



# INJURY BULLETIN

c/o Mater Hospitals, South Brisbane 4101  
Ph 61 7 38408569 Fax 61 7 38401684 E-Mail Mail@qisu.qld.gov.au  
Website: <http://www.qisu.qld.gov.au>

## Injuries in the home - toddler's low speed run overs

Child mortality data for Queensland, 1992-96, published in the October Injury Bulletin (No 45), revealed 22 deaths to toddlers (0-4) years old by low speed run-over. The deaths were often the result of a family member reversing over the child in the driveway at home.

In the two- year period, 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1996, QISU recorded 15 low speed run-overs to children less than five years old.

The injuries resulted in six of the children being admitted to hospital. Most of those injured were aged one (Table 1).

| Age (Years) | Number |
|-------------|--------|
| 0           | 1      |
| 1           | 9      |
| 2           | 3      |
| 3           | 2      |
| 4           | 0      |

**Table 1** Age of children injured by low speed run overs, July 1994 - June 1996.

All of the injuries occurred at home, 13 in the driveway, one in the garage and one in the yard/garden.

In six cases it was stated the car was reversing out of the driveway, while in two cases the car was being driven into the garage. In one instance a child ran in front of a trailer being towed in the driveway.

Injuries sustained included 10 soft tissue injuries (superficial, open wounds, contusions, burn), two crushing injuries, two concussion, intracranial injuries and one fracture.

Lower limbs (n=5) and upper limbs (n=3) were the most common site injured.

**Inside:** More injuries in the home, including high falls

**Best Wishes for a  
happy, safe &  
successful year in  
1998**



# Injuries in the home

Injury emergency department presentations recorded by QISU for 1996, from the hospitals on Brisbane's southside, included 9363 injuries occurring in the home.

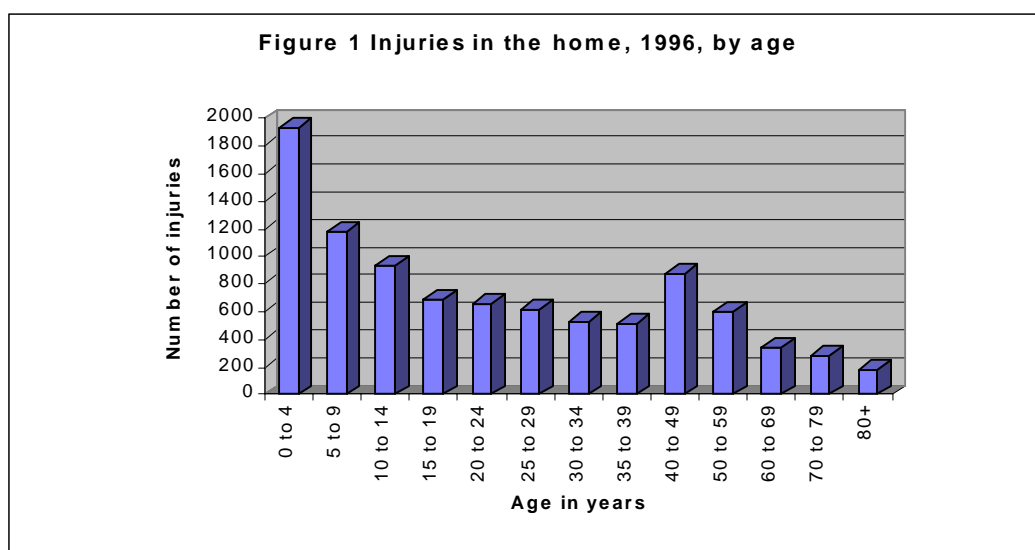
Children (0-14 years) made up 43% of the injuries (Figure 1) and represented 60% of the hospital admissions.

Injuries were more common from November through to April, peaking in January.

## Activity

Just over half of those injured were involved in *leisure* activities (Figure 2) such as playing, socialising, informal sport, gardening, trampolining and playing on play equipment.

Of those carrying out *chores*, 14% were attending



to household duties/cleaning, 12% yard maintenance, 11% cooking /food preparation and 7% vehicle maintenance.

Under the category of *Nursed, being cared for*, 53% were children playing.

*Vital activities*, included 20% showering /bathing, 18% sleeping and 15% eating.

## Injury cause

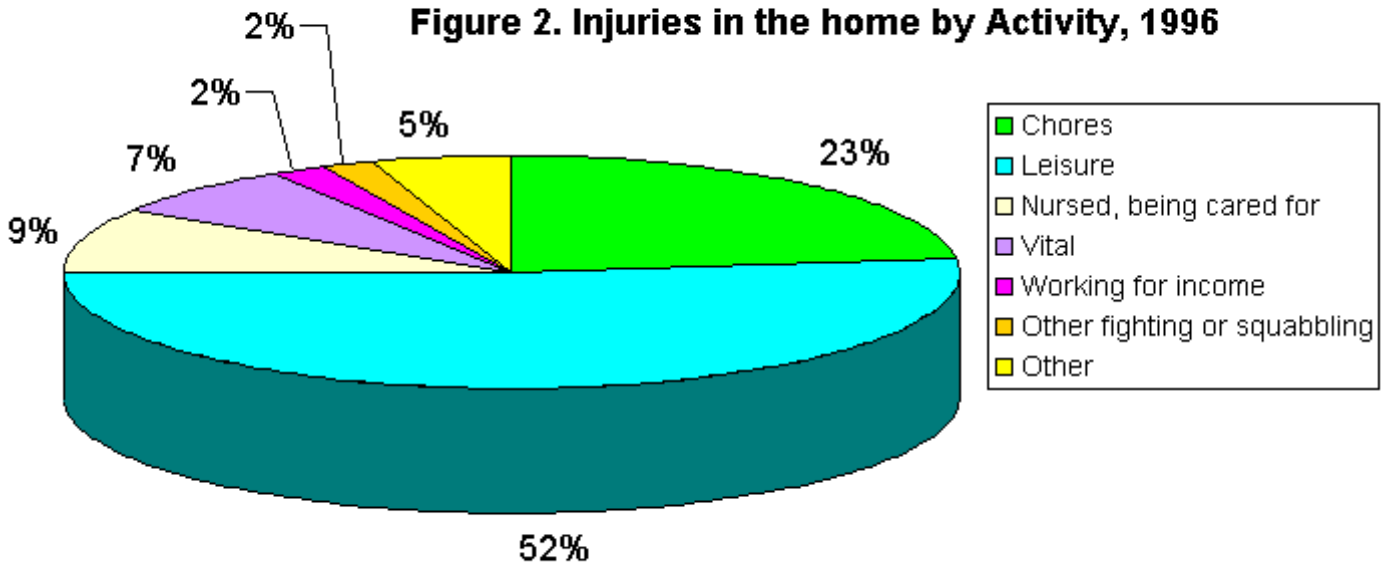
Falls including low (< 1 metre, unknown

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| EXTERNAL CAUSE                         | NUMBER |
|--|--------|
| Fall - low (same level, < 1m, unknown) | 2484   |
| Other specified cause                  | 2219   |
| Struck by object or person             | 1273   |
| Cuting , piercing object               | 981    |
| Fall - high (> 1m)                     | 434    |
| Animal related (not horse or dog)      | 334    |
| Machinery in operation                 | 305    |
| Dog-related                            | 216    |
| Pedal cyclist                          | 195    |
| Poisoning - medication, drug           | 183    |
| Scald                                  | 155    |
| Poisoning - other substance            | 133    |

**Table 2 Injuries in the home, 1996, by external cause.**

**Figure 2. Injuries in the home by Activity, 1996**



height) and high (> 1 metre) accounted for 31% of all injuries (Table 2).

Injuries categorised as *other specified* (24%) include striking or colliding with an object or person, foreign bodies and other injuries such as twisting an ankle.

Hospital admission rates, an indication of injury severity were highest for immersions (58%), drug/medication poisonings (35%), high falls (23%) and other poisonings (18%). The overall admission rate for all injuries was 8%.

### Intent

While most injuries were unintentional (82%), there

were 203 (other) assaults, 171 intentional self-harm and 56 partner abuse. 13% were of unknown intent.

### Location

The most common site for injuries was the yard or garden, 29% (Table 3). However, injuries on play equipment produced the highest admission rate of any location (22.6%).

### Nature of Injury

One-quarter of the injuries were lacerations or cuts (Table 4). Cuts to the finger were the most common injury overall (n=512), followed by ankle sprains, fractures to the forearm and

| LOCATION         | NUMBER |
|------------------|--------|
| Yard/Garden      | 2704   |
| Living/Dining    | 1153   |
| Kitchen          | 928    |
| Garage/Shed      | 366    |
| Bedroom          | 875    |
| Stairs           | 496    |
| Bathroom/Toilet  | 315    |
| Driveway         | 247    |
| Verandah/Balcony | 174    |
| Play Equipment   | 115    |
| Swimming Pool    | 104    |

**Table 3 Injuries in the home, 1996, by location.**

| NATURE OF INJURY         | NUMBER |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Laceration, cut          | 2358   |
| Fracture                 | 1528   |
| Sprain, strain           | 1247   |
| Contusion                | 864    |
| Bite                     | 398    |
| Poisoning or toxin       | 319    |
| Superficial              | 288    |
| Burn, corrosion          | 278    |
| Foreign body in eye      | 266    |
| Concussion, intracranial | 230    |
| Eye injury (exclud. FB)  | 228    |
| Dislocation              | 139    |

**Table 4 Injuries in the home, 1996, by nature of injury.**

# Injuries in the home- High falls

## Children

434 falls from a height of greater than one metre occurred in the home in 1996 (Table 1). 68% of the high falls were to children (0-14 years). This group also represented 90% of the hospital admissions resulting from high falls.

Those aged less than two years were most at risk, representing 27% of the children injured.

The injuries included falls from : trees (n=48), bunk beds (n=44), stairs (n=34), balconies, verandahs (n=28), play equipment (n=21) and trampolines (n=13).

Fractures were the most frequent injury (45%) followed by concussion and intracranial injuries (19%).



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## Adults

Injuries to those aged fifteen years or older (n=140) most frequently occurred carrying out chores in the home (44%).

One-third of the injuries were fractures,

21% were sprains/strains and 16% were contusions.

The injuries included 43 falls from ladders and 41 falls involving stairs.

