



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION PROJECT

Ground Floor, Clarence Court
Mater Children's Hospital
South Brisbane Q 4101
Ph: (07) 3840 8569

Mater Adult Hospital Mater Children's Hospital Mater Private Emergency Centre Redland Hospital
Logan Hospital Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital Princess Alexandra Hospital

Occupational injuries - retail trade

For the twelve months January to December 1995 QISPP recorded 199 injuries to people, aged 15-70 years, employed in the retail trade industry.

Occupations included:

sales assistants	35
vehicle mechanics	16
managers- shop/supervising	14
meat tradespersons	13
nursery men/women, gardeners	12
panel beaters/ vehicle painters	10

Three times as many males as females were injured and all of the injuries serious enough to require hospital admission were to males.

There were 43 injuries caused by cutting or piercing of which four required hospitalisation.

17 injuries were attributable to knives. For example, "boning beef when knife slipped and punctured wrist" and "cutting open cartons when razor knife slipped".

Other frequent causes of injury were: struck by object or person (31), machinery in operation (29) and falls (28).

Four of the injuries were intentional, including one which was a partner abuse.

The most frequent injuries were lacerations (33%), eye injuries (15%) which were primarily foreign bodies, and strains and sprains (14%).

6.5% of the injuries were fractures.

Body parts most commonly injured were the upper limbs (36%) and lower limbs (25%).

8% of injuries were to the back (primarily the lower back).

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Poisonings - ingestions of harmful substances by children

Poisonings or ingestions of harmful or potentially harmful substances by children continues to be a concern.

QISPP data shows 431 ingestions in children <15 years old occurred over a period of two years, 1994-1995.

They included ingestions of medications (57%), household chemicals and plants as well as some instances of foreign bodies, eg. swallowing a magnet or the end of a thermometer.

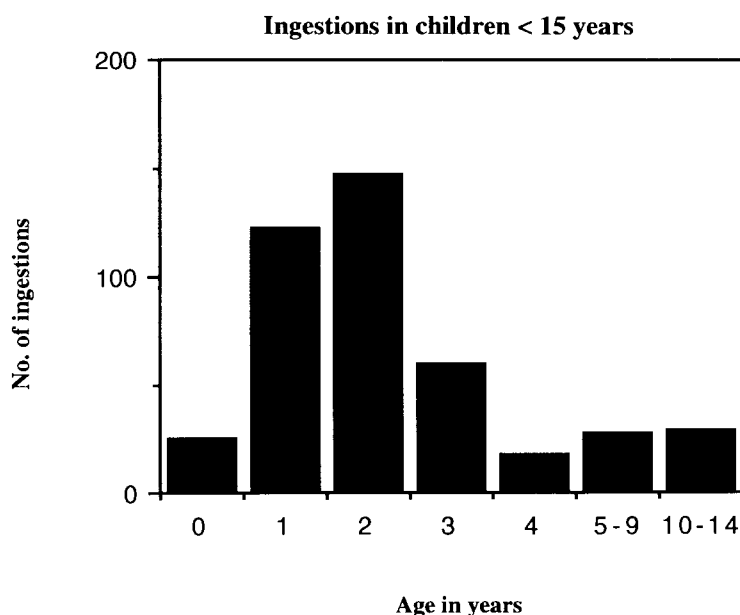
As a result *one quarter* of the children (104) required admission or transfer to a larger hospital. (The average admission rate for children, for all injuries is around 16%.)

69% of those admitted had ingested medications.

The ingestions almost always (93%) occurred in the home.

Of all of the ingestions 374 involved the under five age group, with the toddlers most at risk.

There were 28 ingestions in the 5-9 age group and 29 in the 10-14 age group (see graph).



Children's natural curiosity and tendency to imitate others, leaves them vulnerable to taking medications or other substances inappropriately.

Parents, grandparents and other carers must ensure medications, cleaning products, alcohol and other household chemicals and poisons are stored securely in locked cupboards or garden sheds.

Medications that need to be refrigerated should be stored out of sight of children.

Child resistant caps alone cannot be relied upon to protect children from dangerous substances.

Recorded descriptions of ingestions included children :-

"taking pills from bedside drawer"

"climbed shelves in kitchen and drank medicine"

"swallowed tablet found in handbag"

"playing in garage and ate ratsack pellets"

"got into cupboard and drank anti-fungal treatment for fish tank"

Non-medications

Ingestion of substances other than medications accounted for 185 presentations with a lower admission rate of 17.8%.

Substances ingested included:

Plants & mushrooms	24
Cleaning products (eg toilet bowl cleaner, furniture oil, detergent)	24
Chemicals (eg caustic soda, pool chlorine)	21
Rat poison	16
Fragrant or essential oils	13
Kerosene & turpentine	12
Insecticide	10
Personal products (eg shaving cream, nail polish remover)	5
Tobacco	4

Plants

There were 24 recorded instances of ingestion of plant material including mushrooms.

Of these three were identified as oleanders and five were mushrooms.

Nine included other identified plants including the berries of lantana and camphor laurel and indoor plants such as diffenbachia, spathiphyllum and philodendron.



Foreign bodies

Foreign bodies swallowed by children included:

- air rifle pellets,
- lead sinkers and
- small batteries (from cameras/ computer games)
- magnets and
- the end of a thermometer.

Medications

Not only were poisoning's from medications the most frequently recorded but they also had a higher admission rate.

Of the 246 cases of medication poisoning 72 or 29% were admitted.

85% of cases were children less than five years, of which half were two years old.

In seven instances a parent or carer admitted a mistake with the dose, eg. administering paracetamol drops at the same rate as paracetamol elixir.

Intentional

17 of the cases were recorded as intentional self harm, of which 12 were admitted to hospital.

Almost all (15) of the intentional ingestions recorded were older children aged 10 - 14 years.

Trampolines

During 1995 QISPP recorded 78 trampoline injuries of which 15% resulted in hospital admission or transfer to a larger hospital. 80% of all injuries resulted from a fall including all of those requiring admission.

52 injuries were to children < 5 years old followed by 40, injuries to 5-9 year olds and 12, to 10-14 year olds. 96% of injuries occurred at home.

41% of the injuries were to the arm and shoulder, 22% to the head and neck, 18% to the hand and wrist and 18% to the legs and feet.

The injuries included 36 fractures, 17 sprains/strains and 10 lacerations/cuts. The fractures included forearm (15), elbow (6), wrist (6), upper arm (3) & lower leg (3).

Sporting injuries

During the 18 months to the end of December 1995 QISPP recorded 3312 sporting injuries of which 74% were to males.

Under the 45 categories of sport specified, the following table shows those which recorded the most injuries. The percentage of cases admitted provides an indicator of the severity of the injuries.

Sprains and strains accounted for 1214 of the injuries, followed by 864 fractures, 531 contusions and 102 concussion's.

The most common injuries were sprained/strained ankles (506), fractured fingers (166), fractured forearms (135) and fractured wrists (125).

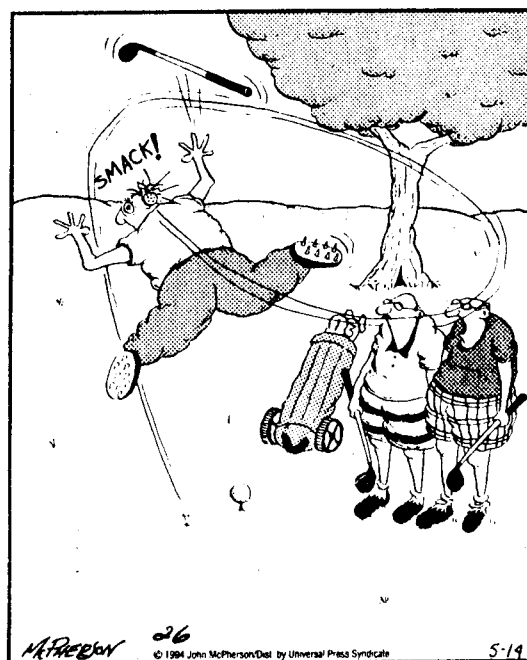
There were also two injuries to the spleen, two fractures to the pelvis, three fractured skulls and two injuries to the cervical spine.

The most frequent cause of injury was being struck by another person or object (1184) followed by 1023 caused by a fall.

Injuries occurred most frequently in dedicated sports and athletics areas (549 - in-

door, 1991 - outdoor) followed by schools (625), then recreational areas (66) and at home (52).

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN MCPHERSON



"Worst slice I ever saw!"

There were 15 golf injuries recorded in the 18 month period - including: "playing golf when struck in the head by a golf ball. No other details available."

TYPE OF SPORT	NO. INJURIES	% ADMITTED/ TRANSFERRED
Football (not specified)	802	5
Football (rugby)	403	11
Soccer	372	3
Netball	312	3
Cricket	198	5
Riding	81	20
Softball	78	9
Football (Aus Rules)	65	11
Tennis	65	6
Hockey	65	2

Sporting injuries and admissions July 1994-December 1995