



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION PROJECT

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Outdoor leisure injuries

Over the two-year period, 1995-1996, QISPP recorded 6571 injuries to people pursuing leisure activities outdoors at home, at recreation areas and sport and athletics areas.

- 62 % of the injuries occurred at home.
- 60% of the injuries were to children, 0-14 years
- 64% of the injuries were to males
- Children aged 5-9 years were the group at highest risk, accounting for one quarter of all of the injuries. (See age distribution graph)
- The most common activity at the time of injury was playing, followed by (in rank

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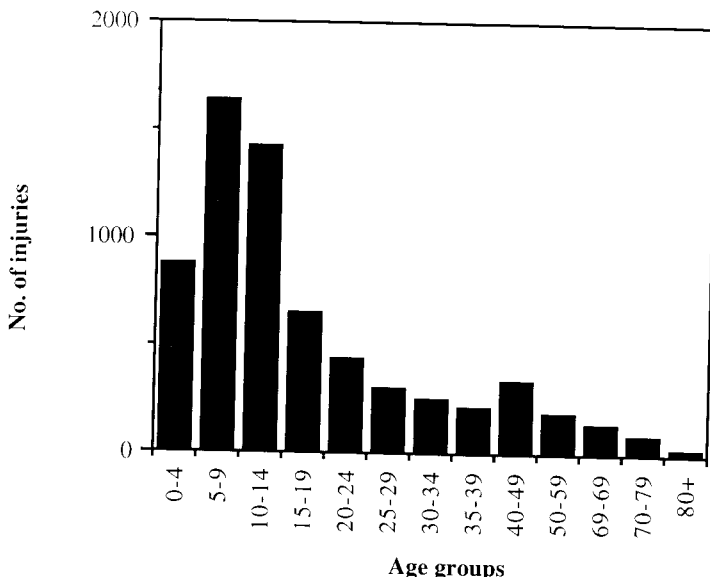


Fig. 1 Outdoor leisure injuries by age

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Injuries to young people 15 - 24

The total number of injuries recorded by QISPP in 1996 for the 15 to 24 year age group was 5694. 71% of the injuries were to males.

The most common activities being undertaken when the injuries occurred were:

- leisure - 42%
- sport and recreation - 22%
- occupational - 18%.

Occupations frequently represented were:

- labourers	127
- carpenters, joiners	50
- cooks/bakers	42
- storemen/women	44
- sales assistants, reps	43
- boilermaking, welding	43
- vehicle mechanics	37
- kitchen hands	37

Injury locations reflect the activities being undertaken and were most commonly :

- home	25%
- sport, athletics area	20%
- street, highway, footpath	14%
- trade, service area	15%
- school or public admin	8%
- industrial, construction	7%
- recreational area	7%

More than half of the industrial and construction locations were factories or warehouses.

One-quarter of the injuries were caused by being struck by an object or person and a further 15% were the result of a fall.

14% of injuries were transport related as follows:

motor vehicle driver	227
motor vehicle passenger	162
motorcycle rider	142
motorcycle passenger	3
bicyclist	173
pedestrian	31

Cutting and piercing were the cause of 7% of injuries and machinery in operation 4%.

While 90% of all injuries were unintentional, 7% were (other) assault, and 2% were self harm. There were also 29 cases of partner abuse (0.5%) and four injuries as a result of legal intervention.

Injury	Number
sprain, strain	1207
open wound, laceration	1202
fracture	841
contusion	654
eye injury (including FB)	273
superficial	226
dislocation	146
bite	132
burn	109
concussion	96
multiple	88
crushing	83
poisoning (excl bite)	60
traumatic amputation	10

Table 1 Nature of Injury 15-24 years, 1996

36% of the sprains and strains were to the ankle, 10% were to the knee and 9% to the back.

Fractures were most commonly to the finger (15%), wrist (15%) and hand(13%).

Intentional injuries to children

- There were 61 intentional injuries (child abuse, sexual assault, other assault) to children aged 0 to 14 recorded on the QISPP database in 1996.
- Three of the injuries were child abuse, one sexual assault and the remainder were other assault.
- 35 injuries were to boys and 26 to girls. The two admissions were both girls.
- 72% of the injuries were the result of being struck by an object or person.
- The head was the body part most frequently injured (55%), followed by the upper limbs (29%).
- The nature of injury was:
 - 36% - contusions,
 - 13% - cuts/lacerations
 - 10% - fractures
 - 10% - sprains/strains
 - 10% - superficial
 - 5% - concussion/ intracranial.
- 31% of the injuries occurred at home and 26% at schools, public administration areas or other institutions.
- There were 1934 injuries recorded for the same group that were of *unknown* intent.



Outdoor leisure injuries continued from p1

order) walking/jogging, riding, playing on play equipment, football, swimming, trampolining, basketball, gardening and rollerblading.

- The highest admission rate for the above activities was 24% for injuries sustained while playing on play equipment.
- Falls were the most common cause of injury (37%) with one-fifth of these being from a height greater than one metre.
- Struck by object or person (843), transport related (781), animal related (738) and cuts/lacerations (418) followed as the most frequent causes of injury.
- Higher injury rates occurred during the warmer months, September to April.

Injury	No.	%
Fractures	1588	24
Open wounds	1360	21
Sprains	1087	17
Contusions	691	11
Bites	458	7
Superficial	202	3
Concussion	201	3
Eye	173	3
Dislocation	99	1.5
Burn	67	1

Table 2 Outdoor leisure injuries, 1996 by Nature of Injury

On the job injuries

- electrical workers

- During 1996 QISPP recorded 64 injuries to electrical workers.

- 38% of those injured (24) were aged 20 - 29 years

- The most common causes of injury were:

cutting, piercing object	20%
struck by object or person	16%
foreign body in eye	16%
machinery in operation	11%
electricity	8%
fall	6%

For example:

- using stanley knife to strip cable when knife slipped, lacerating thumb
- installing cables when cable tie broke hitting him in the eye

- 40% of injuries were open wounds.

- 13 injuries (20%) were to the eye, 10 of which were foreign bodies.

-There were six fractures, all except one to the upper limbs.

- Other injuries included five sprains or strains, four crushing injuries, and three electrical injuries.

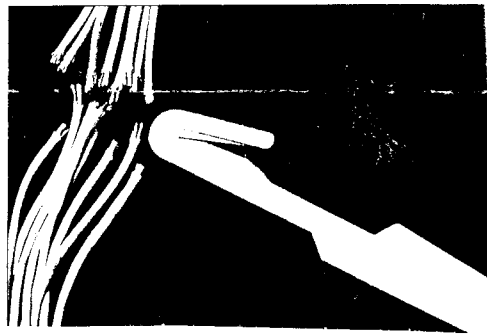
-46% of the injuries were to the upper limbs

- Almost half of the injuries (30) occurred in the construction industry, eight occurred in the electricity and gas supply industries.

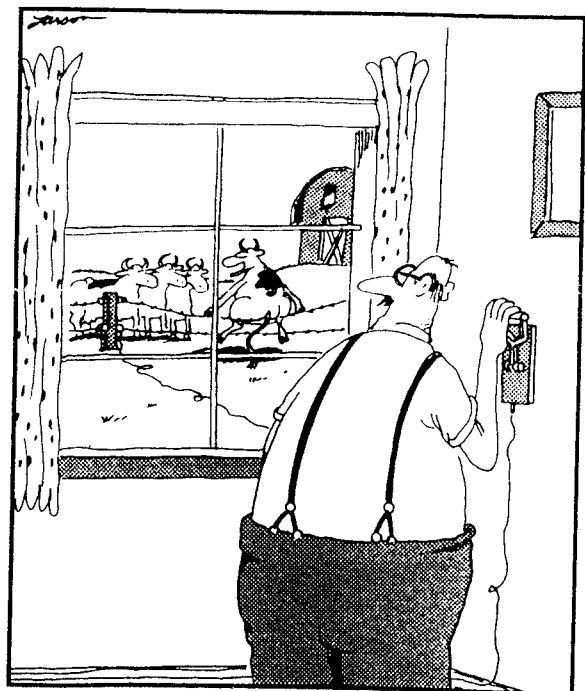
- While the injuries did not result in any hospital admissions, 63% required further medical follow-up.

- 41% of the injuries happened in industrial or construction sites and 30% in trade or service areas.

- Only one of those injured was female.



Use of safety knives such as the one shown above may help reduce the incidence of cuts.



"Look, if it was electric, could I do this?"

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