

Abstract

Assault Mortality in South Africa: A 15 years' trend of deadliest districts and metropolitans

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Statistics South Africa

WHO (2022) reported that violence is responsible for the deaths of 4.4 million people every year globally. Interpersonal violence cases make up a significant portion of the deaths in South Africa. Assaults are extremely violent attacks on person by a person or a group of persons aimed at inflicting serious injury. This was an ecological time series study, using data from the StatsSA processed from DoHA's death notification forms. This is a trend analysis done by means of Prais-Winsten generalized linear analysis model. The objectives were to profile and identify at-risk population by the deceased demographics and location and depicts overall mortality rates over time. The results show a growing trend of deaths due to assault for males and young people between the ages 25-29 years.

Preliminary Findings

Assaults deaths in South Africa contributed 1.1% towards total deaths for the 15 year period. However, there is a noticeable increase in these deaths from 4847 deaths in 2005 to 7322 deaths in the year 2019. However, the year 2017 had the highest number of assault deaths compared to other years. Males are at a higher risk of assault deaths compared to females in South Africa. While youth between the ages of 20-29 years have higher rates of deaths due to assaults than other age groups. However, it is interesting to note that elderly females in South Africa have higher odds of assault deaths compared to males of the similar age. The Eastern Cape province had the highest assault death rates compared to other provinces this was followed by the KwaZulu-Natal province. At a lower geographic level, Western Cape had districts that led in assault death rates followed by the Eastern Cape province. Similarly, the city of Western Cape had higher rates of assault death compared to other metropolitans in South Africa.

Figure 1: Assault deaths over 15 year period, 2005-2019

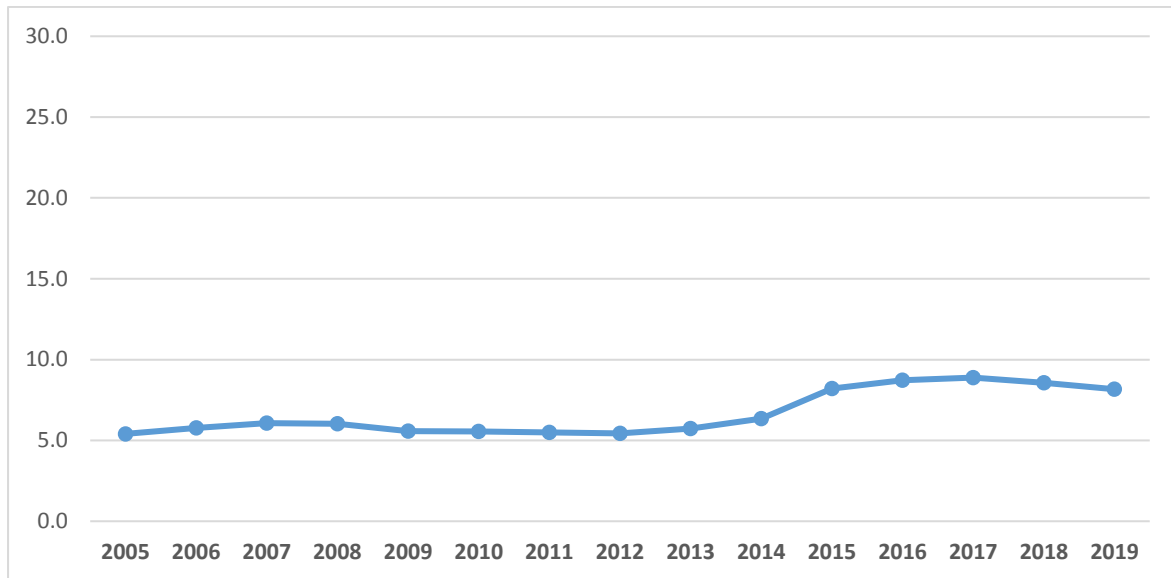


Figure 2: Proportion of Assault deaths by Sex, 2005-2019

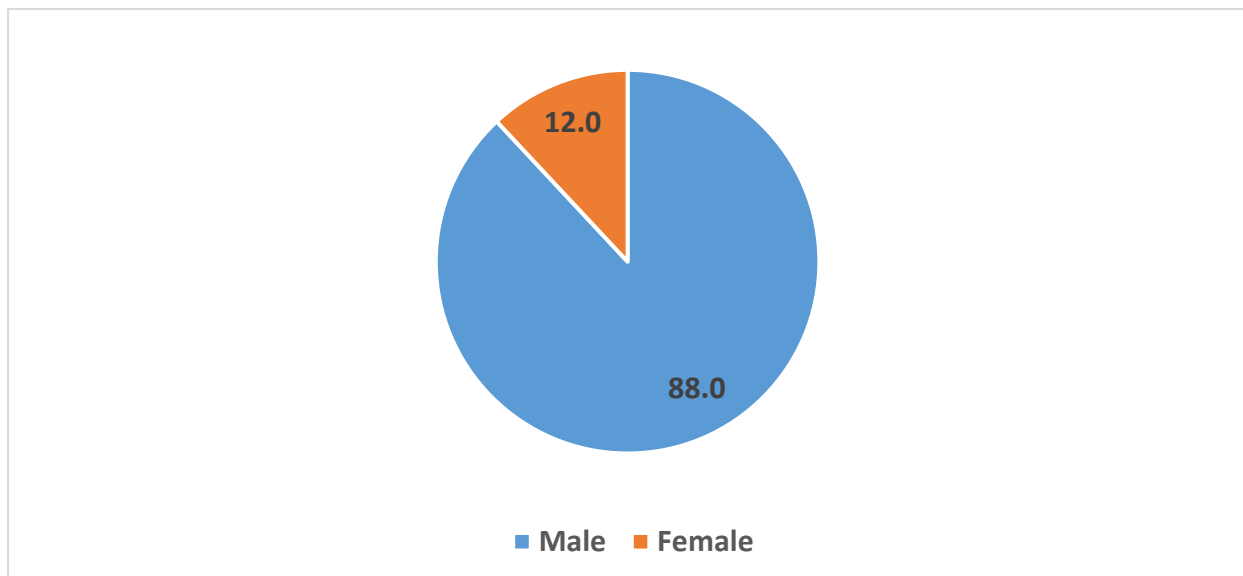


Figure 3: Assault deaths in each sex, 2005-2019

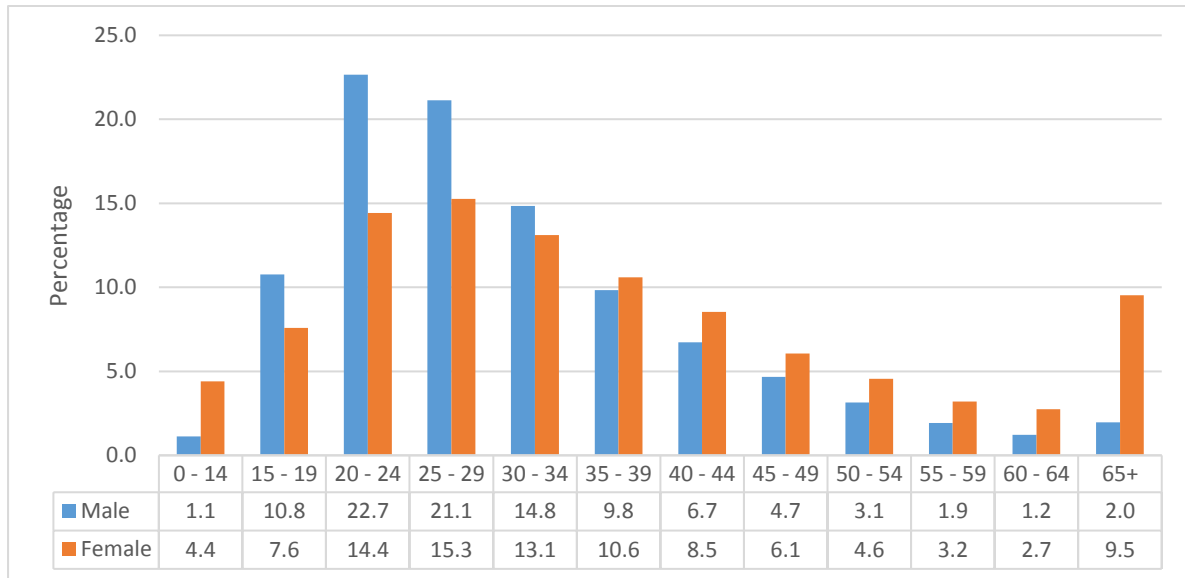


Figure 4: Assault death by province of death, 2005-2019

