

Department of Human Services

**Rural and Regional Health and Aged
Care Services Division**

**Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit
Monash University Accident
Research Centre
Service Standards & Guidelines**

Introduction

The Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) is located at the Monash University Accident Research Centre.

Data is analysed and disseminated in order to:

- Identify and describe injury issues and emerging problems;
- Monitor injury trends in the population overall and by gender, age and cause;
- Identify priorities for prevention and potential intervention points and countermeasures to injury;
- Support policy development and the planning and evaluation of preventive programs, projects, strategies and measures and,
- Generate research hypotheses.

Benefits of Service

VISU regularly provides data, advice and information to state injury prevention organisations. These clients include KidSafe and the Royal Children's Hospital Safety Centre (child safety issues), Farmsafe (adult and child farm injuries), Headway (brain injuries), Life Saving Victoria (drowning and immersion injuries), Smartplay and peak and regional sports bodies (sports injury data).

Priority is given to DHS injury prevention program needs. VISU develops Victorian injury-related health indicators and monitors trends in injury rates for DHS Public Health, Aged Care, the Office for Children and other government departments upon request.

Duration of Understanding

The service agreement operates from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2009

Funding

The Department of Human Services funds the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit through the Monash University Service Agreement.

Availability of Service

VISU provides injury data on request, to government and non-government bodies, education, health and injury prevention / safety organisations, business, media and the community for the planning

and development of injury prevention regulations, policies, programs and for research purposes. Priority is given to DHS injury prevention program needs.

Reporting requirements

A quarterly report on the progress of the outcome measures is delivered on the following schedule: July to September, October to December, January to March and April to June. An annual financial statement from 1 July to 30 June is submitted in August.

The annual financial statement consists of a Statement of Income and Expenditure reporting the following fields:

- Income
- Expenditure
 - Salaries
 - Communication Exp.
 - Computer Exp.
 - Motor Vehicle Exp.
 - Printing & Stationary
 - Books and Library
 - Travel
 - Other Expenses

The eight outcome measures are aligned to the four VISU core functions which are: injury surveillance; data and information dissemination; evaluation, and research support.

The eight outcomes and related KPIs are:

Outcome 1

VISU disseminates timely summary injury surveillance data in an accessible format for injury prevention purposes (policy, project and program development, community education, health monitoring), giving priority to DHS injury prevention program needs.

Linked KPI

A new biannual publication 'VISU Injury Surveillance E-Bulletin' is written and disseminated (via e-mail to key clients and posted on the web) within 6 weeks of receipt of annual unit record file of deaths data from ABS (due in Dec-Jan 2006/7 for 2005 data) and hospital admissions data from DHS (due in June 2007 for 2006 data). Timely summary injury surveillance data is disseminated in an accessible format for injury prevention purposes giving priority to DHS injury prevention program needs.

Outcome 2

VISU conducts in-depth analysis of three major or emerging injury issues each year and disseminates results and related recommendations broadly, to increase government and community awareness of the issue and to stimulate preventive action.

Linked KPIs

Three issues of Hazard are published in print and PDF format in 2006/7 and disseminated to 1300 subscribers on freelist and posted on the VISU web page for downloading.

Documented evidence of dissemination of information in Hazard (downloads from webpage, media response) and preventive actions stimulated (anecdotal reports).

Outcome 3

VISU provides injury data on request, through the VISU Data and Information Request Service, to government and non-government bodies, education, health and injury prevention/safety organisations, business, media and the community for the planning and development of injury prevention regulations, policies, programs, projects and measures, and for research purposes.

Linked KPIs

At least 250 data requests are serviced in 2006/7 through the VISU Data and Information Request Service, within 5 days of receipt for 'routine' requests (Data source: VISU Requests database). Routine requests take <2 hours to service.

Requested data is used by VISU clients for injury prevention and research purposes (Data source: VISU Requests database and follow-up telephone survey).

Over 85% of clients indicate they are satisfied with the usefulness of the information received.

Over 85% of clients indicate they are satisfied with timeliness of response to data request.

Outcome 4

VISU strengthens existing partnerships and expands the use of injury surveillance data for prevention purposes by forming new partnerships within DHS and with other government departments, local government entities or agencies.

Linked KPI

VISU strengthens at least two existing partnerships by increasing service provision in 2006/7.

VISU establishes at least two new injury prevention partnerships in 2006/7 (Data source: VISU/partner documentation).

Outcome 5

VISU supports the monitoring and evaluation of state and local government injury prevention initiatives.

Linked KPIs

VISU data is used by government departments and agencies for the evaluation of injury prevention programs, projects and measures such as safety regulations, product bans and standards (Data source: VISU Request Service Database and Client survey).

VISU data is used by the DHS-contracted SafeStart evaluation team and intervention communities to support the evaluation of the SafeStart Child Injury Prevention projects underway in the Cities of Greater Geelong and Casey (Data source: VISU records and Evaluation reports).

Outcome 6

VISU develops Victorian injury-related health indicators and monitors secular trends in injury rates for DHS Public Health, the DHS Office for Children and other government departments on request.

Linked KPIs

VISU updates/monitors the injury data and indicators included in the DHS report Your Health: a report on the Health of Victorians 2005 in January 2007 (as requested by DHS).

VISU provides the DHS Office for Children with an update of progress on injury indicators included in the Safety section of the DHS report, The state of Victoria's Children Report 2006, and develops new indicators on request.

VISU assists other government departments/agencies to develop injury indicators on request.

Outcome 7

VISU stimulates and supports injury prevention research.

Linked KPI

Documented use of VISU data by researchers, post-graduate students and public health and medical trainees for research funding applications, research projects and research journal articles. (Data sources: VISU Requests Database, academic journals, conference proceedings)

Outcome 8

VISU meets contracted program and financial reporting obligations to Department of Human Services

Linked KPIs

Quarterly reports on progress on the outcomes above delivered on the following schedule: July-Sept (submitted October); Oct-Dec (submitted Jan); Jan-March (submitted April); April-June (submitted July). The Annual Financial Statement, July1 to June 30 is submitted in August.