

HEAD AND FACE INCIDENTS

Head and face injury incidents reported via UPLOADS from September 2018 until January 2026

Total number of head and face incidents: 1,837

Severity of head and face incidents:

Actual severity reported

No impact: **2**

Minor: **1,346**

Moderate: **409**

Serious: **69**

Severe: **11**

Critical: **0**

Potential severity estimated*

Minor: **828**

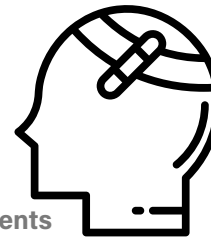
Moderate: **597**

Serious: **331**

Severe: **55**

Critical: **16**

Differences arise because actual severity describes observed outcomes, whereas potential severity estimates the plausible worst-case consequence



*potential severity ratings were not reported for 10 head and face incidents

Led outdoor activity providers can improve the reporting and management of head and face incidents by:

Being aware head/face injuries can occur at any time and are not limited to high-risk activities



Understanding the potential severity of head and face injury is very high



Adopting a standardised concussion testing and monitoring protocol when a concussion might be suspected



Closely monitoring symptoms after all head and face injuries



Top 5 activities where head and face incidents occur:

Camping / Campsite (tents, toileting): **243**

Free time / Down time: **204**

Bushwalking: **183**

Cycling (Track): **62**

Canoeing: **56**



Top 5 contributory factors for head and face incidents include:

Participant - Decisions: **222** (e.g., poor/risky decision making)

Environment - Terrain: **175** (e.g., uneven surfaces)

Resources - Equipment/Clothing: **133** (e.g., faulty equipment)

Environment - Weather: **131** (e.g., temperature and heat)

Participant - Experience: **104** (e.g., inexperience)



Australian National Incident Dataset

September 14, 2018 to Jan 14, 2026
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Scott McLean, Caroline Finch, Paul Salmon

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