



INJURY BULLETIN

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While most of us are enjoying the festive season, QISPP has formulated data which indicates that it is not necessarily a festive season for everybody. This data shows a marked increase in the occurrence of intentional self injuries and violence-related injuries during this period each year. Information regarding these two injury types is presented below.

INTENTIONAL SELF INJURY

QISPP has recorded 1987 cases of intended self harm during the four year period from 1/11/88 to 31/10/92.

Intentional self injury cases comprised 53% females, whereas the QISPP database indicates that the average proportion of injured females is 32%. While the QISPP database shows an average admission rate of 12%, a staggering 75% of people harming themselves required admission to hospital. Over half of these injuries involved people between the ages of 15 and 30, with 90% involving people between the ages of 15 and 49. There was a slight increase in the occurrence of these injuries during Saturday and Sunday and also between the hours of 7pm and midnight. More people deliberately harmed themselves during January than in any other month of the year and over three quarters of these injuries occurred in the victim's own home.

Lacerations using knives, blades, etc. were the cause of approximately 7% of the injuries. However, the ingestion of drugs was the most significant cause at 90%. Almost half of these drugs ingested were barbiturates, sedatives, tranquillisers or psychotropic drugs. Other minor causes included ingesting various cleaning and maintenance chemicals, and pesticides.

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* 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.



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The majority of the injury scenarios fell into the following categories:

- domestic argument with husband/boyfriend/girlfriend
- depression
- emotional and/or personal problems
- psychotic problems
- loss of loved ones
- break up with husband/wife/de facto/boyfriend/girlfriend
- attempts to be removed from jail
- stress

AGRESSION-RELATED INJURIES

QISPP has recorded 10,437 cases of injuries resulting from aggression, fights or quarrels during the four year period from 1/11/88 to 31/10/92. 80% of those injured in this way were males as opposed to self harm injuries which consisted of approximately even numbers of males and females. Also, three quarters of the injuries involved people between the ages of 15 and 34.

Over 35% of all injuries happened during the hours of 8pm and 3am and the highest amount of injuries were recorded on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These week end injuries totalled 63%.

A significant rise in violence-related injuries was displayed during the month of December over the last four years. It is also interesting to note that there is a sharp decline in the number of cases recorded during the winter months when there are fewer parties and an absence of the thirst generating Queensland heat.

45% of these cases occurred in residential locations. One fifth occurred on public roads, footpaths, parking areas and other areas used by transportation, and one fifth occurred in areas of private enterprise such as shops, hotels or cinemas. 5% of the injuries occurred 'on the job'. In 75% of cases the injury was inflicted directly by another person (e.g. punched, kicked). The remaining cases resulted from the use of weapons such as baseball bats, timber, hatchets, axes, broken glass, brooms and knives. There were also a significant number of aggression-related injuries in which the victim injured his or herself (ie angry and smashed hand through window).

Almost all of the injury scenarios fell into the categories listed below:

- * in a fight and injured
- * punched while arguing with husband/brother/boyfriend/girlfriend/de facto
- * assaulted by person/s unknown to victim
- * punched by taxi driver/hotel employee/police
- * assaulted at work (taxi driver, prison warden, security officers)
- * assaulted during burglary or mugging
- * assaulted by other school child
- * attacked and sexually assaulted
- * lost temper/frustrated/in bad mood and hit wall/car/window

The staff at QISPP would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work and support you have given us throughout the year. We wish you an injury-free and very happy Christmas and we look forward to your continued support in 1993.