 39 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 18 | 47 | PATIENT BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 19 | 48 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 20 | 26 | PLAYING WITH DOG BITTEN ON LIP | Cut, laceration | Mouth external | Treated referral OPD |
| 21 | 20 | BITTEN BY CATTLE DOG OWNED BY FRIENDS NEIGHBOUR | Bite | Upper arm, NEC | Casualty review |
| 22 | 24 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 23 | 27 | PLAYING WITH CAT BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Foot or NEC | Casualty review |
| 24 | 27 | BREAKING UP DOG FIGHT BITTEN BY DOG-BORDER COLLIE | Puncture | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 25 | 22 | AT PARTY BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Nose | Treated no referral |
| 26 | 22 | GETTING OUT OF CAR BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 27 | 64 | BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 28 | 32 | TRYING TO BREAK UP DOG FIGHT AND WAS BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 29 | 82 | DOG BIT HIM ON THE LEG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 30 | 65 | VICTIM TRYING TO SEPARATE OWN DOGS FROM FIGHTING, BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 31 | 23 | VICTIM BITTEN BY FRIEND'S DOG WHILE TRYING TO PUSH IT AWAY FROM HIS OWN DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 32 | 23 | BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Upper leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 33 | 40 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |

| | | | | | |
|----|----|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 34 | 48 | FIXING CAR AND STARTLED DOG AND DOG BIT HIM | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 35 | 40 | ATTACKED BY DOG WHILST WALKING TO SHOPS | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Admitted |
| 36 | 58 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Abdomen or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 37 | 60 | SEPARATING TWO FIGHTING DOGS AND WAS BITTEN | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 38 | 32 | STOPPING DOG FIGHT BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 39 | 77 | DOG JUMPED FENCE AND BIT VICTIM | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 40 | 19 | WALKING INTO NEIGHBOURS YARD AND WAS ATTACKED BY A DOG | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 41 | 22 | DOG BIT HIM | Bite | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 42 | 58 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 43 | 18 | BREAKING UP DOGFIGHT BITTEN BY DOG | Injury not specified | 0 | No treatment |
| 44 | 22 | PATting DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Mouth external | Casualty review |
| 45 | 15 | WALKING IN PARK AT 1.00 A.M. & WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Puncture | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 46 | 42 | COLLECTING WORK MATERIAL BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Treated no referral |
| 47 | 23 | PLAYING ON SWINGS BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hip | Treated no referral |
| 48 | 19 | PLAYING WITH DOG AND DOG BIT HIM | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 49 | 34 | INJURED WHILE TRYING TO BREAK UP A DOG FIGHT | Cut, laceration | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 50 | 74 | BREAKING UP 2 FIGHTING DOGS BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 51 | 28 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hip | Treated no referral |
| 52 | 25 | ANNOYING DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Ear | Admitted |
| 53 | 46 | VICTIM BITTEN BY DOG - UNPROVOKED ATTACK | Bite | Ankle | Treated no referral |
| 54 | 53 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 55 | 13 | PLAYING AND BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 56 | 63 | TRIPPED OVER DOG AND DOG BIT HER HAND | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 57 | 60 | BITTEN BY UNKNOWN DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 58 | 25 | TRYING TO ARREST A MAN AND HIS DOG BIT THE VICTIM | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 59 | 45 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 60 | 32 | VICTIM PICKED UP DOG IN CAR YARD, DOG BIT VICTIM ON FACE | Cut, laceration | Face cheek forehead scalp | Casualty review |
| 61 | 18 | VICTIM BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Chest or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 62 | 28 | TALKING TO THE OWNER OF A DOBERMAN DOG WHEN DOG ATTACKED BITING HIM ON LEG | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 63 | 2 | CHILD WAS PLAYING WITH PIG DOG,DOG GOT STIRRED UP AND CHILD WAS BITTEN | Bite | Ear | Treated no referral |
| 64 | 52 | TRIED TO BREAK UP A DOG FIGHT AND WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Cut, laceration | Hand or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 65 | 15 | WALKING ALONG FOOTPATH & WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 66 | 41 | IN YARD AT UNIT BLOCK & WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Puncture | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 67 | 35 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 68 | 60 | ATTACKED BY DOG | Bite | Lower back or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 69 | 24 | WALKING THROUGH GATE AND WAS BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 70 | 25 | BREAKING UP A DOG FIGHT AND WAS BITTEN | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 71 | 18 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 72 | 14 | PLAYING IN BACKYARD AND DOG ATTACKED AND BIT HIM | Bite | Chest or NEC | Casualty review |
| 73 | 20 | ON WAY TO COLLEGE & WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 74 | 23 | GETTING OUT OF CAR BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 75 | 20 | TRYING TO SEPERATE TWO FIGHTING DOGS AND WAS BITTEN | Puncture | Forearm | Treated no referral |
| 76 | 13 | HELPING INJURED DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 77 | 23 | TRYING TO STOP A DOG BITING AND WAS BITTEN HIMSELF | Cut, laceration | Ocular adnexum | Casualty review |
| 78 | 30 | HELPING DOG THAT HAD BEEN HIT BY CAR DOG BIT VICITM | Penetrating wound | Wrist | Admitted |
| 79 | 80 | STOPPING DOG FROM BARKING BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 80 | 41 | WAITING FOR BUS BITTEN BY DOG | Superficial abrasion | Upper arm, NEC | Treated no referral |
| 81 | 29 | BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Wrist | Casualty review |
| 82 | 53 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 83 | 26 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hip | Treated no referral |
| 84 | 38 | WENT TO FREE DOG TRAPPED IN FENCE DOG WAS DISTRESSED AND BIT HER | Cut, laceration | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 85 | 34 | PLAYING WITH DOG AND WAS BITTEN | Superficial abrasion | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 86 | 36 | BITTEN BY A DOG | Puncture | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 87 | 27 | BITTEN BY DOG | Haematoma or bruising | Wrist | Admitted |
| 88 | 27 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 89 | 27 | PLAYING WITH DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Forearm | Casualty review |
| 90 | 31 | COLLECTING FOR BLUE NURSES AND BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 91 | 27 | TRYING TO BREAK UP A DOG FIGHT AND WAS BITTEN | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 92 | 14 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Face cheek forehead scalp | Admitted |
| 93 | 24 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 94 | 42 | BITTEN BY MAD DOG | Bite | Ankle | Treated no referral |
| 95 | 29 | BITTEN ON FACE BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Mouth external | Casualty review |
| 96 | 56 | TRIED TO SEPARATE FIGHTING DOGS BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 97 | 61 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 98 | 6 | CHILD-BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 99 | 23 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 100 | 15 | SELLING LOLLIES FOUR DOGS JUMPED ON PATIENT BITTEN BY ONE DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 101 | 17 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 102 | 49 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 103 | 17 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 104 | 25 | JOGGING BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 105 | 18 | CROSSING ROAD BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 106 | 71 | BITTEN BY DOG | Injury not specified | 0 | No treatment |
| 107 | 55 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated referral OPD |
| 108 | 20 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Foot or NEC | No treatment |
| 109 | 42 | BITTEN BY DOG | Superficial abrasion | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 110 | 19 | PATTING DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Mouth external | Treated no referral |
| 111 | 17 | GARDENING AND ATTACKED BY A DOG | Penetrating wound | Ankle | Treated no referral |
| 112 | 43 | DELIVERING FLYERS AND DOG BIT HIS THIGH | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 113 | 43 | READING METERS AND BITTEN BY A DOG | Cut, laceration | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 114 | 25 | ASSISTING FRIEND AND ATTACKED BY STRAY DOG | Cut, laceration | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 115 | 39 | BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 116 | 39 | LETTING DOGS OUT OF KENNELS BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Chest or NEC | Casualty review |
| 117 | 28 | JOGGING BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 118 | 62 | BITTEN BY DOG | Cut, laceration | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 119 | 26 | MBA BLUE HEELER DOG RAN OUT AND BIT FRONT OF FOOT | Bite | Foot or NEC | Casualty review |
| 120 | 16 | BITTEN BY DOG | Superficial abrasion | Ankle | Treated no referral |
| 121 | 45 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 122 | 25 | BREAKING UP A DOG FIGHT AND WAS BITTEN BY A DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 123 | 16 | DOG RACED OUT AND BIT HIM | Bite | Chest or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 124 | 72 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Hand or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 125 | 26 | REPREMANDING DOG AND DOG BIT HER | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Treated no referral |
| 126 | 23 | PLAYING WITH DOG AND DOG BIT HIM WHEN TRYING TO GRAB A STICK | Puncture | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 127 | 18 | TRYING TO STOP DOGS FIGHTING AND DOG TURNED ON HIM | Puncture | Wrist | Casualty review |
| 128 | 45 | PLAYING WITH DOG BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Knee | Treated no referral |
| 129 | 61 | CHECKING WHAT THE DOG WAS EATING AND BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 130 | 21 | PLAYING WITH DOG AND IT TOOK A FRIENDLY BITE AT HIS LEG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 131 | 50 | WALKING IN DRIVEWAY AND BITTEN BY A DOG | Penetrating wound | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 132 | 60 | SITTING BY POOL AND DOG BIT HIM | Bite | Ear | Treated no referral |
| 133 | 61 | LIFTING UP DOG AFTER IT HAD BEEN BITTEN BY OTHER DOG AND IT BIT HER | Bite | Face cheek forehead scalp | Treated no referral |
| 134 | 59 | COLLECTING MONEY AND BITTEN BY A DOG | Bite | Ankle | Casualty review |
| 135 | 47 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated other referral |
| 136 | 26 | PATting DOG AND DOG BIT HIM | Cut, laceration | Wrist | Casualty review |
| 137 | 27 | PATting DOG AND BITTEN ON HAND | Bite | Wrist | Casualty review |
| 138 | 40 | BITTEN BY DOG ON BOTH HANDS | Bite | Upper extremity digit or phalanx | Casualty review |
| 139 | 47 | PLAYING WITH DOG & DOG BIT HER | Inflammation oedema tenderness | Forearm | Treated no referral |
| 140 | 35 | BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Lower leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 141 | 7 | RIDING SKATEBOARD BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Upper leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 142 | 13 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Other trunk injury | Treated no referral |
| 143 | 26 | PLAYING WITH DOG AND KICKING A BALL AND DOG GRABBED BALL AND BIT HIS FOOT | Cut, laceration | Foot or NEC | Casualty review |
| 144 | 33 | WALKING THE DOG,DOG GOT INTO A FIGHT & HE WAS BITTEN ON THE LEG | Cut, laceration | Lower leg or NEC | Casualty review |
| 145 | 50 | PLAYING WITH BULL TERRIER AND HE WAS BITTEN | Cut, laceration | Hand or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 146 | 19 | DOGS FIGHTING AND BITTEN BY DOG | Puncture | Hand or NEC | Casualty review |
| 147 | 25 | BITTEN BY DOG | Bite | Femur | Casualty review |
| 148 | 48 | BITTEN BY A DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated referral GP |
| 149 | 43 | JOGGING AND BITTEN BY A DOG | Bite | Lower leg or NEC | Treated no referral |
| 150 | 14 | DELIVERING LEAFLETS AND BITTEN BY DOG WHILE RIDING | Puncture | Ankle | Casualty review |
| N | 150 | | 150 | | |

a Limited to first 150 cases. NEC = Not elsewhere classified.



Dog Bites - Frequency of hospitalisations by sex

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Male | 795 | 56.6 |
| Female | 610 | 43.4 |
| Total | 1405 | 100.0 |



Dog Bites - Frequency of hospitalisations by geographical location of the incident

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Home | 404 | 28.8 |
| Farm | 14 | 1.0 |
| Industrial place | 10 | .7 |
| Place of recreation/sport | 8 | .6 |
| Street/highway | 44 | 3.1 |
| Public bldg | 9 | .6 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Residential institution | 2 | .1 |
| Other specified | 33 | 2.3 |
| Unspecified place | 816 | 58.1 |
| Total | 1340 | 95.4 |
| Unknown location | 65 | 4.6 |
| TOTAL: | 1405 | 100.0 |



Dog Bites - Frequency of hospitalisations by age group

| | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 0-4 | 384 | 27.3 | 27.3 |
| 5-9 | 222 | 15.8 | 43.1 |
| 10-14 | 99 | 7.0 | 50.2 |
| 15-24 | 122 | 8.7 | 58.9 |
| 25-34 | 144 | 10.2 | 69.1 |
| 35-54 | 229 | 16.3 | 85.4 |
| 55-64 | 70 | 5.0 | 90.4 |
| 65-74 | 84 | 6.0 | 96.4 |
| 75 + | 51 | 3.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 1405 | 100.0 | |



Dog Bites - Frequency of hospitalisations by type of injury

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Fracture of skull | 6 | .4 |
| Fracture of neck & Trunk | 1 | .1 |
| Fracture of upper limb | 55 | 3.9 |
| Fracture of lower limb | 4 | .3 |
| Sprains & strains | 2 | .1 |
| Open wound, head/neck/trunk | 675 | 48.0 |
| Open wound, upper limb | 365 | 26.0 |
| Open wound, lower limb | 246 | 17.5 |
| Injury To blood vessels | 1 | .1 |
| Superficial injury | 3 | .2 |
| Contusion with intact skin | 2 | .1 |
| Injury nerves & spinal cord | 19 | 1.4 |
| Certain Traumatic comp. & unspecified injuries | 25 | 1.8 |
| Poisoning, drugs/medicinal/biological substance | 1 | .1 |
| Total | 1405 | 100.0 |



Mean length of hospital stay by selected categories of injury

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|
| Fracture of skull | Mean | 2.83 |
| | N | 6 |
| Fracture of upper limb | Mean | 3.35 |
| | N | 55 |
| Fracture of lower limb | Mean | 5.75 |
| | N | 4 |
| Sprains & strains | Mean | 1.00 |
| | N | 2 |
| Open wound head/neck/trunk | Mean | 1.48 |
| | N | 675 |
| Open wound upper limb | Mean | 2.55 |
| | N | 365 |
| | Mean | 5.63 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Open wound lower limb | N | 246 |
| | Mean | 1.00 |
| Superficial injury | N | 3 |
| | Mean | 2.63 |
| Total | N | 1405 |
| | Mean | |



Dog bites - frequency of death by age group

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 0 to 4 | 4 | 36.4 |
| 35 to 39 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 55 to 59 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 65 to 69 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 75 to 79 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 85 plus | 3 | 27.3 |
| Total | 11 | 100.0 |



Dog bites - frequency of death by sex

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Male | 5 | 45.5 |
| Female | 6 | 54.5 |
| Total | 11 | 100.0 |



Dog bites - frequency of death by year of registration

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1979 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 1987 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 1988 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 1989 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 1991 | 2 | 18.2 |
| 1994 | 2 | 18.2 |
| 1995 | 1 | 9.1 |
| 1996 | 2 | 18.2 |
| Total | 11 | 100.0 |



Dog bites - frequency of death by State in which death was registered

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| NSW | 1 | 9.1 |
| Vic | 4 | 36.4 |
| Qld | 1 | 9.1 |
| SA | 2 | 18.2 |
| WA | 2 | 18.2 |
| NT | 1 | 9.1 |
| Total | 11 | 100.0 |