Background Despite estimates indicating high-rates of injuries in low-and middle-income countries, population-based data from Pacific Island nations are scant.

Aim/Objectives/Purpose To describe the epidemiology of injury-related deaths and hospitalisations in Fiji.

Methods The Fiji Injury Surveillance in Hospitals (FISH) database prospectively collected data on all injury deaths and primary admissions to hospital (≥12 h stay) in Viti Levu, Fiji during a 12-month period (October 2005–September 2006).

Results/Outcomes The 2233 injury cases identified corresponded to an annualised incidence rate of 343/100 000. Eighty percent of cases were aged less than 45 years, and males had twice the injury rate of females. Most injuries (73.8%) were unintentional. Among intentional injuries, assaults were highest amongst Fijians and self-harm injuries highest amongst Indians. The crude rates of death and hospitalisation were 37.8 and 316 per 100 000 population, respectively. Among the 246 fatalities (71% of whom died before hospitalisation), the leading causes were road traffic injury (28%) and hanging (25%), with the principal injury most commonly noted to be asphyxia or head injury. Among the 2059 hospital admissions, the leading causes were falls (30%) and being struck by a person or object (23%); fractures and open wounds were the commonest types of injury. Alcohol was considered a contributing factor in at least 12% of injury events.

Significance/Contribution to the Field This study has identified the high risk groups of fatal and serious non-fatal injuries that can guide the development of national strategies and help prioritise monitoring, evaluation and research strategies to address injury hazards and determinants.