



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION PROJECT

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New Year Injuries

New Year celebrations are probably the pinnacle of the silly season festivities. Last year's QISPP data showed 60% more injuries occurred on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day than the average number of injuries for the rest of the year.

On December 31, 1995 and January 1, 1996 a total of 171 injuries were recorded for south east Brisbane.

14% more males than females were injured and younger age groups were predominant. 28% of injuries were to young people aged 15 - 24 and 27% to children <15 years.

Of those injured 8% were admitted or transferred while a further 43% required further medical review or follow-up.

Despite the number of people going out to celebrate, the majority (61%) of injuries still occurred in private homes; half of these outside in the yard, around the pool or on verandahs or balconies.

After the home, trade or service areas (12%), recreation areas (10%) and streets or highways (7%) followed as the most common locations for injuries.

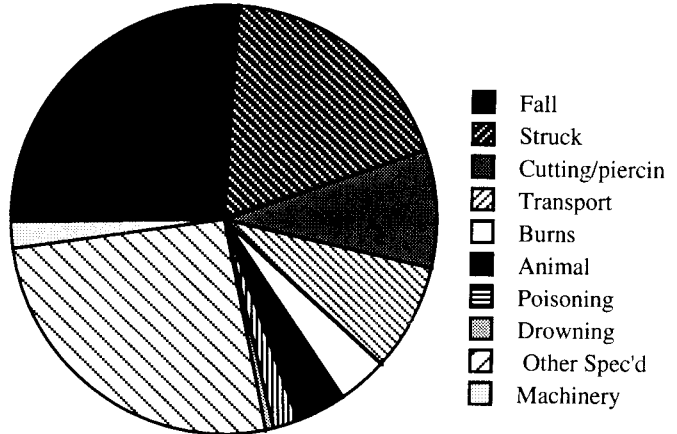
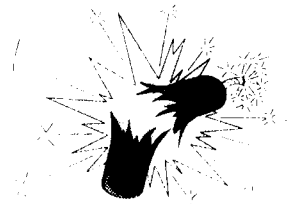


Figure 1 Cause of Injury 31/12/95-1/1/96

One quarter of the injuries were caused by falls and a further 19% were struck by a person or object (see graph above).

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New Year Injuries

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The majority of those injured (57%) were engaged in leisure activities, 16% were doing chores and 5% were working for income.

The nature of injury, detailed in Figure 2 below, shows that the most frequent category of injury recorded was open wounds (lacerations and cuts) which most often involved hands and feet.

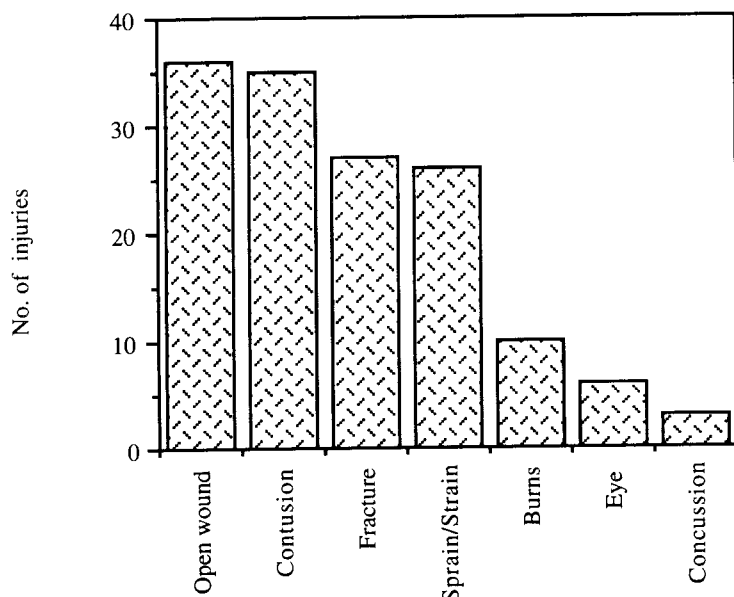


Figure 2 Nature of injuries 31/12/95-1/1/96

Violence

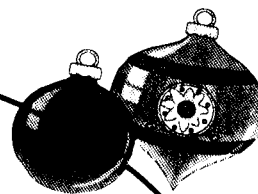
15% of the new year injuries last year were violence related.

Of the injuries:

- 10 occurred at home (only one by an intruder)
- 6 occurred at night clubs, parties, bars or restaurants
- 3 occurred at parks or outdoor venues
- 2 were in the street (walking home)
- 2 were security officers at work: - one had his head pushed through a plate glass window and the other was injured attempting to break up a fight.

One-third of the contusions involved hands and arms, one-quarter - face and head and one-quarter - legs and feet. Two-thirds of the fractures were to the upper limbs.

Seasons Greetings



All at QISPP would like to take this opportunity to extend to all *Injury Bulletin* readers a happy and safe Festive Season.

The QISPP office will close on Tuesday 24 December and re-open on Thursday 2 January 1997

Falls Injuries

- 5580 falls were recorded by QISPP during 1995
- 70% of the falls were to children aged <15 years
- older people (60+) recorded 11.5% of the falls but 24% of the hospital admissions
- almost 60% of all injuries sustained by people > 64 years are the result of falls
- the admission rate for the whole sample was 13%, while a further 48% required some type of follow-up.
- almost half of the injuries occurred at home:
 - 35% in the yard, garden, path or driveway
 - 12% involved steps
- 7% of falls occurred while working for income - most frequently in construction and trade services industries
- truck drivers, carpenters and joiners, labourers and sales assistants /representatives were the most frequent occupations represented.
- injuries included:
 - 1811 fractures
 - 1156 sprains/strains
 - 888 open wounds
 - 766 contusions
 - 276 concussion/intracranial
 - 42 multiple
- 45% of the injuries involved the upper limbs, 24% - lower limbs, 20% - head, 8% - trunk and 2% - multiple
- 12% of the falls were from a height >1 metre

<u>Location</u>	<u>No. Injuries</u>
Home	2701
School/Public admin area	773
Sport/Athletics area	549
Recreation area	436
Trade/Service area	394
Street/Highway/Footpath	259
Industrial/Construction site	128
Residential institution	88
Hospital	44

- Almost two-thirds of the injuries happened while pursuing leisure activities including:
 - one-third walking/jogging
 - 31% playing and 8% playing on playground equipment
- Other frequent activities in rank order were:
 - sport and recreation
 - working for income
 - nursed or being cared for
 - chore
 - vital activity (including showering, bathing and sleeping)



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Burns Injuries

298 burns, caused by fire, flames, smoke, hot objects/substances, scalds and electricity were recorded by QISPP in 1995.

Two-thirds of the injuries occurred at home of which 61% were in the kitchen, 13% in the yard or garden, 7% in the living/dining room and 5% in the bathroom.

In fact, half of the injuries in all locations (including non home) occurred in kitchens. This is also reflected in the activity at the time of injury which shows 23% of injuries occurred while undertaking food preparation or cooking.

Other common burn -associated activities were "nursed or being cared for" (10%), "playing" (9%) and "vehicle maintenance" (6%) - which included 21 car radiator scalds.

58 of the injuries happened while working for income, 30% in the accommodation/cafes/restaurants industry (most frequently cooks and kitchen hands) and 20% in health services (including nurses using autoclaves).

The upper limbs were most frequently burned (53%) of which more than half involved the hands.

<u>Body part</u>	<u>No. injuries</u>
Hands, fingers	109
Arms	49
Legs, feet	45
Head, neck	33
Trunk	33
Multiple	29

While the majority of injuries were recorded as being unintentional, 14% were of unknown intent, one was child abuse and one assault.

10% of the injuries resulted in hospital admission with a further 68% requiring follow-up treatment or review.

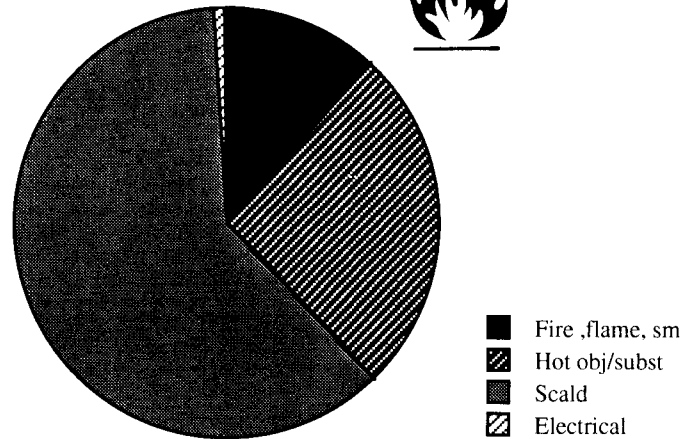


Figure 3 Cause of Injury

The most highly represented age group was children <5 years (see Figure). 10% of the total sample were aged 1-2, representing 56% of the <5 age group.

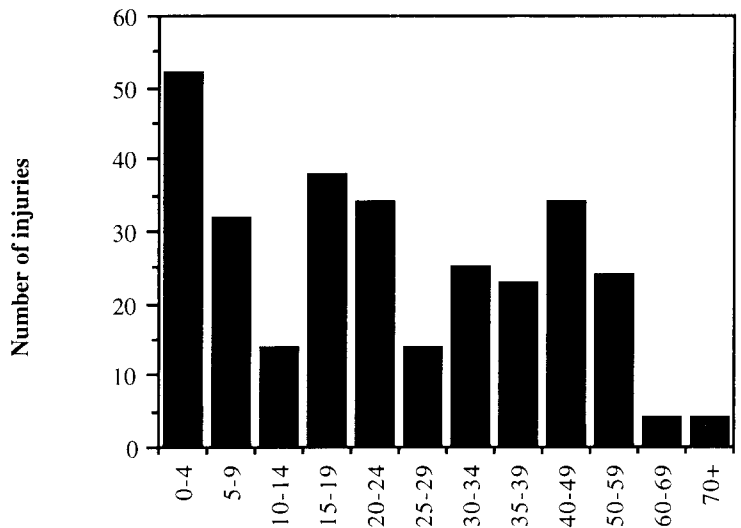


Figure 4 Burns Injuries by Age

HELP NEEDED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
HAVE THERE BEEN CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS, DESIGNATION, ORGANISATION -
IF SO PLEASE LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN UPDATE OUR MAILING LIST