

Self-inflicted lesions in Brazil: a descriptive analysis between 2009 and 2016

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ORIGIN, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Poster Presented at 7th ISPOR Latin America | September 2019 | Bogota, Colombia

Introduction

- The World Health Organization classifies violence into three broad categories: interpersonal, collective, and self-inflicted. (1)
- Self-inflicted violence is subdivided into suicidal behavior and self-injury. The first one includes suicidal thoughts, attempted suicides and completed suicides. Self-injury, in contrast, includes acts such as self-inflicted lesions. (1)
- Among those aged 15–44 years, in 2017, self-inflicted injuries are the fourth leading cause of death and the sixth leading cause of ill-health and disability. (1)
- In Brazil, until 2006, information on characteristics of self-inflicted lesions were limited. After the implementation of the Violence and Accident Surveillance System (VIVA), component of Notifiable Disease Information System (Sinan), an increase in variables included in violence monitoring was observed. (3)
- Therefore, it is necessary to develop studies evaluating the profile of self-inflicted lesions in order to raise awareness on its prevalence and causes.

Objective

- This descriptive research aims to present self-inflicted lesions profile in Brazil according to records of violence compulsory notification, from 2009 to 2016.

Methods

- The total number of self-inflicted lesions provided between 2009 and 2016 was obtained from VIVA/SINAN database through Tabnet. (3,4)
- Study variables were self-inflicted lesion, age, gender, place, year, geographic region and type of aggression.
- Only variables related with self-inflicted lesions based on the definition of VIVA/SINAN manual were selected.
- Data were manually selected and then analyzed by descriptive statistics to present self-inflicted lesions profile.

Results

187,140 self-inflicted lesions
notifications were reported (between 2009 and 2016)

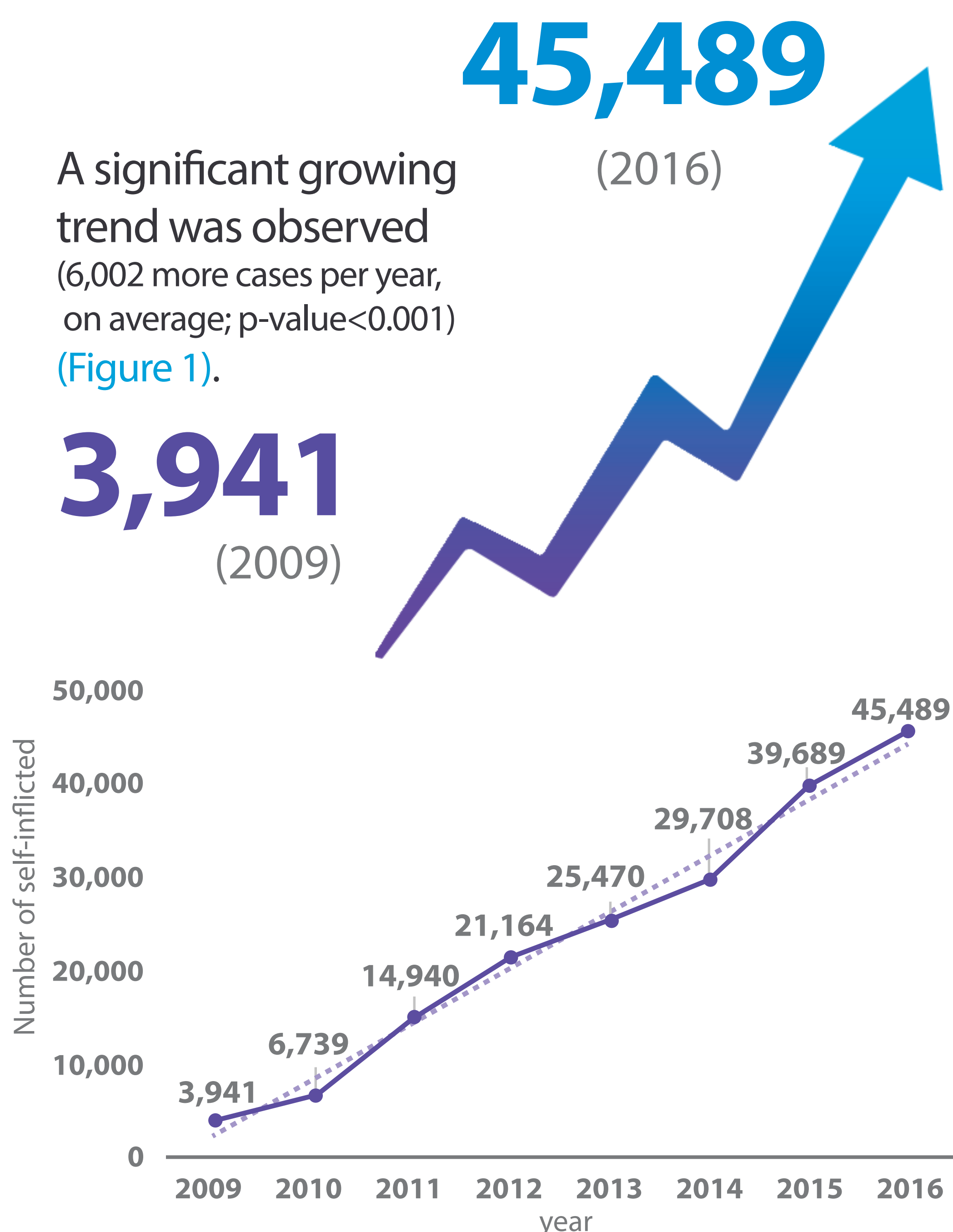


Figure 1. Number of self-inflicted lesions per year and trend line.

Higher cases occurrence

in Southern and Southeastern Brazilian regions.

71%
of victims
were adults
aged 20 to 59 years.

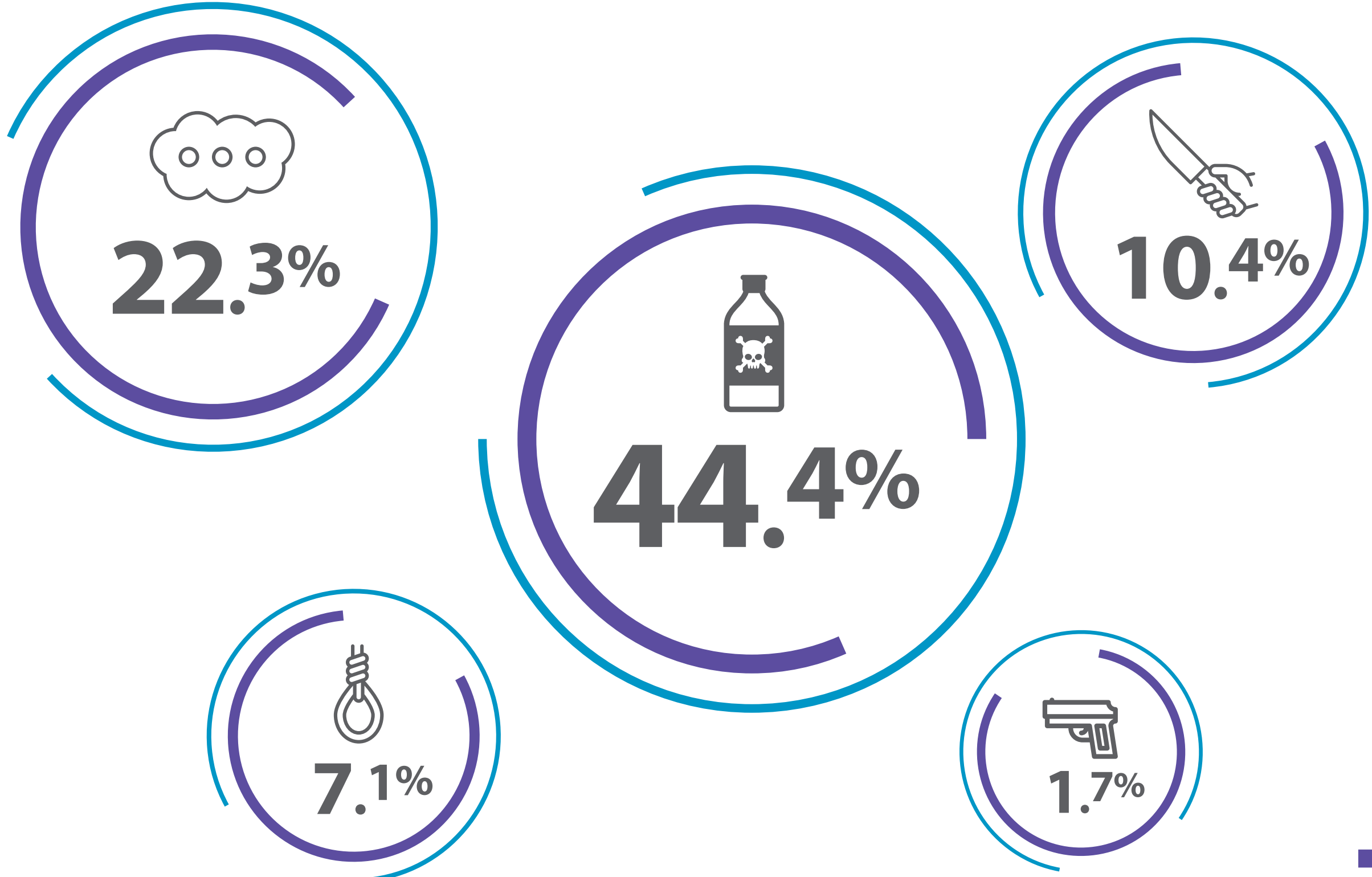
Self-inflicted lesions were more common in women

with proportions varying from 63%-67%, according to analyzed years. Total frequencies of injury in the 8 years evaluated were 66% in women and 34% in men.

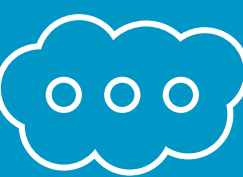
Most cases occurred at the victims dwelling.

Most frequent type of agressions

(between 2009 and 2016)



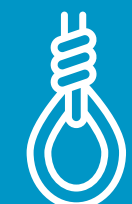
For poisoning, the frequency ranged from 39.2% in 2010 to 50.1% in 2016.



For other aggression type, the frequency ranged from 20.1% in 2009 to 24.4% in 2012.



For sharp objects, the frequency ranged from 9.8% in 2012 to 11.4% in 2016.



For hanging, the frequency ranged from 5.5% in 2009 to 8.0% in 2014.



For fire guns, the frequency ranged from 1.4% in 2016 to 2.3% in 2010.

Conclusions

- This study shows an increased number of self-inflicted lesions through years, with adult women being the most affected profile.
- Poisoning was the most frequent aggression. Most self-inflicted injuries were performed in domestic places.
- The results highlight a necessity to create effective preventive measures, in order to prevent the number of cases from continuing to grow.

References

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