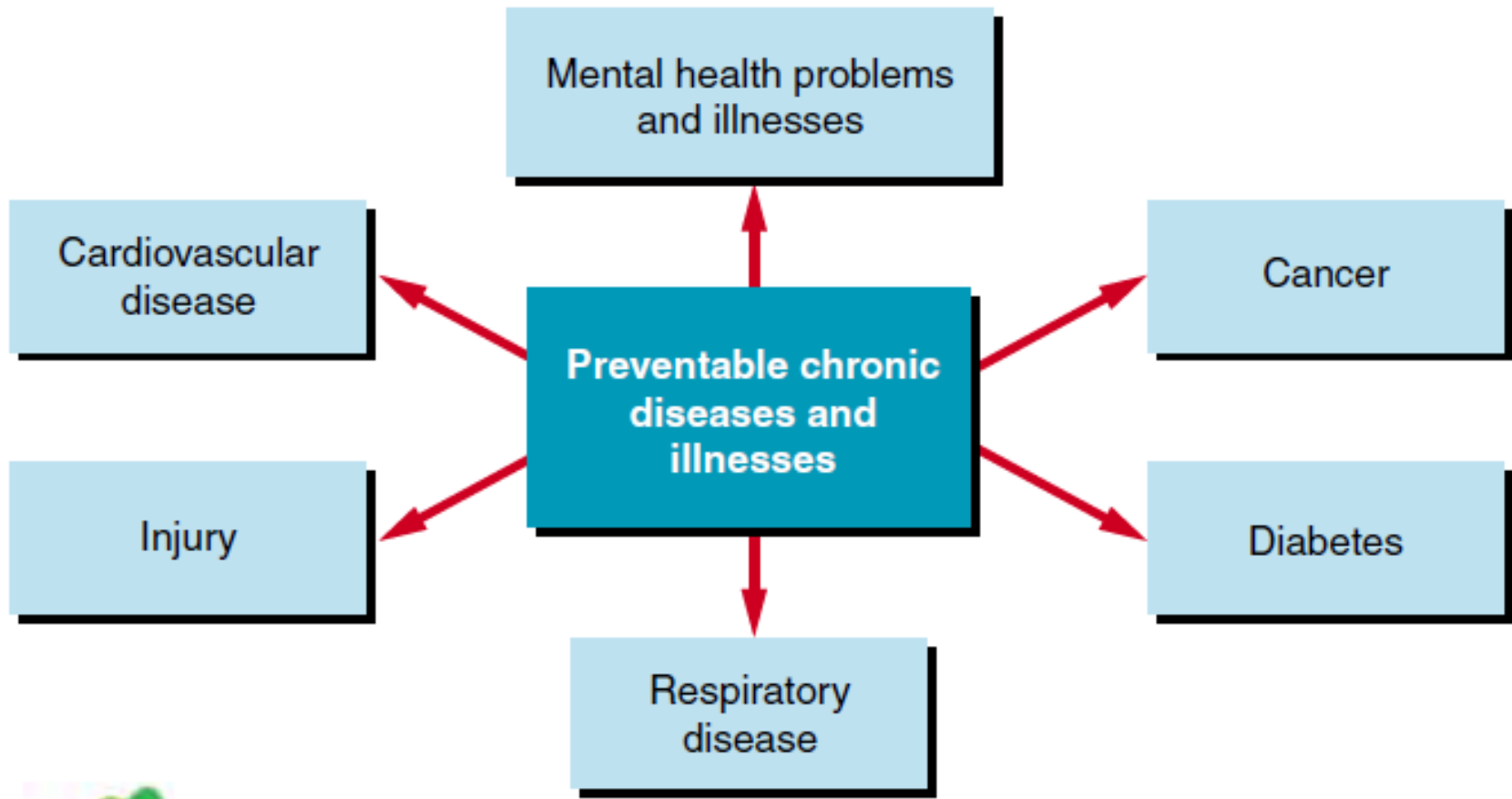


High levels of preventable chronic disease, injury and mental health problems



Injury

The nature of the problem

- Injuries are a major cause of preventable mortality and morbidity in Australia.
- transport-related injuries
- suicide and self-inflicted injury
- interpersonal violence
- residential injuries as a result of falls, drownings, poisonings, burns and scalds
- industry-related injuries
- consumer product injuries
- sport and recreation-related injuries.

Injury

Extent of the problem (trends)

- Leading cause of death for children and young people
- Mortality and morbidity rates are decreasing
- It predominantly affects males (except in younger age groups). The male mortality rate from injury is more than twice the female rate.
- Death rates from unintentional injuries are declining but those from intentional injuries are increasing (eg suicide)

Injury

Risk factors and protective factors

- Risk Factors: being distracted while driving, peer pressure, drink driving, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt
- Protective Factors: Keeping to the road rules (don't speed, wear seatbelt), staying alert and not driving fatigued, concentration on road – keep mobiles in the boot, keep poisons/medicines away from children, report domestic violence

Injury

The sociocultural, socioeconomic and environmental determinants

Table 2.5: The sociocultural, socioeconomic and environmental determinants for injury

Sociocultural determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injury hospitalisation rates are higher for indigenous children compared to non-indigenous children.• An indigenous person is three times more likely to die in an accident than a non-indigenous person, due to less access to treatment and low education levels.• Media exposure of laws relating to road use and consequences of road trauma has helped reduce injury rates from traffic accidents.
Socioeconomic determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Males aged 25–64 years from areas of most disadvantage are 2.2 times more likely to die in traffic accidents and 1.6 times more likely to die from suicide compared to those living in areas of least disadvantage. For females, it is 2.2 times more for traffic accidents and 1.3 times more from suicide. People with less income are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviour and are less likely to be able to afford vehicle maintenance.• People who are unemployed, or who have less income, may not be able to afford safety devices in the home to help prevent childhood injuries.
Environmental determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People working in rural areas are more at risk of workplace injuries, as they are more exposed to dangerous machinery.• People in rural areas are more at risk of suicide, due to lower employment rates in remote areas and less access to support networks.

Injury

Groups at risk

- the elderly (at risk of falls)
- children (at risk of poisoning, road trauma, drowning, violence, burns and scalds)
- adolescents (at risk of suicide and traffic-related injuries)
- people living in rural and remote areas (at risk of workplace accidents).