

Incidents in the outdoors: State and Territory analyses

Australian National Incident Dataset: September 14, 2018 to April 14, 2023

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Total program participation days (PPD): **1,353,846**



Total incidents: **13,303**



Total incident rate: **9.8**

No. of incidents / No. program participation days x 1000



Most frequently reported contributory factor:

Participant: mental/physical condition

State incident rates (per 1000 PPD)

- (PPD) Program participation days
- Total incidents per state
- Most frequently reported contributory factor

ACT 11.2

- Total PPD: **19,101**
- Total incidents: **214**
- Environment: Terrain

NSW 10.0

- Total PPD: **233,326**
- Total incidents: **2,341**
- Participant: Mental/Physical condition

NT 13.6

- Total PPD: **20,959**
- Total incidents: **284**
- Environment: Weather

QLD 11.1

- Total PPD: **91,572**
- Total incidents: **1,014**
- Participant: Decisions

SA 12.8

- Total PPD: **43,527**
- Total incidents: **555**
- Environment: Terrain

TAS 24.0

- Total PPD: **1,165**
- Total incidents: **28**
- Participant: Mental/Physical condition

VIC 7.6

- Total PPD: **891,139**
- Total incidents: **6,797**
- Participant: Mental/Physical condition

WA 44.0

- Total PPD: **47,530**
- Total incidents: **2,090**
- Participant: Mental/Physical condition

Incident Severity Ratings



Severity Ratings Key

- No impact / minor
- Moderate
- Serious / Severe / Critical



Data are reported from National Incident Dataset with UPLOADS reporting restrictions applied.

Discussion



Incident Rates

Across all states the reported incident rates are low when compared to other similar settings such as organised sport.

Tasmania (22) and Western Australia (44) have higher incident rates than other states. Given the majority of reported incidents are minor in terms of severity, this may be representative of a strong reporting culture in both states.



Incident Severity Rate

The vast majority of reported incidents fall into the no impact/minor category, could be managed locally, and presented only short-term impacts.

This provides further positive evidence around safety in led outdoor activities across Australia.

Contributory Factors



The most frequently reported contributory factor across Australia was participant mental and/or physical state (fitness, anxiety/depression, fatigue, pre-existing injury/illness, allergies, or intoxication).

These aspects of participants' physical and mental state should be considered during activity program design, preparation, and delivery.