



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY
SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION
PROJECT

Ground Floor, Clarence Court
Mater Children's Hospital
South Brisbane Q 4101
Ph: (07) 840 8569

Mater Adult's Hospital Mater Children's Hospital Mater Priority Emergency Centre Redlands Hospital
Logan Community Hospital Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital Princess Alexandra Hospital

This Month. . .

Welcome to the first edition of 1995.

In this month's edition we cover the following topics.

- Cigarette related injuries in children
- Eye injuries in the Brisbane South Region
- Violence related injuries in the workplace
- Injuries at Southbank

QUEENSLAND INJURY COALITION MEETING

The theme for the next QIC meeting on February 21 will be suicide and self harm. Dr. Chris Cantor, Head of the Suicide Research and Prevention Program has been invited to address the meeting.

The related issue of firearms will also be discussed.

General business will include the QIC's advocacy role including working with the media.

Contact the Coordinator, Elizabeth Freeman on 840 8569 Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, if you would like to be a part of the QIC, would like more information or would like to come the next meeting.

2 pm - 4pm
Tuesday, February 21, 1995
Conference Room 3, Level 3
Mater Adults Hospital
South Brisbane

CIGARETTE RELATED INJURIES IN CHILDREN

QISPP recorded 65 children sustaining injuries related to cigarettes during the period 1/1/88 to 31/12/93. More than three quarters (77%) of these children were under three years of age. The majority (65%) of injuries occurred in the living or sleeping area of the child's own home.

Forty five percent of the injuries were partial thickness burns and surprisingly, almost as many (42%) were systemic poisoning through ingestion of cigarettes by children. The remaining injuries involved ash or smoke entering children's eyes.

Seventy two percent of the burn injuries were burns to the eyes. In most cases cigarette-related burns occurred when the child was running around, walking or playing near an adult holding a cigarette. In a few instances, burn injuries occurred when the child was playing with cigarettes or cigarette butts, or trying to light up.

Poisoning through ingestion of cigarettes tended to be more serious than burns, with 15% of children who were poisoned requiring admission to hospital, compared with 7% of children with burns requiring admission. The reason for this is that more nicotine is absorbed by the stomach after chewing or swallowing tobacco than by the lungs while smoking tobacco. Nicotine poisoning can be serious and may cause vomiting, an increase in heart rate and blood pressure, muscle twitching and eventual paralysis and an increase in blood sugar level.

INJURIES AT SOUTHBANK

QISPP recorded 255 cases of people injured at the Southbank Parklands during the period 1.1.88 to 30.6.94. Of these over half (55%) occurred to children under the age of 15 years with children in the 5-9 age group recording the highest incidence of injury (22%) of all cases.

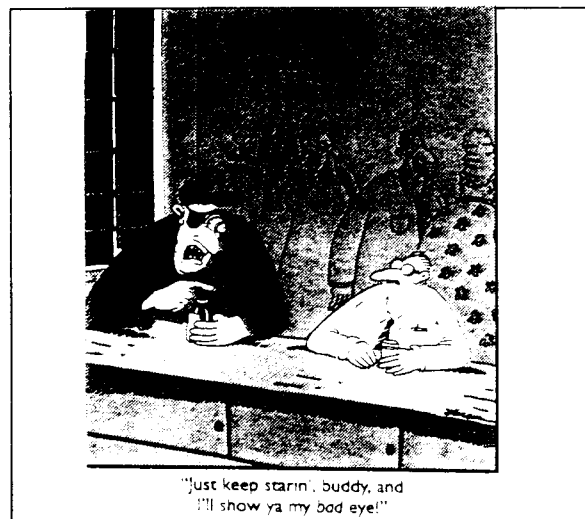
As might be expected, over a fifth of the injuries (22%) occurred during the month of January during the summer holiday period.

In nearly half of the cases, the injury was the result of a fall. Playground equipment such as the flying fox, climbing apparatus and swings were implicated in 20% of cases. Twenty-seven cases of injury occurred during swimming, five of which were drowning-related. Thirty five injuries were reported as the result of violence.

The most common injuries recorded were:

Cuts and lacerations	33%
Fractures	21%
Bruising	19%
Sprains	11%

The nature of the injuries was such that 13% required admission to hospital.



Copyright LARSEN, distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

EYE INJURIES IN BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

Demographic pattern

QISPP has recorded 14,477 eye injuries during the six year period ending 31/12/93. Eye injuries represented 7% of the injuries on the QISPP database during this period.

Eye injuries were admitted to hospital at a rate of 7% (the average admission rate for the QISPP database during this period was 13%).

Eighty-seven percent of those sustaining injuries to their eyes were males.

Eleven percent of this subset of eye injuries (1,570 cases) occurred in children under fifteen years of age.

Almost one third (32%) of eye injuries occurred in people aged 20 to 29 years. Fifty four percent, or more than half of the subset of eye injuries occurred in people aged 20 to 39 years.

Geographic location

Forty-one percent of eye injuries occurred in areas of production (factories, warehouses, mines, quarries, construction sites, and other industrial areas). A further 38% occurred in residential areas such as the patient's own or another home.

Occupational eye injuries

Almost half (47%) of eye injuries occurred 'on the job'; 37% of these claimed or intended to claim workers' compensation for their injury.

Eye injuries were most common in the manufacturing of fabricated metal products (22% of occupational eye injuries), in the construction industry (21%), and in the transportation and storage industries (19%). Structural steel, boilermaking and welding

tradespersons accounted for 17% of those injured during paid work.

Home maintenance eye injuries

Twenty one percent of eye injuries occurred during maintenance activities (ie. gardening, electrical, vehicle or other 'do it yourself' maintenance), and 17% occurred during leisure or recreation excluding sport (4% of eye injuries occurred during sport).

Mechanism of injury

By far the majority of eye injuries were mechanical in nature - 57% of all eye injuries were the result of a foreign body entering the eye, 17% of people were hit in the eye by a moving object and 7% sustained abrasions, lacerations or punctures to the eye.

Seven percent of people sustained chemical injuries to their eyes, such as splashing or spraying of substances, or animal stings to the eye.

Six percent of the eye injuries were caused by non-ionising radiation such as welding flash, and 1% of injuries were thermal burns to the eye.

Safety devices

Fourteen percent of people with injuries to their eyes reported wearing safety glasses at the time of their injury.

Factors in eye injuries

Nineteen percent or almost one fifth of eye injuries on the QISPP database were attributed to powered workshop grinders, buffers and polishers.

Five percent of eye injuries on the QISPP database were related to violence.

VIOLENCE RELATED INJURIES IN THE WORKPLACE

QISPP recorded 615 cases of violence related injuries occurring in the workplace presenting at Brisbane South Hospitals in the six year period ending 41/12/93.

44% of the people injured were aged 20-29 years.

1.5% of injuries were perpetrated by children, e.g. while being restrained to administer treatment in a hospital.

The majority of injuries did not involve weapons (2% involved knives) but were the result of punching, hitting, kicking or biting.

Six cases required transfer to a larger centre.

Seventy three percent were injuries to the head or face including 5% which were concussion, and 5 patients who had dental injuries.

Twenty two percent of injuries were cuts and lacerations to the head and face.

A further 22% of injuries were fractures. Of these 30% were fractures to the nose.

6 patients received injuries to the genitals including one bite.

Almost one third of all injuries occurred in areas of commerce such as hotels, shops, and cinemas. A further fifth occurred in residential institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes.

The industries where violence occurred most often were transport (18%), followed by health and other community services (16%).

The most commonly involved occupations were:

Guards & Security Officers	16%
Police	9%
Prison Officers	7%
Registered Nurses	7%
Taxi Drivers	7%
Sales Assistants	3%
Bar Attendants	2%

Four sales assistances were assaulted during robberies (two were hit with rifle or pistol butts) and four were injured by disgruntled customers.

RURAL VIDEO

QISPP has available for distribution a video entitled '**Putting Safety First on the Farm**'. It is a 15 min. film produced by Country Safe which deals with injury prevention in agriculture. The film is detailed, pertinent and interesting.

Topics dealt with include tractor safety, seeding, hay cutting, hay baling, electricity, harvesting, gun safety, stock handling, chemicals, safety when working with tyres, windmills and chainsaws.

Copies of the film can be purchased from QISPP at a cost of \$30.00 plus postage (\$2.80). Please contact QISPP on (07) 840 8569 if you are interested.

If you have any particular topics which you would like to see covered in our bulletin please contact us as we would be more than happy to include your ideas.