

The Western Australian Audit of  
Surgical Mortality (WAASM)

**2022 Report**  
**Executive**  
**Summary**

5-year review  
Jan 2017 - Dec 2021

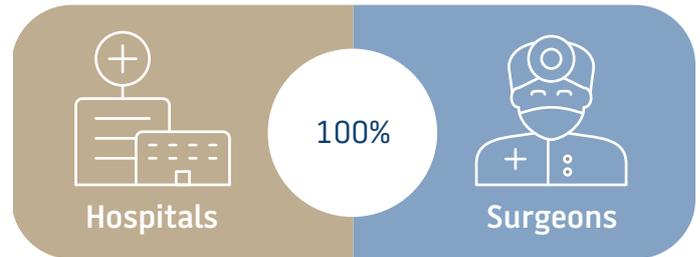


# Executive summary

This summary covers cases reported to WAASM from **1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021**.

Note that differences in denominators are due to incomplete information provided in surgical case forms (SCFs) and assessment forms, resulting in missing data.

## Participation



## Analysis and audit numbers



Reported cases meeting WAASM criteria



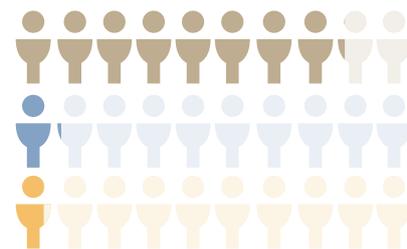
Completed cases (2,213/2,803)



Excluded terminal care cases (410/2,803)

**Emergency 86.4%**  
(1,953/2,261)

**Elective 13.6%**  
(308/2,261)



**81.9% Public**  
(1,854/2,265)

**10.1% Private**  
(229/2,265)

**8.0% Co-location**  
(182/2,265)

## Risk profile

Overall median age **76**



**Ages**  
(range 1 day to 104 years)

**56:44**



**Male (1,576/2,803)**  
**Female (1,227/2,803)**



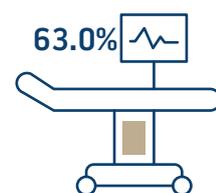
**Comorbidities**  
(1,928/2,264)



**Fluid balance issues**  
(95/2,257)



**DVT prophylaxis use**  
(1,747/2,246)



**CCU use**  
(1,423/2,259)

## Patient transfers



**30.2%**  
Patients transferred  
(676/2,238)



**11.0%**  
Delay in transfer  
(72/657)



**4.4%**  
Inappropriate transfer  
(29/658)



**4.3%**  
Insufficient clinical  
information  
(28/653)



**3.5%**  
Inappropriate level  
of care  
(23/652)

## Operations



**67.0%**  
Patients had surgery  
(1,517/2,265)



**92.0%**  
Consultant surgeons  
who made the decision  
to operate  
(1,945/2,114)



**67.6%**  
Consultant surgeons  
who performed surgery  
(1,429/2,114)

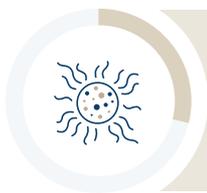


**16.0%**  
Unplanned returns to  
theatre  
(242/1,515)



**4.8%**  
Operations abandoned  
on finding a terminal  
situation  
(98/2,048)

## Infection



**29.0%**  
Patients with clinically  
significant infection  
(656/2,259)



**38.5%**  
Pneumonia  
(252/655)



**24.6%**  
Intra-abdominal sepsis  
(161/655)



**20.2%**  
Septicaemia  
(132/655)



**15.6%**  
'Other source'  
of infection  
(102/655)

## Peer-review outcomes



**16.5%**  
Cases with one or more  
clinical management  
issues  
(365/2,213)



**571**  
Number of clinical  
management issues



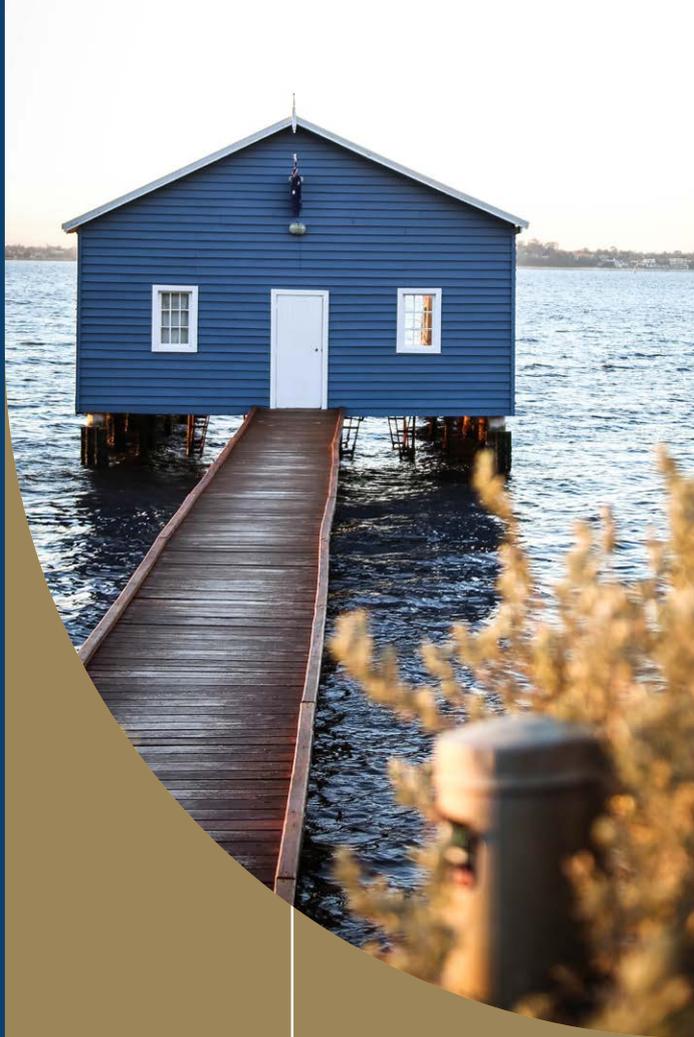
**12.8%**  
Adverse events  
(73/571)



**60.3%**  
Adverse events that  
caused death  
(44/73)



**40.9%**  
Definitely preventable  
adverse events that  
caused death  
(18/44)



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
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