

Information Release

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí

20th December 2000

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2000

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2000. The survey covered a five-week period from Friday 6 October to Thursday 9 November.

Key Points

- 100 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2000, a decrease of 28% from the 1999 figure.
- Almost two-thirds of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit during the week 27 October–2 November 2000.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of those injured were male.
- Over four-fifths (83%) of those injured were aged under 20.
- There were no fatalities.
- The most common sites of injury were the wrist or hand (34% of all injuries), face, head or neck (27%) and eye (18%).
- One third of those injured required no further treatment, almost one-third were referred to their GP and almost one-fifth were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department at a later date. Six persons were admitted to hospital (either the same hospital or transferred to another hospital).
- Of those admitted to hospital, four persons had facial injuries.

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.



A National Statistics Publication

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Total injuries

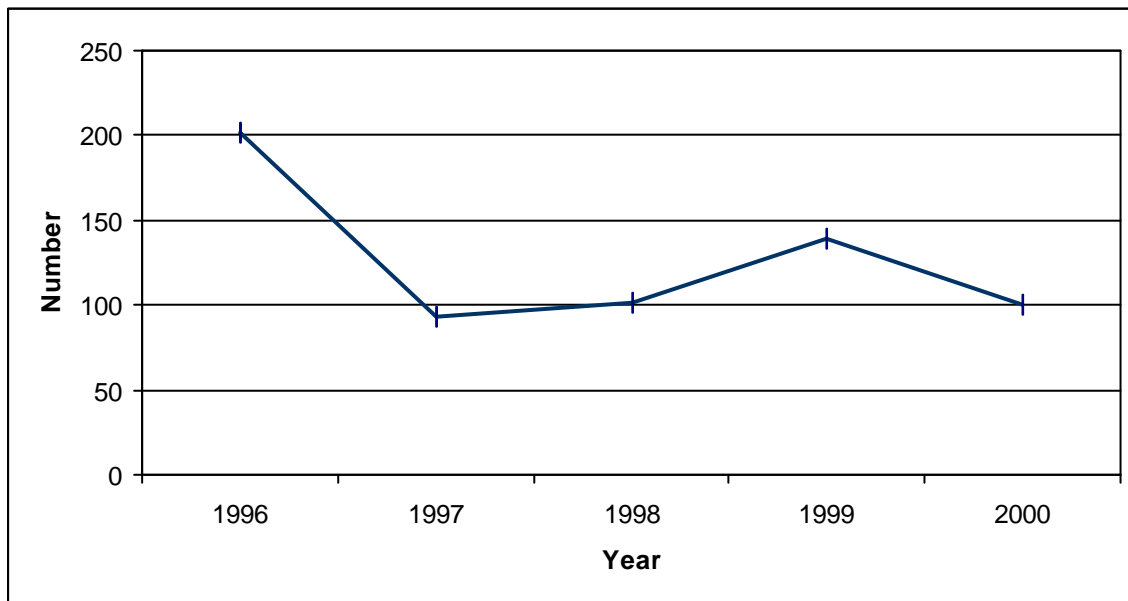
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2000 reporting period was 100 (Table 1). This is a decrease of 39 (28%) from the 1999 figure (139), and a decrease of 1 from 1998. There were also decreases from 1999 in the number of males and the number of females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2000

Persons Injured	2000	Change compared with:			
		1999	1998	1997	1996
Males	77	-21	-5	+10	-96
Females	23	-18	+4	-3	-6
Total	100	-39	-1	+7	-102

This year, the slight upward trend in number of injuries evident between 1997 and 1999 was reversed (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2000 was less than half of the number (202) in 1996.

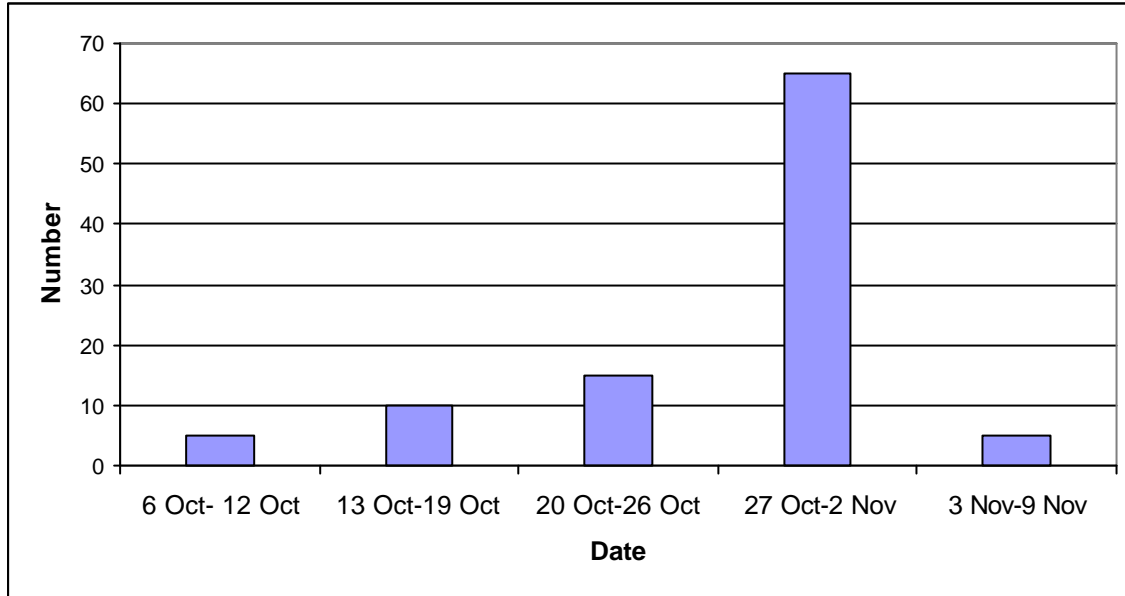
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 1996–2000



Date of Injury

Almost two-thirds (65%) of all persons injured reported to an Accident or Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit in the week between 27 October and 2 November inclusive (Figure 2).

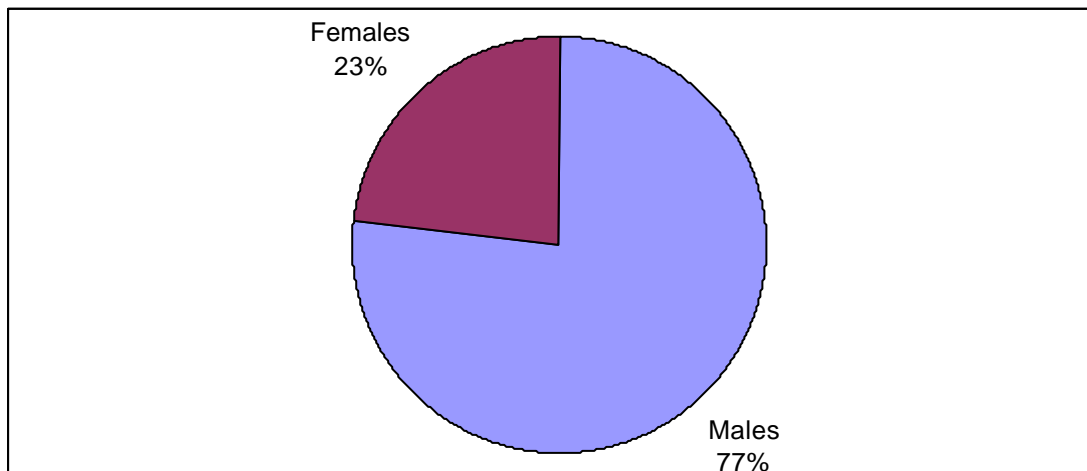
Figure 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Time Period, 2000



Gender

In 2000, 77% of those injured were male, and 23% were female (Figure 3). This compares with 71% male in 1999 and 81% male in 1998.

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Gender, 2000



Age

In each of the years from 1996 to 2000, the majority of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).

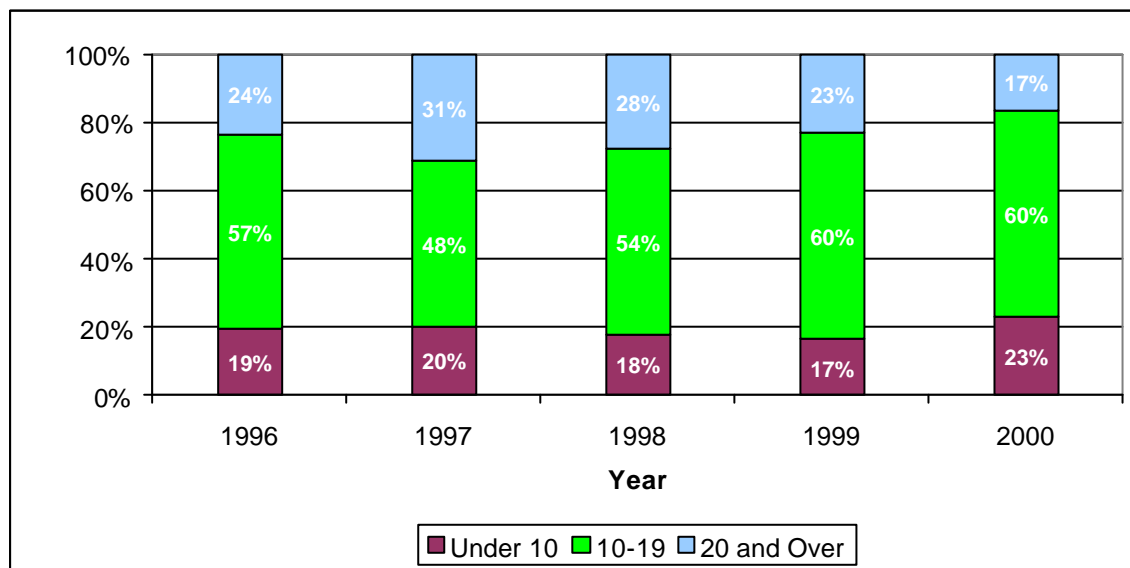
Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 1996–2000

Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 ¹
Under 10	39	19	18	23	22
10-19	115	45	55	84	58
20 and Over	48	29	28	32	16
Total Injured	202	93	101	139	96

¹ Four persons had no age recorded in 2000

Of those injured this year, over four-fifths (83% of those whose age was recorded) were under 20 years of age, and three-fifths (60%) were aged 10–19 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 1996–2000



Of those injured this year, 89% of males were aged under 20, compared with 65% of females.

During the period 1996–2000, around one-fifth of all persons injured were children aged under 10 years. This year, five children aged under 5 years and 17 aged 5–9 years were injured by fireworks during the reporting period.

Area

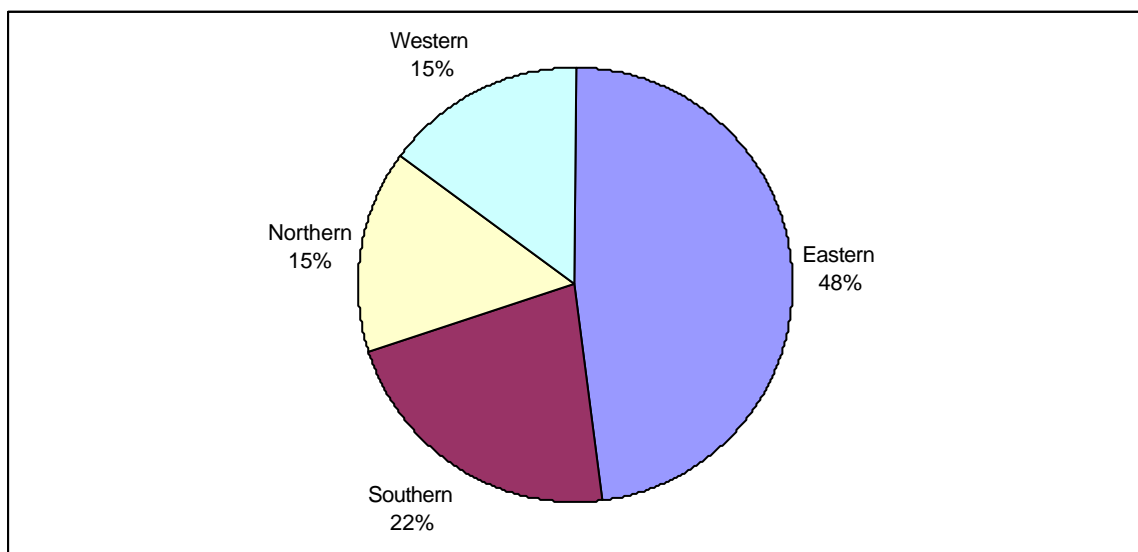
The number of those reporting to hospitals in the various Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 1996–2000

Trust/Board	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Belfast City	4	6	5	5	7
Down Lisburn	29	9	3	11	13
Mater Infirmorum	14	9	8	15	6
Royal Group	24	10	13	15	13
Ulster	16	5	12	17	9
Eastern Board	87	39	41	63	48
Causeway	7	4	4	6	3
United Hospitals	25	6	17	19	12
Northern Board	32	10	21	25	15
Armagh & Dungannon	22	10	3	1	5
Craigavon Group	15	7	5	14	5
Newry & Mourne	27	12	9	11	12
Southern Board	64	29	17	26	22
Altnagelvin Group	9	4	13	12	8
Sperrin Lakeland	10	11	9	13	7
Western Board	19	15	22	25	15
Total	202	93	101	139	100

Almost half (48%) of persons injured in 2000 reported to hospitals in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2000



Site of Injury

In the year 2000, 82 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 16 persons received injuries to two sites and two persons received injuries to three sites.

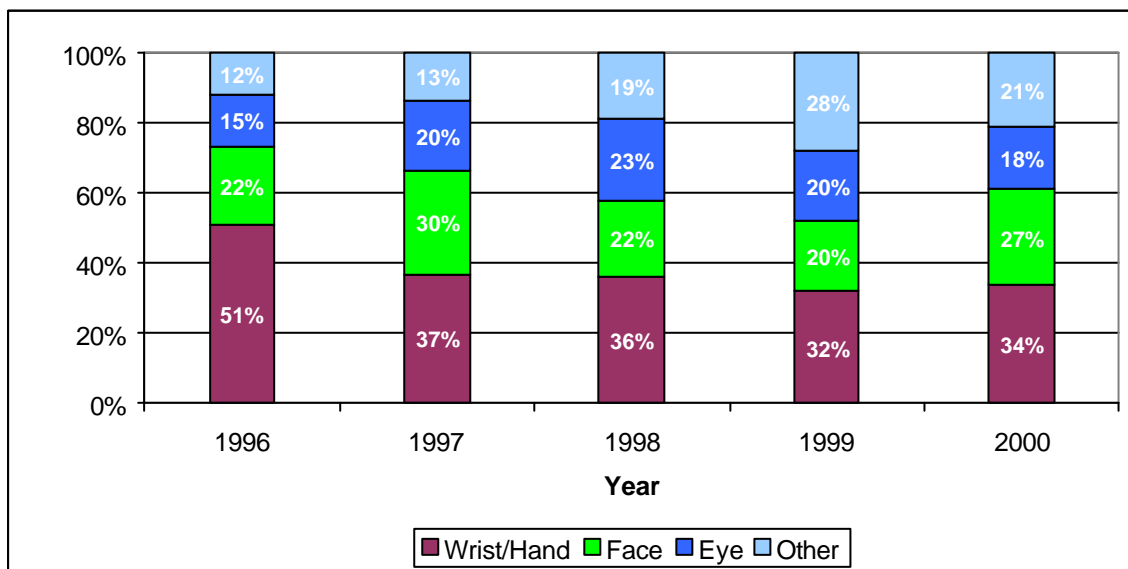
The most common site of injury was the wrist and hand, followed by the face (Table 4).

Table 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Site of Injury, 1996–2000

Site	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Wrist/Hand	122	36	45	51	41
Face/Head/Neck	52	29	27	32	33
Eye	36	20	29	32	22
Foot/Leg	10	5	8	20	12
Trunk	10	4	7	14	7
Arm	8	4	8	10	6
Not known	0	0	0	0	9
Total Sites	238	98	124	159	130

This year, over one-third (34%) of injuries where the site was recorded were to the wrist and hand, 27% were to the face and 18% to the eye (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Fireworks Injuries, by Site of Injury, 1996–2000



Method of Departure

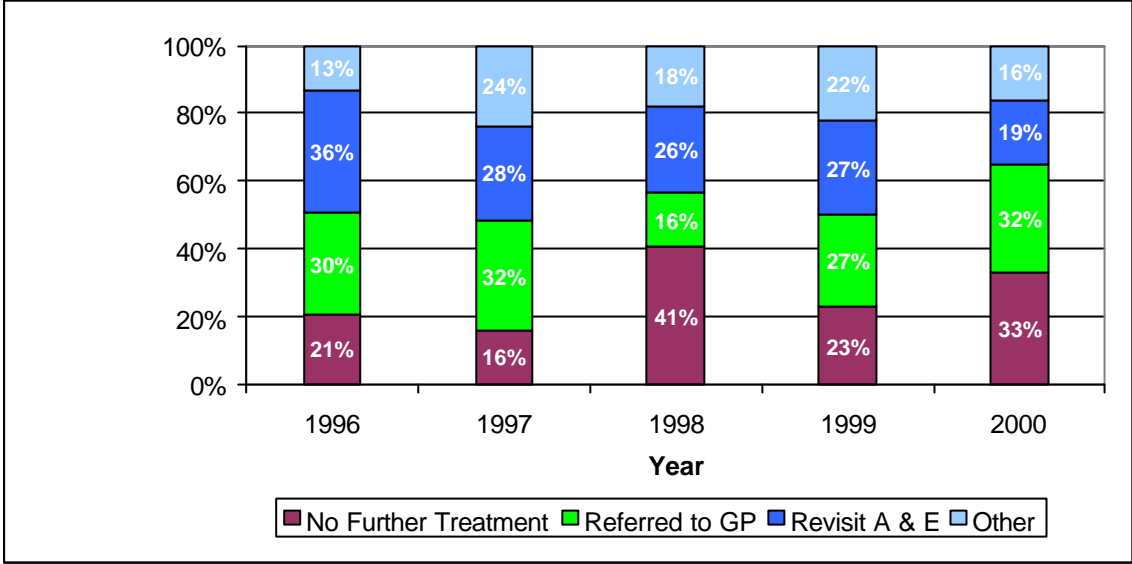
From 1996 to 2000, the majority of persons injured either needed no further treatment, were referred to a GP or were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 1996–2000

Method	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No Further Treatment	42	15	41	32	33
Referred to GP	60	30	16	38	32
Revisit A & E	73	26	26	38	19
Referred to Outpatients	10	9	6	7	4
Admitted	5	5	5	5	4
Transfer to Another Hospital	11	6	5	12	2
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	0	0	0	0	2
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	1	2	2	7	4
Total	202	93	101	139	100

In 2000, one-third (33%) of persons injured needed no further treatment, almost one-third (32%) were referred to a GP and almost one-fifth (19%) were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department. The percentages varied over the period 1996–2000 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 1996–2000



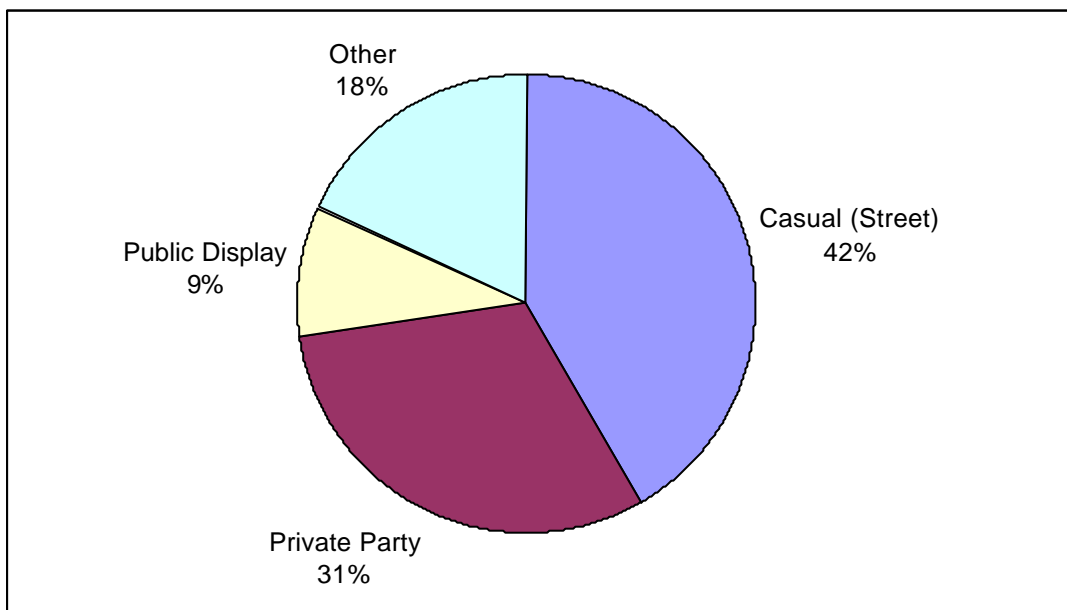
This year, four persons were admitted to the hospital to which they reported, and a further two were transferred to other hospitals. Of the persons admitted to hospital, four had facial injuries.

There were no deaths from injuries.

Place of Occurrence

Place of occurrence of injury was recorded for 77 of the 100 persons injured. Over two-fifths (42%) of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street), and 31% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 8). Only 9% occurred at large public displays.

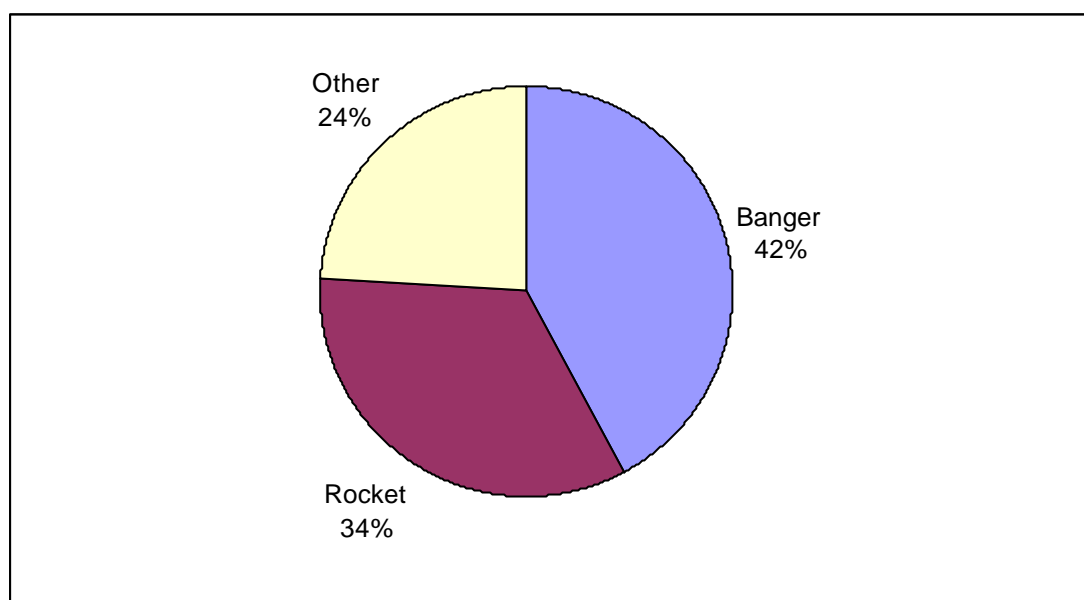
Figure 8: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2000



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 71 instances of injury. Bangers were the most common causes of injury (42%), followed by rockets (34%) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2000



Notes

1. The source of the information is the annual Fireworks Injuries return.
2. 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.
3. Follow-up attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments and attendances at Minor Injuries Units on referral from Accident and Emergency Departments are not included.
4. The return for the year 2000 covered a five-week period from Friday 6 October to Thursday 9 November inclusive. Information for previous years reported in this release also covers five-week time periods around Halloween.
5. Recording of information on place where injury occurred and type of firework involved was not mandatory.
6. Similar information is collected by surveys in England, Scotland and Wales.
7. Figures for Northern Ireland relating to the year 2001 will be released on Tuesday 4 December 2001.
8. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on

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You can also find National Statistics on the Internet –
Go to www.statistics.gov.uk.

Additional Information

Further information on fireworks in Northern Ireland is available from:

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