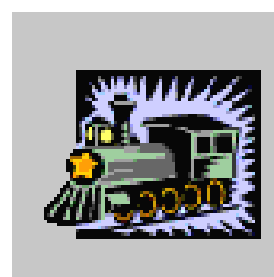




# INJURY BULLETIN

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## TOY INJURIES IN CHILDREN



The period selected for study was three years: 1/7/88 to 30/6/91. The number of such injuries recorded by QISPP during this period was 208.

By far the most common injuries involving toys reported to QISPP in the 0 - 2 yrs age group involved children falling off ride-on toys, or falling over or standing on toys. The most common injury scenarios were:

- fell off toy (incl. wheeled ride-on toys): 37%
- fell onto/stood on/tripped over toy: 21%
- placed toy/part of toy into ear/nose/mouth (excl. swallowing): 18%
- swallowed toy/part of toy: 10%

Only one inhalation of a toy or part of a toy was reported in this subset. 5% of children in this age group were injured on or by toyboxes.

*(Continued on page 2)*

\* QISU data is based on emergency department presentations to the following hospitals: Mater Children's Hospital, Mater Adult Hospital, Mater Private Emergency Care Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital, Redland Hospital, Logan Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Mt Isa Hospital and Mackay and district hospitals.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Within the same study period, QISPP recorded 388 injuries in the 3 yrs to 14 yrs age group. Again, by far the most common scenarios in the older age group were children coming off tricycles and wheeled riding toys (13%) and falling out of treehouses, playhouses or cubby houses (11%)

It appears that toy injuries occurred more frequently in children under five than in children aged 5 to 14 yrs; in 1990, QISPP recorded 142 children on Brisbane's southside per 100,000 in the 0 - 4 age group suffering injuries involving toys. The equivalent figure in 5 - 14 year old children was 38.

However toy injuries in the older children tended to be more serious, with 17% of the group being admitted to hospital, as opposed to 13% of the under-threes. Contrary to what might have been expected, the incidence of toy injuries presenting at hospitals in either age group did not rise significantly at Christmas time, and none of the injuries reported appeared to be due to a manufacturing fault.

### **INJURIES INVOLVING CHRISTMAS AND SEASONAL DECORATIONS**

QISPP has recorded only seven occasions of injuries involving Christmas decorations in our entire period of data collection to date (three years and 10 months months from 1/1/88 to 31/10/91).

There were four adults and three children involved. Two were injured by being poked in the eye by a part of the Christmas tree, two were injured when they fell or knelt on breakable Christmas decorations and two swallowed parts of Christmas decorations.

### **ALCOHOL-RELATED INJURIES**

QISPP recorded 1,378 episodes of injury involving alcohol in three years. These injuries occurred significantly more often in December than in any other month of the year. These figures include all injuries involving alcohol, whether the injured person was a victim of someone under the influence of alcohol, or whether the injured person was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the injury.

The four main injury scenarios were as follows:

- falls: 37%
- intended violence between persons: 22%
- intended self harm: 15%
- pedestrian/cyclist/motor cyclist or vehicle occupant: 12%

80% of the cases intending self harm ingested other substances such as prescription drugs, pesticides and cleaning agents with alcohol. Most of the prescription drugs used in conjunction with alcohol were antidepressants, major and minor tranquilizers and sedatives. The other common method of self harm among alcohol imbibers was self-laceration (11%).

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE OR WHAT WE'RE ABOUT, AND FOR THOSE WHO MAY NEED AN UPDATE:**

NISPP (National Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project) commenced collecting all-age, all-injury data here in Brisbane in 1988, as a pilot study for a projected duration of one year. The 1988 pilot project proved so successful that NISPP reproduced itself in virtually every state of Australia as QISPP, VISS, ACTISPP, TISPP etc. and our headquarters NISU (National Injury Surveillance Unit) in Adelaide

QISPP has been collecting all-age all-injury data from seven south Brisbane hospitals (Mater Adults, Mater Children's, Mater Priority Emergency, Princess Alexandra, Redlands, QEII, Logan) at a rate of about 40,000 records per year - currently our database contains 150,000 records.

Our staff of four part-time coders, two Part-time quality control officers and one full-time statistical officer work from an office which is situated in the grounds of the Mater Children's Hospital.

Staff from participating hospitals are entitled to receive injury information and statistics free of charge. If you have an interest in a particular injury, injury site, activity etc. just give us a call.

***QISPP WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE HARD WORK YOU'VE PUT IN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (THAT'S WHAT THE CHOCOLATES ARE FOR), AND TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON.***

