

Information Release

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

13 December 2001

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2001

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2001. The survey covered a four-week period from Saturday 13th October to Saturday 10th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 136 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2001, an increase of 36 from the 2000 figure.
- 68% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit during the week 27 October – 2 November 2001.
- Almost 85% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- Almost 79% of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).
- There were no fatalities.
- The most common sites of injury were the wrist or hand (46% of all injuries), face, head or neck (22%) and eye (14%) (Table 4).
- 22% of those injured required no further treatment, 28% were referred to their GP and almost 27% were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department at a later date. Nineteen persons were admitted to hospital or transferred to another hospital (Table 5).
- Of those admitted to hospital, four persons had injuries to the wrist or hand.

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.



A National Statistics Publication

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Total Injuries

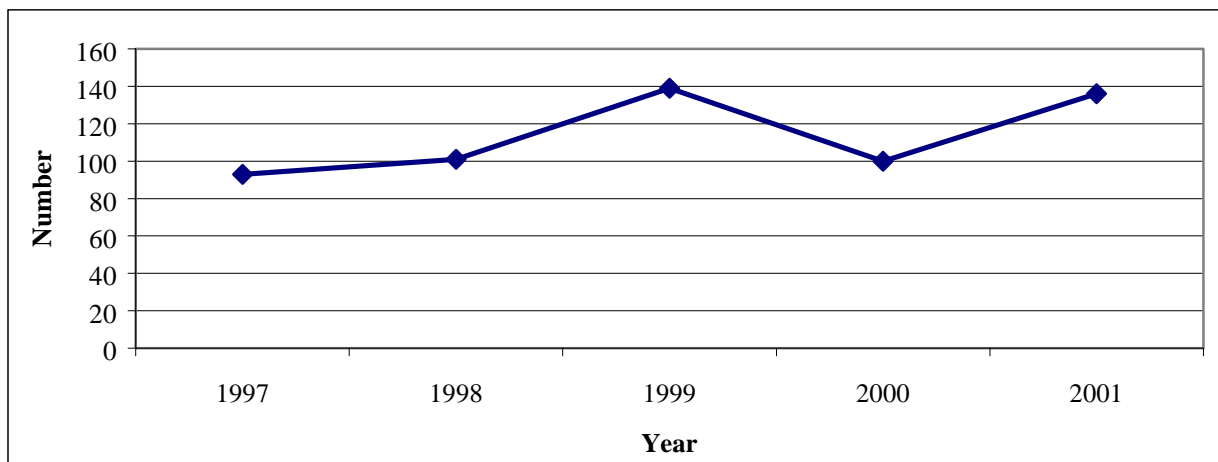
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2001 reporting period was 136 (Table 1). This is an increase of 36 from the 2000 figure (100), but a decrease of 3 from 1999. There was also an increase from 2000 in the number of males but a slight decrease in the number of females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2001

Persons Injured	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% change between 1997 - 2001
Males	67	82	98	77	115	71.6
Females	26	19	41	23	20	-23.1
Not Known	0	0	0	0	1	-
Total	93	101	139	100	136	46.2

This year, the slight downward trend in number of injuries between 1999 and 2000 was reversed (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2001 was just under 50% up on the number (93) in 1997 but 3 below the peak recorded in 1999.

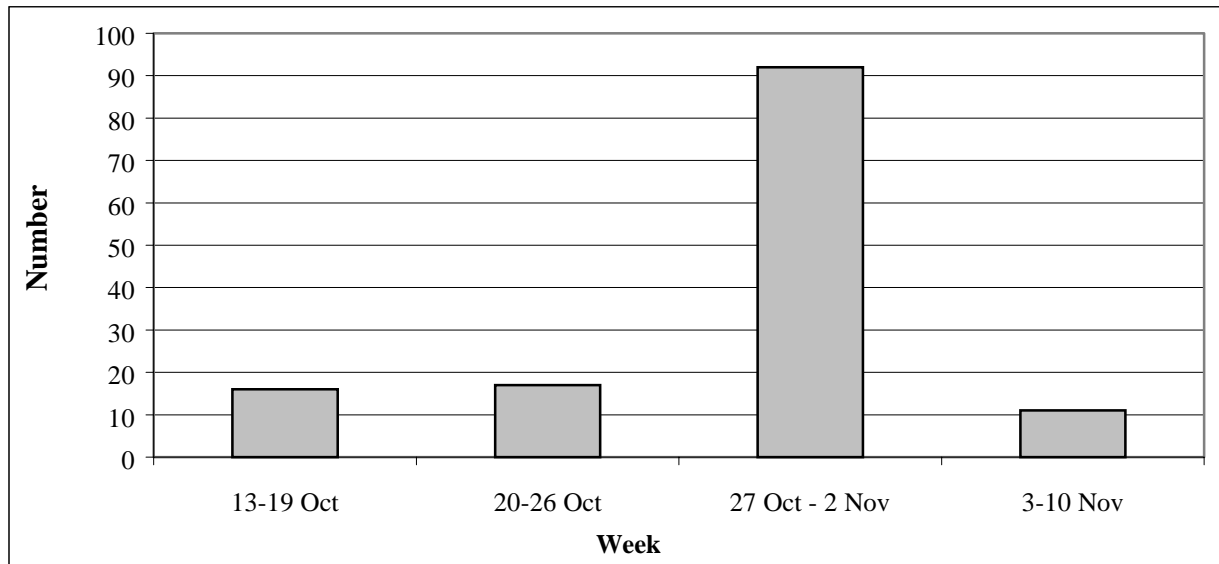
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 1997–2001



Date of Injury

Of the 136 persons injured, 92 (68%) 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, 2001



Age

In each of the years from 1997 to 2001, the majority of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 1997–2001

Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 10	19	18	23	22	30
10-19	45	55	84	58	77
20 and Over	29	28	32	16	29
Not Known	0	0	0	4	0
Total Injured	93	101	139	100	136

During the period 1997–2001, around 20% of all persons injured were children aged under 10 years. This year, 9 children aged under 5 years and 21 children aged 5-9 years were injured by fireworks during the reporting period.

Area

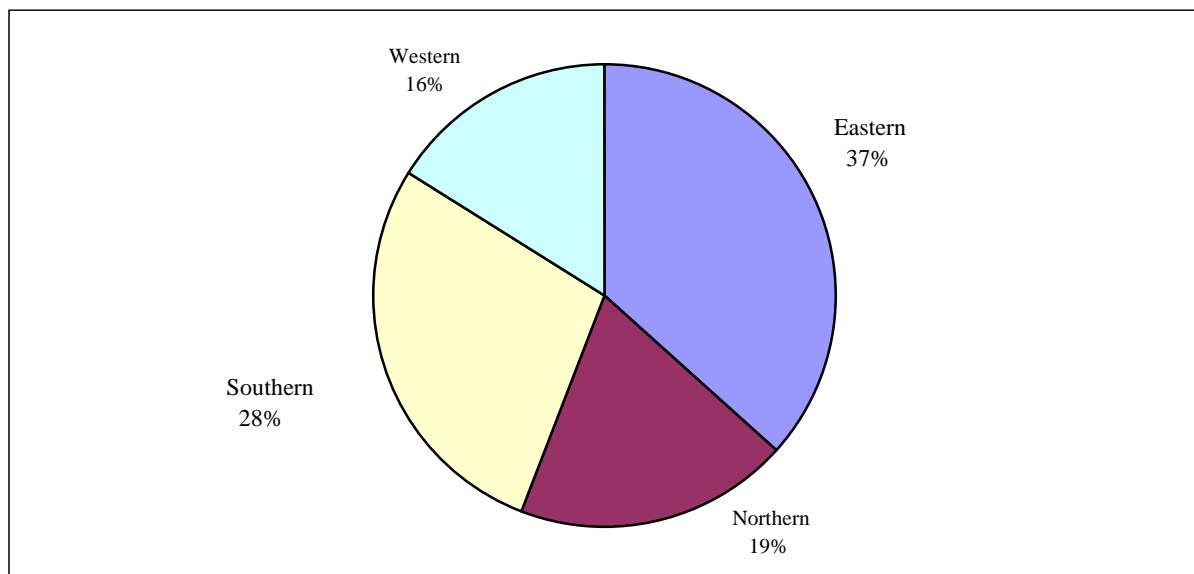
The number of those reporting to hospitals in the various Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 1997–2001

Trust/Board	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Belfast City	6	5	5	7	7
Down Lisburn	9	3	11	13	2
Mater Infirmorum	9	8	15	6	15
Royal Group	10	13	15	13	12
Ulster	5	12	17	9	14
Eastern Board	39	41	63	48	50
Causeway	4	4	6	3	7
United Hospitals	6	17	19	12	19
Northern Board	10	21	25	15	26
Armagh & Dungannon	10	3	1	5	4
Craigavon Group	7	5	14	5	14
Newry & Mourne	12	9	11	12	20
Southern Board	29	17	26	22	38
Altnagelvin Group	4	13	12	8	2
Sperrin Lakeland	11	9	13	7	20
Western Board	15	22	25	15	22
Total	93	101	139	100	136

37% of persons injured in 2001 reported to Trusts in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2001



Site of Injury

In the year 2001, 119 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 14 persons received injuries to two sites, 2 persons received injuries to three sites and 1 person received injuries to four 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, 1997–2001

Site	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Wrist/Hand	36	45	51	41	72
Face/Head/Neck	29	27	32	33	35
Eye	20	29	32	22	22
Foot/Leg	5	8	20	12	16
Trunk	4	7	14	7	6
Arm	4	8	10	6	5
Not known	0	0	0	9	1
Total Sites	98	124	159	130	157

Method of Departure

In 2001, 22% of persons injured needed no further treatment, 28% were referred to a GP and 27% were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 1997–2001

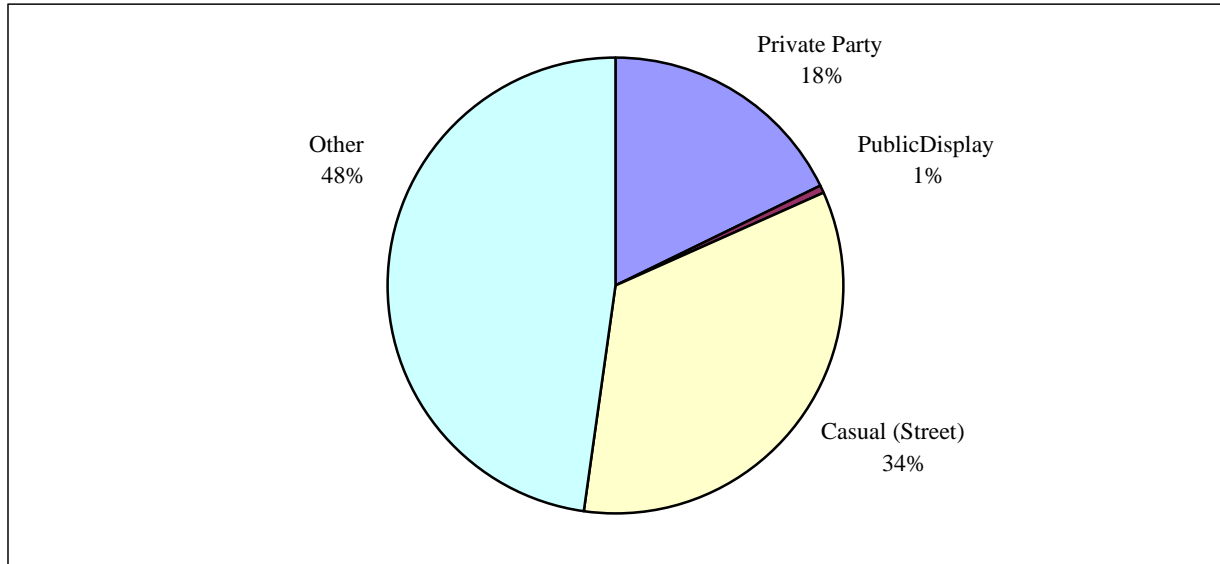
Method	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No Further Treatment	15	41	32	33	30
Referred to GP	30	16	38	32	38
Revisit A & E	26	26	38	19	37
Referred to Outpatients	9	6	7	4	7
Admitted	5	5	5	4	6
Transfer to Another Hospital	6	5	12	2	13
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	0	0	0	2	1
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	2	2	7	4	4
Total	93	101	139	100	136

This year, six persons were admitted to the hospital to which they reported, and a further thirteen were transferred to other hospitals. Of the persons admitted to hospital, four had injuries to the wrist or hand. There were no deaths from injuries.

Place of Occurrence

Place of occurrence of injury was recorded for 79 of the 136 persons injured. 34% of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street), and 18% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 4). Only 1% occurred at large public displays.

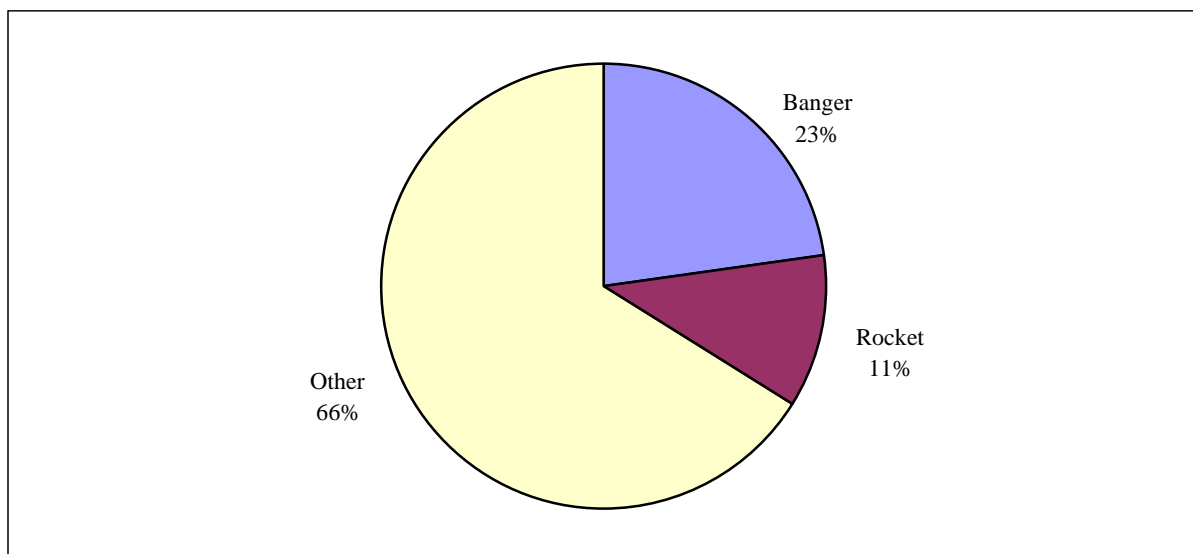
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2001



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 62 instances of injury. Bangers were the most common causes of injury (23%), followed by rockets (11%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2001



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 2001 covered a four-week period from Saturday 13 October to Saturday 10 November inclusive. Information for previous years reported in this release covers four- or five-week periods around Halloween.
6. Recording of information on place where injury occurred and type of firework involved was not mandatory.
7. Similar information is collected by surveys in England, Scotland and Wales.
8. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on

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LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the Internet –

Go to www.statistics.gov.uk.

Additional Information

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

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