



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION PROJECT

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Number of work injuries at work Employees at work Employees at work

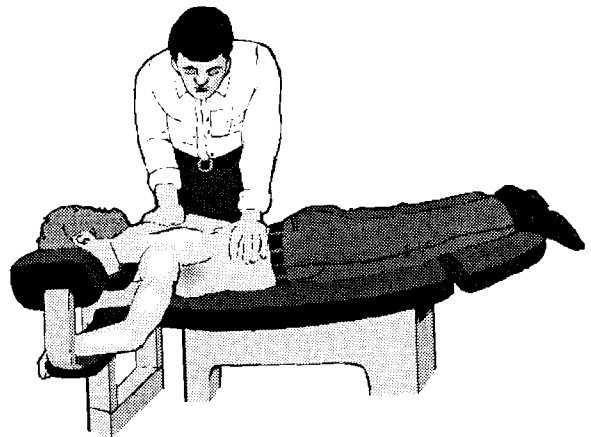
Back injuries

250 back injuries which occurred while in paid work were recorded by QISPP in 1996. Health services had the highest proportion of injuries (20%) of any industry and nursing was the occupation group with the most injuries, representing 10% of the total sample.

A total of 79 occupations were represented in the data. Figure 1 shows the occupations most frequently nominated. Occupation was not provided in 34 cases.

| Occupation | Number of Cases |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Nurses - RN | 22 |
| EN | 3 |
| Dental | 1 |
| Labourers - other | 18 |
| Storemen/women | 13 |
| Sales Assistants | 9 |
| Truck Drivers | 8 |
| Ambulance Officers | 6 |
| Boilermakers/ welding trades | 6 |
| Vehicle mechanics | 6 |

Figure 1 Back injuries, 1996, by occupation



Industries represented included health services (20.4%), retail trade (10.8%), transport (8.4%), food, beverage, accommodation, restaurants (8%) and construction (7.6%).

While only 2.8% of the injuries resulted in hospitalisation, 40% required follow-up attention.

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Injuries to children under five

QISPP recorded 2365 injuries to children aged less than five during 1996. 12.6% of the injuries resulted in hospital admission. The injuries most commonly occurred in the home (82%) and the most frequent cause was falls (42.3%).

LOCATION - home

The most frequent locations for the 1939 injuries occurring at home, were living/dining areas, followed by yard or garden, bedroom and kitchen.

5% of the injuries involved stairs.

29.4% of the injuries happened outside and accounted for 40% of the (at home) admissions.

LOCATION - other

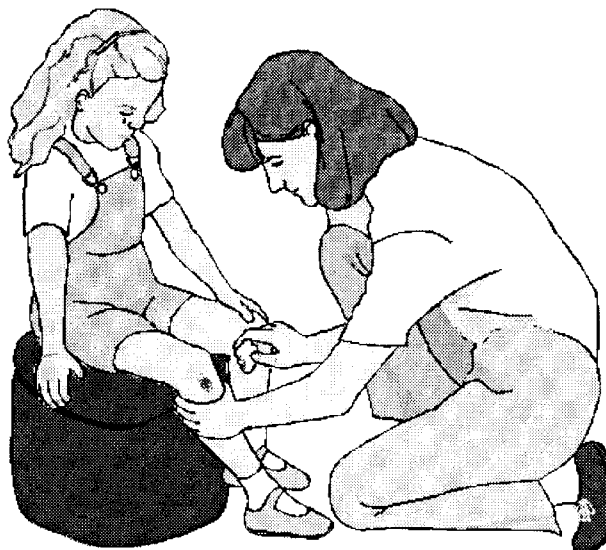
Injuries occurring in locations other than the home included:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| - school / | |
| public administration areas | 104 |
| (39% involved play equipment) | |
| - recreation areas | 102 |
| (36% involved play equipment) | |
| - trade or service areas | 77 |
| - street or highway | 56 |
| - sport/athletics area | 12 |
| - hospital /medical facility | 9 |

EXTERNAL CAUSE

One thousand of the injuries (42.3%) were the result of a fall and accounted for 50.3% of all admissions.

Falls most frequently occurred on the same level or from a height of less than one metre (82.5%).



10.5% of injuries were caused by being struck by an object or person.

8.6% were the result of ingestions or poisonings of which approximately half were medications.

There were 109 injuries (4.6%) involving transport of which 54% were pedal cyclists and 34.8% were motor vehicle passengers.

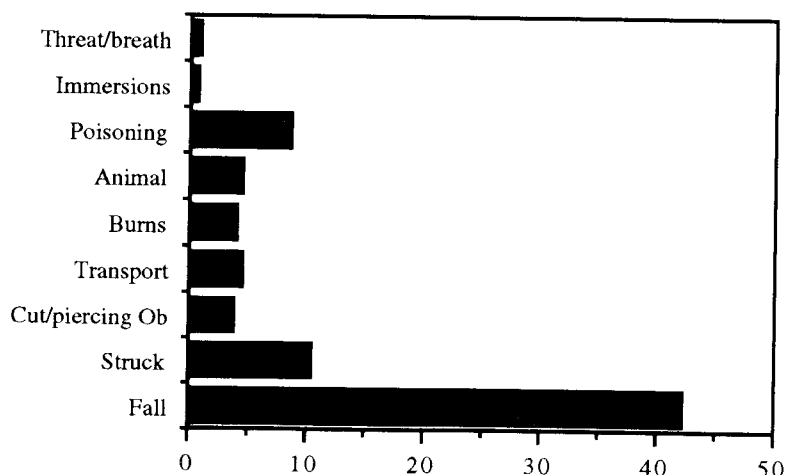


Figure 2 Children 0-4, % external cause of injury

Injuries to children under five

Of the 97 (4.1%) burns, 52.6% were scalds.

3.8% of injuries were from a cutting or piercing object.

There were 15 immersions which included two deaths and five admissions.

The 40 dog-related injuries (1.7%) resulted in 12 admissions.

BODY PART

The majority of injuries were to the head (45%) and upper limbs (35.2%) (Figure 3).

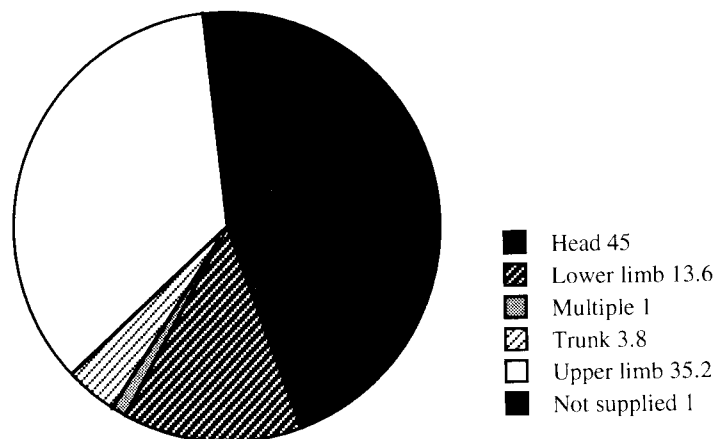


Figure 3 Children 0-4, 1996, injuries by body part

ACTIVITY

Children were most frequently playing (57.5%) when the injuries occurred.

NATURE OF INJURY

Almost one-quarter of the injuries were lacerations or cuts (22.6%) while there were 295 fractures and 253 contusions (Figure 4).

Of the 164 cases of concussion or intracranial injury, 79.3% were the result of a fall.

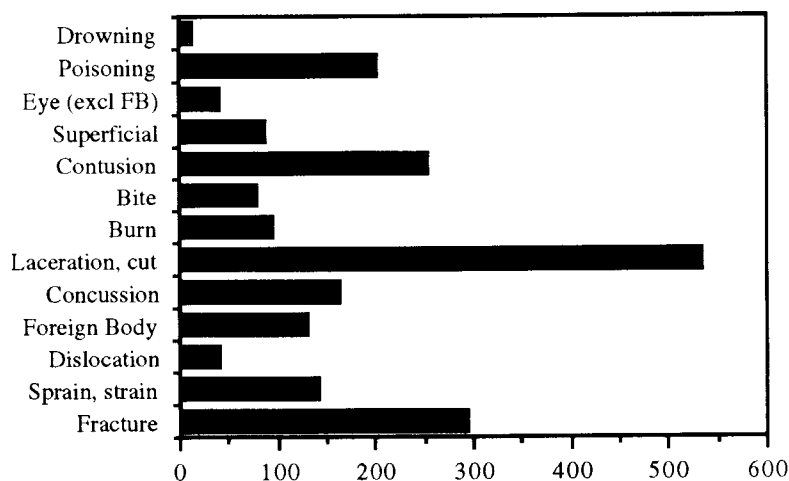
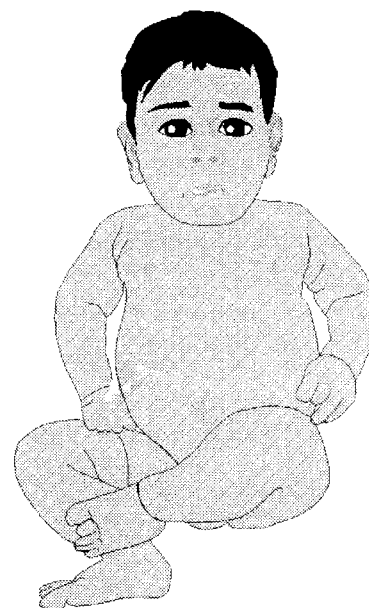


Figure 4 Children 0-4, 1996, by nature of injury

Back injuries at work

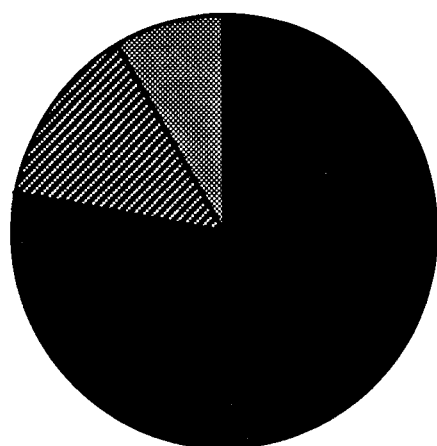
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Sixty percent of those injured were males, while the age group with the highest proportion of injuries (19%) was 25 to 29 years (Figure 6).

26.4% of the injuries occurred while lifting or carrying. In 67% of cases the activity being undertaken was not specified.

The most frequent specified external cause of the injuries was falls (15%). A further 8% involved transport (motor vehicle driver or passenger or pedestrian), while 3.2% of injuries resulted from being struck by a person or object and a further 3.2% involved machinery in operation.

More than three-quarters of the injuries were to the lower back (Figure 5), with the most common injury being lower back strain (56.4%).



- Lower back 78
- ▨ Thoracic 13.6
- ▩ Cervical 8.4

Figure 5 Back injuries at work, 1996
% body part distribution

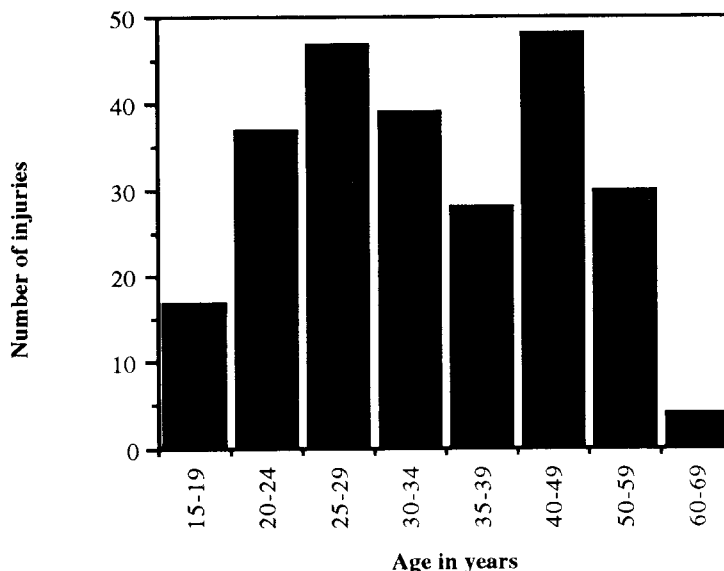


Figure 6 Back injuries at work, 1996, age distribution

The following table shows distribution by nature of injury.

| Nature of Injury | % |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Sprain or strain | 71.2 |
| Contusion | 13.6 |
| Other* | 10.8 |
| Fracture | 3.2 |
| Nerve or spinal cord injury | 1.2 |

* Other includes bites, crushing, superficial and unspecified injuries and no injury detected (0.8%).

