



Statistics Release

27 January 2005

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2004

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2004. The survey covered a four-week period from Monday 11th October to Monday 8th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 55 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2004, an increase of 10 (22%) from the 2003 figure.
- 56% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit between 25th and 31st October 2004.
- 85% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- 73% of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).
- There were no fatalities.
- The most common sites of injury were to the wrist or hand (51% of all injuries) and the face, head or neck area (22%) (Table 4).
- 36% were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department at a later date, 24% of those injured required no further treatment and 15% were referred to their GP. Seven persons were admitted to hospital or transferred to another hospital (Table 5).
- Two incidents, which fell outside the reporting period (on 8th October and 9th November), were reported at Craigavon Area Hospital. The Accident & Emergency Unit noted these incidents as serious. The incidents resulted in eye injuries, which required transfer to another hospital. These two injuries are not included in any of the analyses in the following report.

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.

Total Injuries

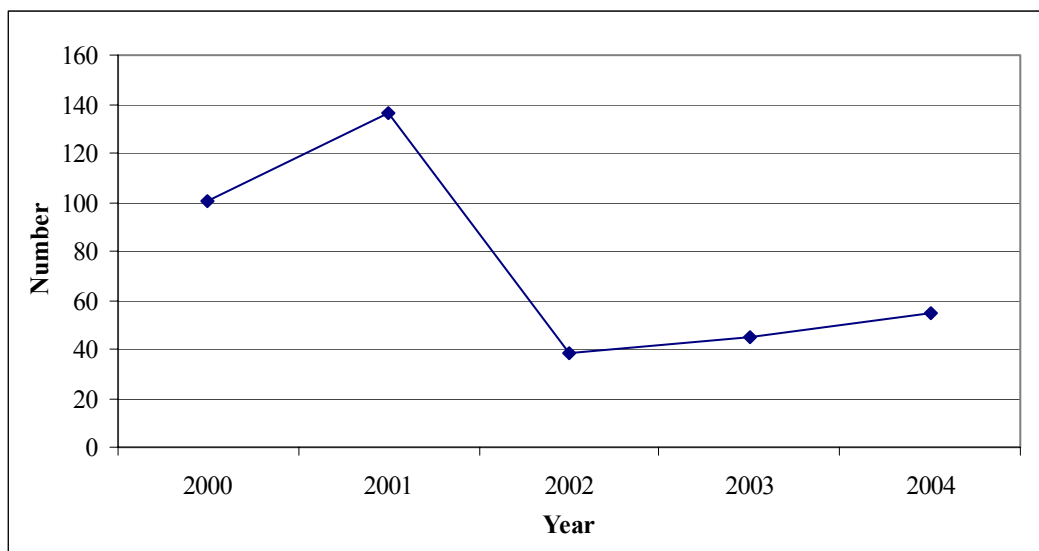
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2004 reporting period was 55 (Table 1). This is an increase of 10 (22%) from the 2003 figure (45). There was an increase in both the number of males and females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% change 2000 - 2004
Persons Injured						
Males	77	115	28	38	47	-39.0
Females	23	20	10	7	8	-65.2
Not Known	0	1	0	0	0	-
Total	100	136	38	45	55	-45.0

There has been slight upward trend in number of injuries between 2002 and 2004 (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2004 was just over 60% down on the number (139) in 1999, the highest ever recorded number of injuries.

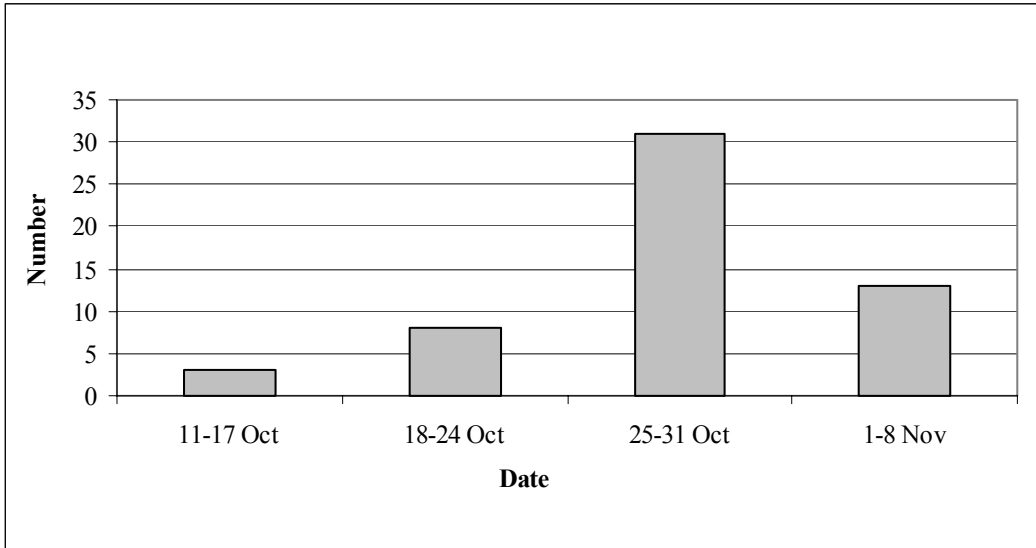
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2000–2004



Date of Injury

Of the 55 persons injured, 31 (56%) reported to an Accident or Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit in the period between 25th and 31st October inclusive (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Time Period, 2004



Age

In each of the years from 2000 to 2004, the majority of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 2000–2004

Age	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Under 10	30	30	11	6	11
10-19	50	77	17	29	29
20 and Over	16	29	10	9	14
Unknown	4	0	0	1	1
Total Injured	100	136	38	45	55

This year 20% of all persons injured were children aged less than 10 years. Four children aged less than 5 years and only seven children aged 5-9 years, were injured by fireworks, during the reporting period.

Area

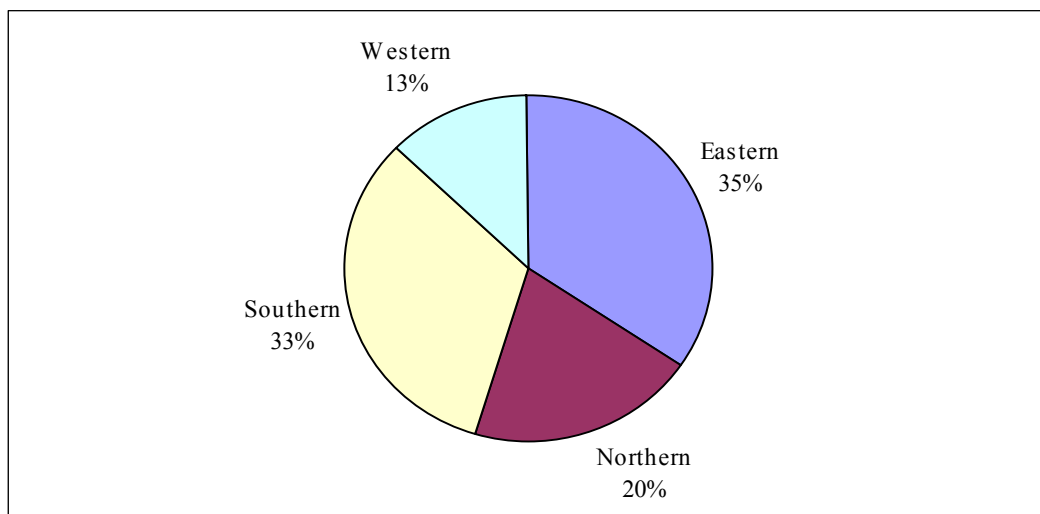
The number of those reporting to hospitals by Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 2000–2004

Trust/Board	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Belfast City	7	7	1	0	2
Down Lisburn	13	2	2	0	2
Mater Infirmorum	6	15	7	3	4
Royal Group	13	12	10	6	6
Ulster	9	14	2	4	5
<i>Eastern Board</i>	48	50	22	13	19
Causeway	5	7	1	1	3
United Hospitals	12	19	2	6	8
<i>Northern Board</i>	17	26	3	7	11
Armagh & Dungannon	5	4	1	3	1
Craigavon Group	5	14	1	8	4
Newry & Mourne	12	20	6	3	13
<i>Southern Board</i>	22	38	8	14	18
Altnagelvin Group	8	2	0	2	2
Sperrin Lakeland	5	20	5	9	5
<i>Western Board</i>	13	22	5	11	7
Total	100	136	38	45	55

68/67% of persons injured in 2004 reported to Trusts in the Eastern and Southern Health and Social Services Board areas (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2004



Site of Injury

In the year 2004, 42 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 12 persons received injuries to two sites and only one person received injuries to three 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, 2000–2004

Site	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Wrist/Hand	41	72	14	31	35
Face/Head/Neck	33	35	14	10	15
Eye	22	22	8	5	8
Foot/Leg	12	16	4	2	7
Trunk	7	6	4	4	2
Arm	6	5	0	3	2
Total Sites	121	156	44	55	69

Method of Departure

In 2004, 24% of persons injured needed no further treatment, 15% were referred to a GP and 36% were asked to revisit the Accident and Emergency Department (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 1998–2004

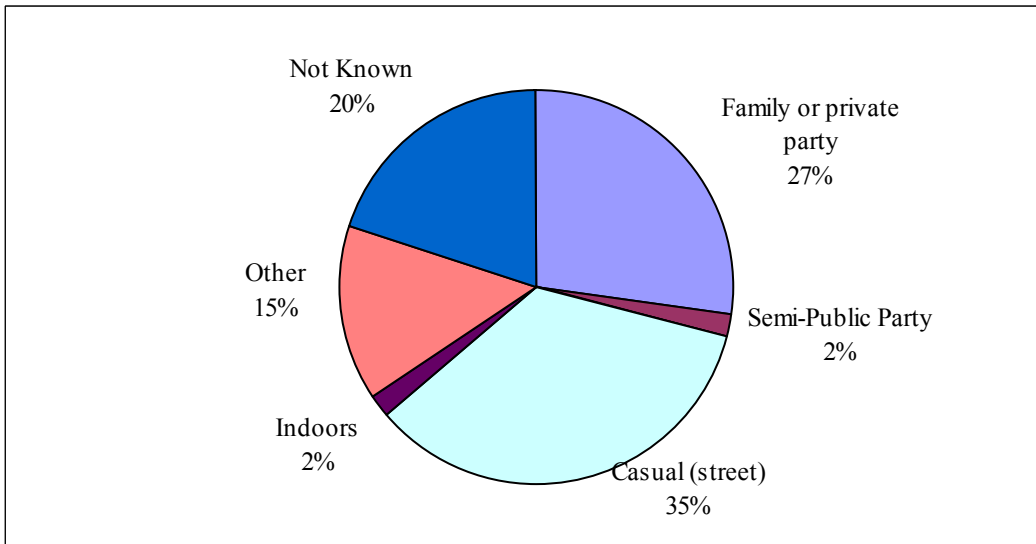
Method	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No Further Treatment	33	30	16	10	13
Referred to GP	32	38	7	9	8
Referred to Outpatients	4	7	0	2	1
Revisit A & E	19	37	5	14	20
Transfer to Another Hospital	2	13	1	0	3
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	2	1	0	3	0
Admitted	4	6	6	5	4
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	4	4	3	2	6
Total	100	136	38	45	55

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

Place of Occurrence

Place of occurrence of injury was recorded for 44 of the 55 persons injured. 35% of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street) and 27% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 4).

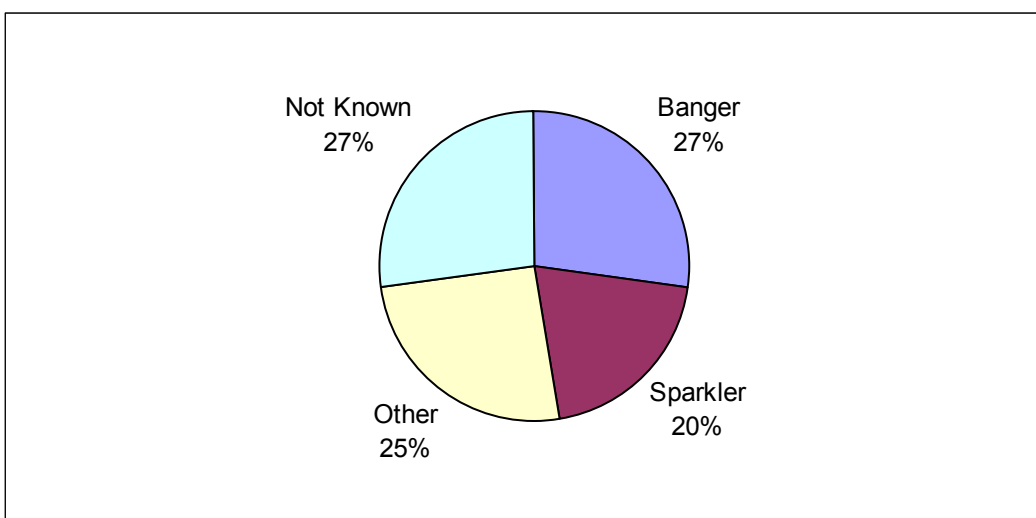
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2004



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for all instances of injury. Bangers were the most common causes of injury (27%), followed by Sparklers (25%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2004



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 2004 covered a four-week period from Monday 11th October to Monday 8th 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.

Additional Information

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

Office Information Manager
Regional 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/stats&research/pubs.asp>