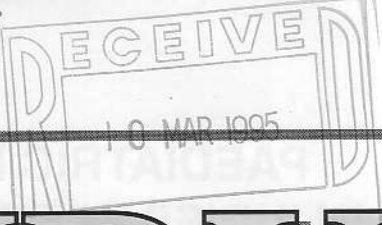


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# INJURY BULLETIN

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## This Month...

In this month's edition we cover the following topics.

- Rock Climbing injuries
- Paediatric Burn injuries in Brisbane South region
- Injuries occurring whilst asleep
- Injuries to doctors
- Injuries in July 1994
- Overview of deliberate non-fatal self harm

## ROCK CLIMBING INJURIES

QISPP recorded 35 injuries to rock climbers in the six year period ending 31/12/93. Of these 22 were males and 13 females with ages ranging from 10 to 59 years.

Thirty-four of these injuries occurred during recreational activities and one was injured while on the job (police officer).

Eighteen people sustained injuries when they fell from heights of over a metre. Ten climbers lost control, and 7 moved themselves into a dangerous position resulting in injury.

Eleven climbers suffered fractures, two had dislocations, two presented with rope burns to the hands and the remainder sustained cuts, bruises or superficial abrasions.

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NISPP

# PAEDIATRIC BURN INJURIES IN BRISBANE SOUTH 1/7/88 - 30/6/93

- QISPP recorded 1,137 burn injuries to children under 15 yrs during this five year period.
- 15% required admission
- 58% presented at Mater Children's Hospital (almost all of the remainder presented at Redland and QEII Hospitals)
- Hospitals in the Brisbane South Region transferred 42 paediatric burn patients during this period (9% of their paediatric burn caseload) to a larger centre.
- 64% of these children were under five years of age
- 20% were 10 to 14 years of age
- 63% were males
- More males were injured than females at every age; the peak ages for burns to males were 1 to 2 years (males comprised two thirds of burns in this age group) and 10 to 14 years (males comprised two thirds of burns in this age group also)
- The worst age group for burns to females was 2 to 3 years of age (females comprised 45% of burns in this age group)
- The most common geographical location for these injuries was the child's own home in the kitchen (28%), followed closely by the living or sleeping area (26%), the garden or garage (14%) and the bathroom, laundry or toilet (10%)
- In other people's homes, children most commonly sustained burn injuries in the garden or garage (3%), or in the living sleeping area (2%), but not so much in the kitchen (1%)

- The child's own home bathroom, laundry or toilet was the place the most severe burns seemed to occur - 28% of children burned in these areas required admission
- Four cases were the result of house fires
- Four cases of burns were violence related.
- 50% of these burn injuries were scalds
- 40% of burns to the mouth, jaw or lip were admitted and 30% of burns to the face, head or neck were admitted.

## INJURIES JULY 1994

In July 1994 QISPP recorded 2,181 injury presentations in seven hospitals in Brisbane South. Of these injuries we have selected a total of 14 to mention;

82	Self harm
66	Assault
65	Machinery in operation
19	Horse related
17	Dog related
15	Scalds
10	Fire, Flame, Smoke related
9	Threat to breathing
8	Hot substance or hot object related
5	Partner abuse
4	Electricity related
2	Gun related
1	Cold conditions related

# DELIBERATE NON - FATAL SELF HARM

## 1. ADULTS $\geq$ 15 YRS - BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

- 3,170 incidents of intentional self harm occurred during a six year period ending 30/6/94
- 80% required admission (database average admission rate is 12%)
- 71% occurred in the person's own home
- 77% were ingestions of 'non-therapeutic substances' (defined below)
- 20% were cuts and lacerations (sometimes overlapping with ingestion of non-therapeutic substances e.g. 'drinking and slashed wrists')
- 'non therapeutic substances' included
 

barbiturates, sedatives, tranquilisers and psychotropics	38%
pills, drugs or medications	
NEC	31%
alcohol	13%
paracetamol	9%
household or other chemicals	2%
pesticides	1%
- other factors involved in these injuries were:
 

knives/scissors/razors	14%
firearms	1%
- 60% of these 3,170 cases presented at Princess Alexandra Hospital

- 37% were aged 20 - 29 yrs
- 45% were males (all-age, all injury database average proportion of males is 67%)
- 60% of the 15-19 yr olds were females and almost 60% of the 40-49 yr olds were females
- 73% of deaths recorded by QISPP were males.

## 2. CHILDREN $\leq$ 15 YRS - BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

- 0.2% of childhood injuries were the result of intentional self harm
- 93% of these occurred in the 10-14 yrs age group

## 3. OLDER PEOPLE $\geq$ 65 yrs - BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

- 0.4% of injuries to older people were the result of intentional self harm

## 4. RURAL QUEENSLAND

- 0.3% of injuries in rural areas were the result of intentional self harm

## 5. PRISONS - BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

- During the four years 1/7/88 - 30/6/92, 20% of injuries to prison inmates were the result of intentional self harm
- During the two years 1/7/92 - 30/6/94, 25% of injuries to prison inmates were the result of intentional self harm.



## INJURIES OCCURRING WHILST ASLEEP

During a two month period from 1/7/94 to 31/8/94, 32 people presented to hospital with injuries which occurred whilst they were sleeping.

Most of the people injured were either under 15 years (12 cases) or over 70 yrs (9 cases).

In 18 instances the injuries involved falling out of bed or off a chair; four of these fell from the top of a bunk bed. Another three presentations were the result of house fires. The balance of cases were an assortment of eye injuries or foreign body in eyes (3), bitten by an insect (1), run over by a vehicle while sleeping on road (1), dislocations or strained muscles (3), striking bed parts while dreaming (2) and one injury while coughing.

Just under half of these injuries (15) were severe enough to warrant an admission to a hospital. Approximately 20% of injuries were fractures, 25% were soft tissue injuries, 15% were head injuries with the balance being a mixture of sprains, eye injuries or dislocations.

## INJURIES TO DOCTORS

QISPP recorded 60 injury presentations by general and specialist medical practitioners over a six year period ending 31/12/93. More male than female doctors were injured.

It was also interesting to note that the main age group injured was that of the 25-29 years.

The majority of cases were injured in the course of their work in hospitals.

Most injuries (80%) were that of lacerations and punctures mainly from needlestick and slipping with scalpels, two were from acts of violence and three were splashed with blood.

Three of the injuries were serious enough to require admission, two required further treatment and the remainder received minor treatment only.

