

Information Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

17 January 2008

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2007

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2007. The survey covered a four-week period from Wednesday 17th October to Wednesday 14th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 97 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2007, an increase of 28 (41%) from the 2006 figure (Table 1).
- 63% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit between 31st October and 6th November 2007 (Figure 2).
- 87% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- 77% of those injured were aged under 18 (Table 2).
- There were no fatalities.
- The most common sites of injury were to the wrist or hand (43% of all injuries) and the face, head or neck area (26%) (Table 4).
- 27% were asked to revisit the A&E department and 20% of those injured were referred to their GP. Thirteen persons were admitted to hospital or transferred to another hospital (Table 5).

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.

Total Injuries

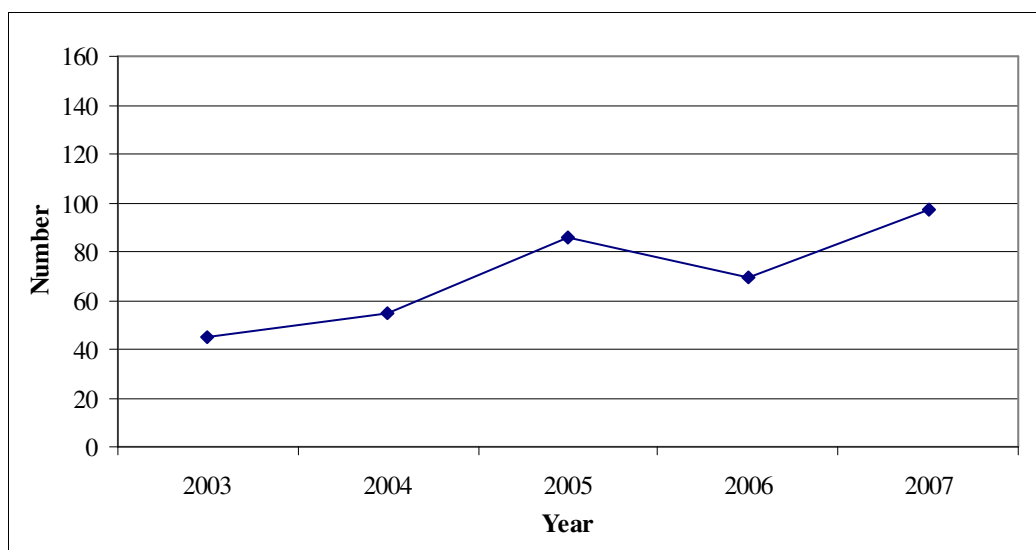
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2007 reporting period was 97 (Table 1). This is an increase of 28 (41%) from the 2006 figure (69). There was an increase in both the number of males and females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2007

						% change
Persons Injured	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003 - 2007
Males	38	47	77	67	84	121.1
Females	7	8	9	2	13	85.7
Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	-
Total	45	55	86	69	97	115.6

There has been an upward trend in number of injuries between 2003 and 2007 (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2007 was, however 30% down on the number in 1999, 139; the highest ever recorded number of injuries.

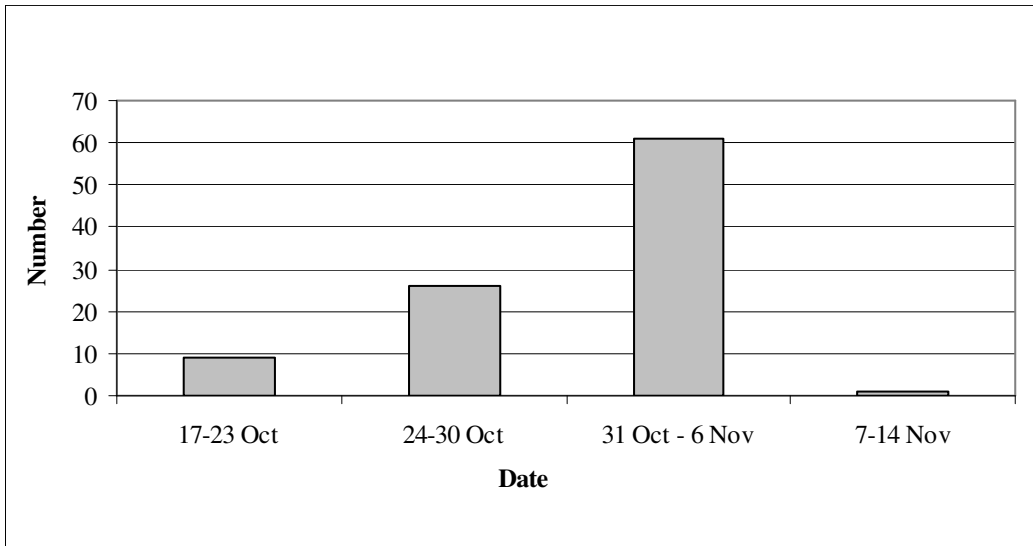
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2003–2007



Date of Injury

Of the 97 persons injured, 61 (63%) reported to an Accident or Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit in the period between 31st October and 6th November 2007 inclusive (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Time Period, 2007



Age

In each of the years from 2003 to 2007, the majority of those injured were aged under 18 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 2003–2007

Age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
0-5	0	5	4	1	8
6-10	9	9	13	10	19
11-15	18	23	33	30	38
16-17	6	2	8	7	10
18 and Over	11	15	28	21	22
Unknown	1	1	0	0	0
Total Injured	45	55	86	69	97

This year, 28% of all persons injured were children aged 10 years and less.

Area

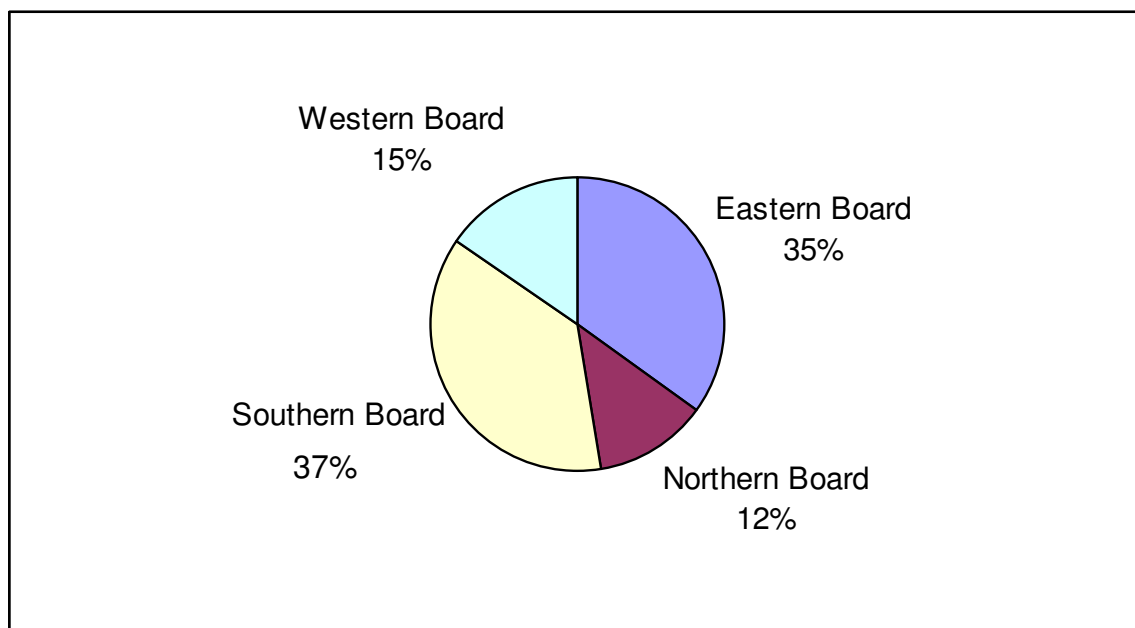
The number of those reporting to hospitals by Legacy Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3a.

Table 3a: Fireworks Injuries, by Legacy Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 2003–2007

Trust/Board	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	0	2	1	0	0
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	0	2	14	6	14
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	3	4	7	4	6
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	6	6	14	10	9
Ulster Community&Hospitals HSS Trust	4	5	6	5	5
<i>Eastern Board</i>	13	19	42	25	34
Causeway HSS Trust	1	3	2	2	1
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	6	8	10	12	11
<i>Northern Board</i>	7	11	12	14	12
Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust	3	1	3	2	10
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	8	4	10	4	10
Newry & Mourne HSS Trust	3	13	11	11	16
<i>Southern Board</i>	14	18	24	17	36
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	2	2	3	1	4
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	9	5	5	12	11
<i>Western Board</i>	11	7	8	13	15
Total	45	55	86	69	97

37% of persons injured in 2007 reported to Trusts in the Southern Health and Social Services Board area, compared to 27% in the previous year (Figure 3a).

Figure 3a: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2007



Note: Total does not equal 100% due to rounding of percentages of figures.

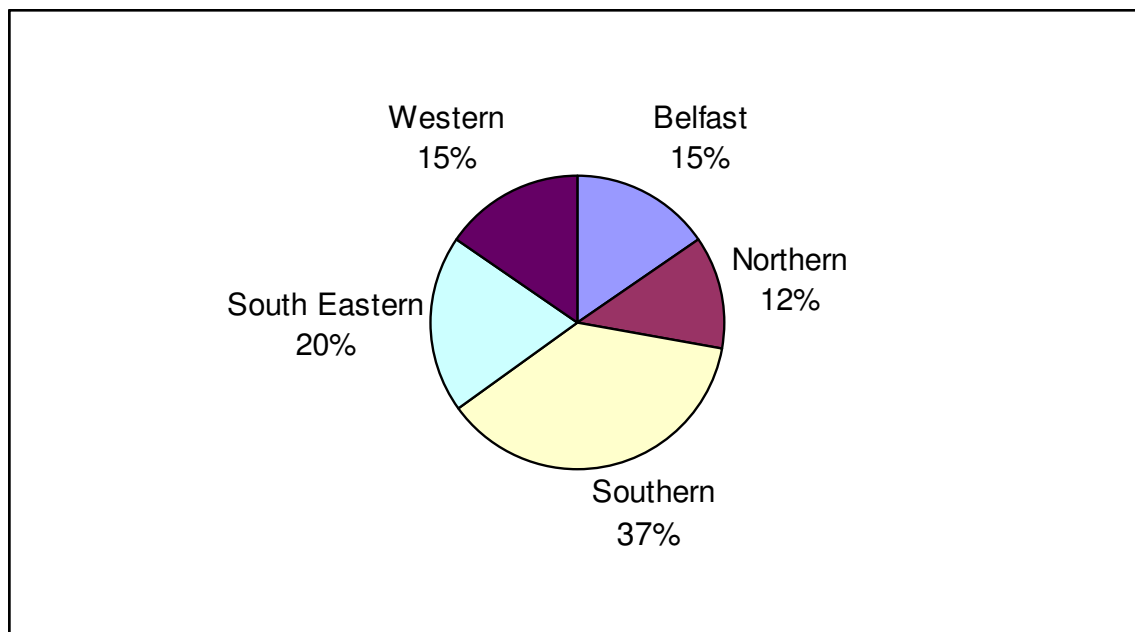
The number of those reporting to hospitals by New Trust areas is shown in Table 3b.

Table 3b: Fireworks Injuries, by Reporting Hospital and New Trust Areas, 2007

Hospital/New Trusts	2007
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	15
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	12
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	36
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	19
Western Health and Social Care Trust	15
Total	97

37% of persons injured in 2007 reported to Hospitals in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area (Figure 3b).

Figure 3b: Fireworks Injuries, by New Trust Area, 2007



Note: Total does not equal 100% due to rounding of percentages of figures.

Site of Injury

In the year 2007, 86 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 9 persons received injuries to two sites, one person received injuries to three sites and one person received injuries to four sites. The most common sites of injury were the wrist and hand and to the face, head and neck (Table 4).

Table 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Site of Injury, 2003–2007

Site	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Wrist/Hand	31	35	42	45	48
Face/Head/Neck	10	15	21	14	29
Eye	5	8	13	12	15
Foot/Leg	2	7	6	1	3
Trunk	4	2	7	2	10
Arm	3	2	11	5	6
Total Sites	55	69	100	79	111

Method of Departure

In 2007, 27% of persons injured were asked to revisit the A&E department and 20% of persons injured were referred to a GP, (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 2003–2007

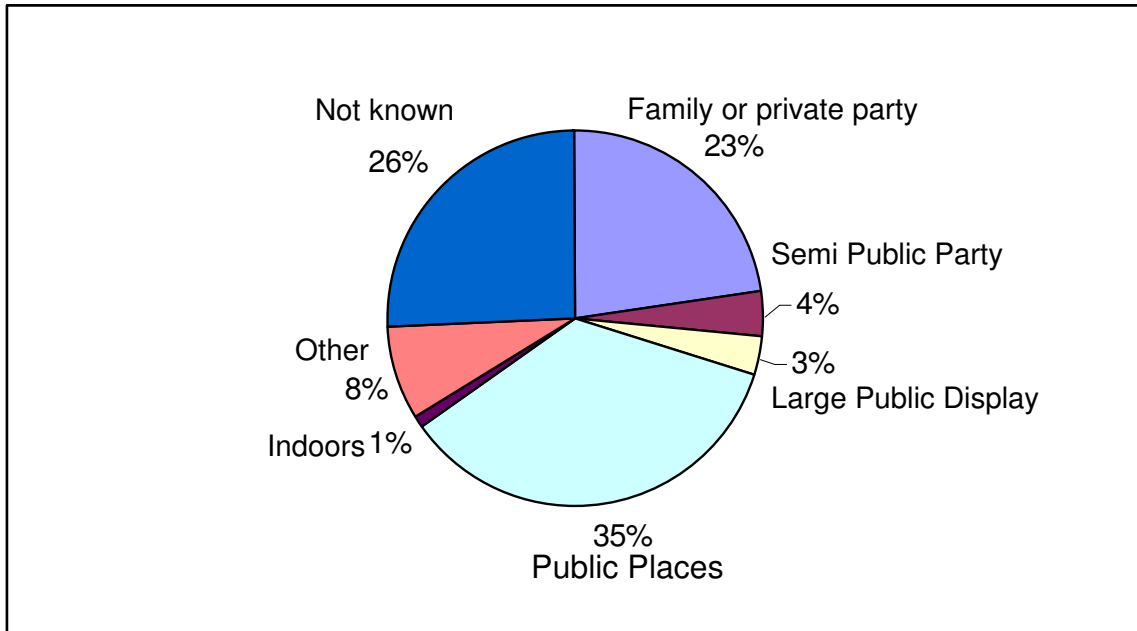
Method	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No Further Treatment	10	13	18	11	19
Referred to GP	9	8	33	16	19
Referred to Outpatients	2	1	5	7	2
Revisit A & E	14	20	17	25	26
Transfer to Another Hospital	0	3	3	3	8
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	3	0	2	1	7
Admitted	5	4	6	4	5
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	2	6	2	2	11
Total	45	55	86	69	97

This year, five persons were admitted to the hospital to which they reported, and eight were transferred to another hospital. There were no deaths from injuries.

Place of Occurrence

Place of occurrence of injury was recorded for 72 of the 97 persons injured. 35% of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street) and 23% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 4).

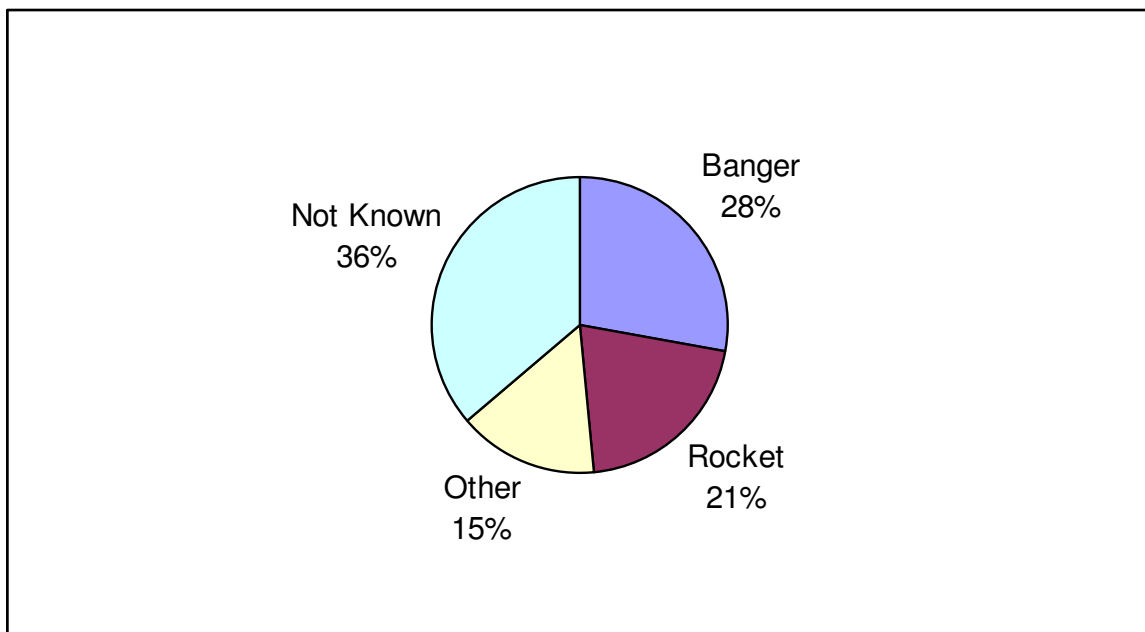
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2007



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 62 of the 97 instances of injury. Where the type of firework was recorded, bangers were the most common causes of injury (28%), followed by Rockets (21%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2007



Notes

1. This information is collected via a special manual exercise carried out by A&E staff. It is conducted around a fixed four or five week period in order to minimise the data collection burden on staff and to ensure comparability from year to year. It does not therefore include injuries from fireworks outside the survey period and will not include injuries which were not sufficiently serious to warrant attendance at an A&E Department or Minor Injuries Unit.
2. The source of the information is the annual Fireworks Injuries return FWK 1.
3. All persons reporting to hospital Accident and Emergency Departments and Minor Injuries Units for the first time with an injury caused directly by fireworks are included in the return.
4. Follow-up attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments and attendances at Minor Injuries Units on referral from Accident and Emergency Departments are not included.
5. The return for the year 2007 covered a four week period from Wednesday 17th October to Wednesday 14th November inclusive. Information for previous years reported in this release covers four- or five-week periods around Halloween.
6. Recording of information on the place where injury occurred and type of firework involved was not mandatory.
7. In accordance with the Review of Public Administration, with effect from the 1st April 2007, five new integrated Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern and Western) replaced the previous provider Trusts in Northern Ireland. Table 3b reports the number of people presenting themselves to hospital by New Trust.

Additional Information

Further information on fireworks injuries in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager
Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

Tel. 028 9052 2800

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2/firework_statistics.htm