

At risk at home

Injuries top road pain

TWICE as many Victorians are admitted to hospital for serious injuries suffered at home as are admitted for car accidents, figures show.

More than 26,000 Victorians were admitted to hospital after home accidents in the past financial year, compared with the 5974 people admitted for road trauma.

The 26,596 Victorians admitted to hospital in the past financial year is a big leap from the 18,887 in the 2002-03 financial year.

The figures have prompted safety experts to call for a road toll-style approach to injuries at home.

Robert Caulfield, president of Kidsafe Victoria, wants serious injuries suffered at home to be publicised in a "home toll" to help raise awareness and to potentially fast-track the inclusion of safety features in building codes.

"We could achieve the same sort of effect that the road toll (campaign) has achieved," he said.

Nathan Mawby

property reporter

A week after a freak wall collapse killed three people in Melbourne, figures released by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit show 40 per cent of those injured by wall collapses at home spend at least a night in hospital.

In total, 414 people were taken to hospital after structural collapses in homes from 2006-10, with 168 injured in roof collapses.

Dozens more were wounded by falling doors, collapsing floors and windows giving way — as well as 15 injured by toppling walls.

VISU director Dr Lesley Day said the success of the 1969 "declare war on 1034" road toll campaign could be replicated.

"Few of us realise that there are now twice as many people admitted to hospital following an injury sustained at home as those admitted following a road injury," Dr Day said.