

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Craig Garland MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question comes from a resident in Latrobe. There is anecdotal evidence that there is a serious heart health issue emerging in younger people over the past decade. I have been prompted by a constituent who would like to know the number of young people, 40 years and younger, who have presented to emergency departments in Tasmanian hospitals over the past 10 years with heart-related problems or who have died with heart related problems for each calendar year to date beginning in 2015? Can the Health Minister also show the different presentation numbers comparing females and males and compare those aged 0 to 30 with those aged between 31 and 40 years old?

ANSWER:

In 2024-25, there were 4,923 presentations to Tasmanian Emergency Departments (ED) for heart health issues among people aged 0-40 years (5.6 per cent of all ED presentations for this age group).

This was an increase of 2,473 presentations compared to 2015-16, when there was a total of 2,450 presentations for heart health issues (3.2 per cent of all ED presentations for the same age group).

- For females aged 0-40 years, presentations were 1,287 in 2015-16 (3.2 per cent of all female ED presentations in this age group), and 2,740 in 2024-25 (5.8 per cent of all female ED presentations in this age group).
- For males in this age group, presentations increased were 1,163 (2.8 per cent of all male ED presentations in this age group), and 2,183 (5.3 per cent of all male ED presentations in this age group).

The increase in presentations is greater in the 31- to 40-year-old age group than in those aged 30 years and under. A breakdown of these figures is provided in the background tables, including further detail by age group (0-30 and 31-40 years) and sex.

I am advised that the number of deaths relating to heart health presentations among 0–40-year-olds is fewer than five each year, for both sexes, over the period. While the overall numbers fluctuate year-to-year, the rate was 12.2 deaths per 10,000 presentations in both 2014-15 and 2024-25.

As these are very small numbers, subject to annual fluctuation, figures should be interpreted with caution.

All data in this response relies on the accuracy of the recording of principal diagnosis by ED staff. As such, increases over time may be partially attributable to improved capture of data.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the need to do more to prevent heart disease amongst Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Cardiac Strategy, released in May 2025, emphasises that most cardiovascular disease risk factors are preventable, particularly through healthy lifestyle choices such as regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and maintaining a healthy weight.

The Strategy outlines actions across the health system and community to prevent more people from developing heart disease, ensure timely detection and treatment, and better support those living with heart conditions. It commits to working with priority populations—including young people—who may face barriers to accessing care or achieving optimal health outcomes.



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Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

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Table 1: Emergency Department presentations for heart health issues, gender/sex, 0–40-year-olds

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<i>Presentations for heart health issues</i>										
Female	1 287	1 435	1 586	1 649	1 664	1 866	2 911	2 385	2 492	2 740
Male	1 163	1 257	1 301	1 391	1 448	1 596	2 314	1 862	2 057	2 183
Total	2 450	2 692	2 887	3 040	3 112	3 462	5 225	4 247	4 549	4 923
<i>All ED presentations for 0–40-year-olds</i>										
Female	39 994	40 473	42 317	43 296	39 280	44 104	46 308	46 180	45 931	46 885
Male	41 783	41 212	41 756	42 371	37 174	41 670	42 526	42 107	42 212	41 564
Total	81 777	81 685	84 073	85 667	76 454	85 774	88 834	88 287	88 143	88 449
<i>Percentage of all ED presentations where patient had heart health issues (%)</i>										
Female	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.2	6.3	5.2	5.4	5.8
Male	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.9	3.8	5.4	4.4	4.9	5.3
Total	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.0	5.9	4.8	5.2	5.6

Notes:

1. Data for heart health issues is reported for acute coronary syndrome, arrhythmia and cardiac arrest, heart failure and shock, chest pain and circulatory disorders other.
2. Please note this data relies on the principal diagnosis recorded in Emergency Departments for each patient and excludes 0.1 per cent of presentations where sex was recorded as intersex, indeterminate, not stated, or missing.

Table 2: Emergency Department presentations for heart health issues, gender/sex, by age group

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<i>Presentations for 0–30-year-olds for heart health issues</i>										
Female	796	909	985	1 003	1 056	1 131	1 844	1 502	1 508	1 649
Male	701	705	760	827	805	901	1 428	1 124	1 134	1 185
Total	1 497	1 614	1 745	1 830	1 861	2 032	3 272	2 626	2 642	2 834
<i>Presentations for 31–40-year-olds for heart health issues</i>										
Female	491	526	601	646	608	735	1 067	883	984	1 091
Male	462	552	541	564	643	695	886	738	923	998
Total	953	1 078	1 142	1 210	1 251	1 430	1 953	1 621	1 907	2 089

Notes:

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2. Please note this data relies on the principal diagnosis recorded in Emergency Departments for each patient and excludes 0.1 per cent of presentations where sex was recorded as intersex, indeterminate, not stated, or missing.