

Information Release

21 January 2010

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2009

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2009. The survey covered a four-week period from Saturday 17th October to Saturday 14th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 30 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2009, a decrease of 2 (6%) from the 2008 figure (Table 1).
- 73% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit between 31st October and 6th November 2009 (Figure 2).
- 80% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- 53% 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 (56% of all injuries) and the eye (13% of all injuries) (Table 4).
- 27% required no further treatment, 27% were asked to revisit the A&E department, 17% were referred to a GP and 13% of persons injured were referred for Outpatients treatment (Table 5).

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.



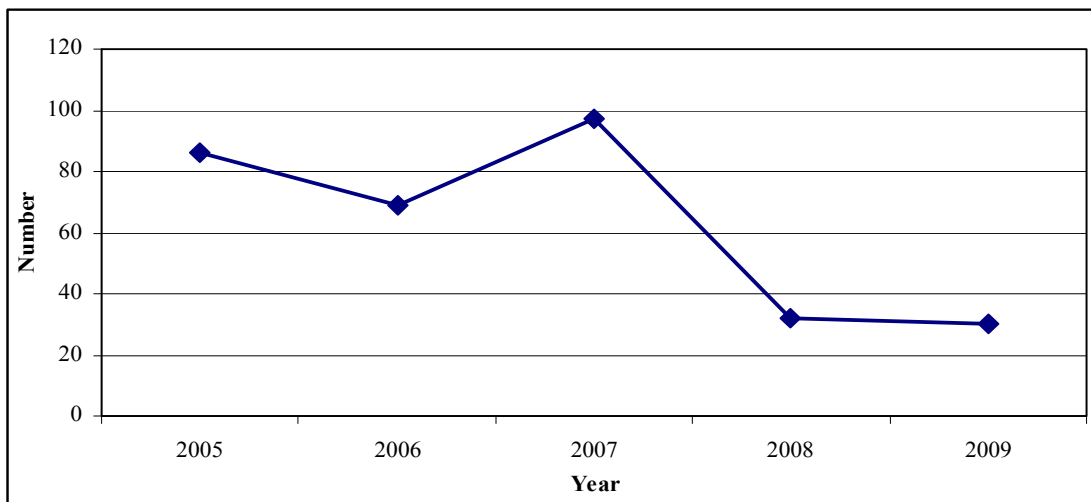
Total Injuries

There has been a downward trend in the number of injuries since 2007 (Table 1 & Figure 1). The number of injuries in the 2009 reporting period (30) was 6% down on the number of injuries in the 2008 reporting period (32) and 109 (78%) down on the peak number (139¹) in the 1999 reporting period.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2009

Persons Injured	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% change
						2005 - 2009
Males	77	67	84	26	24	-68.8%
Females	9	2	13	6	6	-33.3%
Total	86	69	97	32	30	-65.1%

Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2005–2009

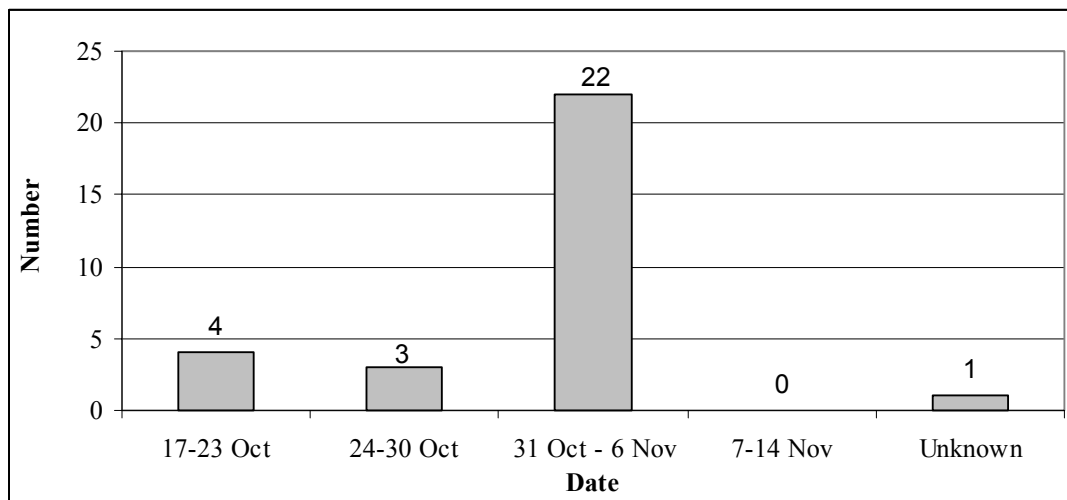


¹ See Note 7

Date of Injury

Of the 30 persons injured, 22 (73%) reported to an Accident or Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit in the period between 31st October and 6th November 2009 inclusive (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Time Period, 2009



Age

In the reporting periods for each of the years from 2005 to 2009, the majority of those injured were aged under 18 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 2005–2009

Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0-5	4	1	8	2	0
6-10	13	10	19	5	6
11-15	33	30	38	12	6
16-17	8	7	10	2	4
18 and Over	28	21	22	11	13
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1
Total Injured	86	69	97	32	30

This year 43% of all persons injured were aged 18 or over. 20% of all persons injured were children aged 10 years and less.

Area

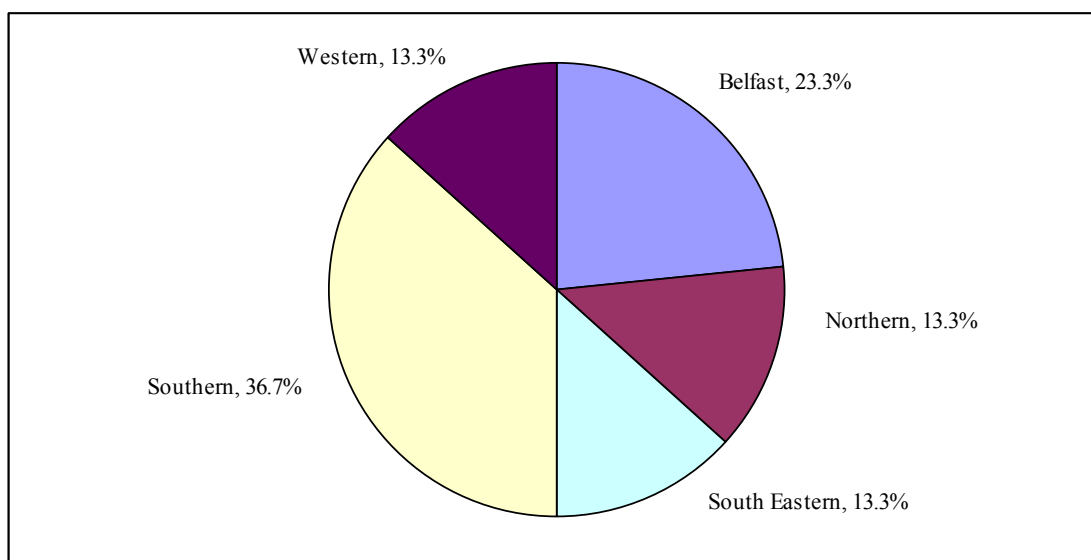
The number of those reporting to hospitals by Trust area is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust of Reporting Hospital, 2005–2009

Trust	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	22	14	15	14	7
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	12	14	12	6	4
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	20	11	19	7	4
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	24	17	36	5	11
Western Health and Social Care Trust	8	13	15	0	4
Total	86	69	97	32	30

37% of persons injured in 2009 reported to Hospitals in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust, 2009



Site of Injury

In the year 2009 reporting period, twenty-eight persons received injuries to only one site on the body, two persons received injuries to two sites, and no persons received injuries to three or more sites. The most common site of injury was to the wrist and hand (Table 4).

Table 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Site of Injury, 2005–2009

Site	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Wrist/Hand	42	45	48	19	18
Face/Head/Neck	21	14	29	5	3
Eye	13	12	15	8	4
Foot/Leg	6	1	3	4	3
Trunk	7	2	10	0	2
Arm	11	5	6	0	2
Total Sites	100	79	111	36	32

Method of Departure

In the 2009 reporting period, 27% required no further treatment, 27% were asked to revisit the A&E department, 17% were referred to a GP and 13% of persons injured were referred for Outpatients treatment (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 2005–2009

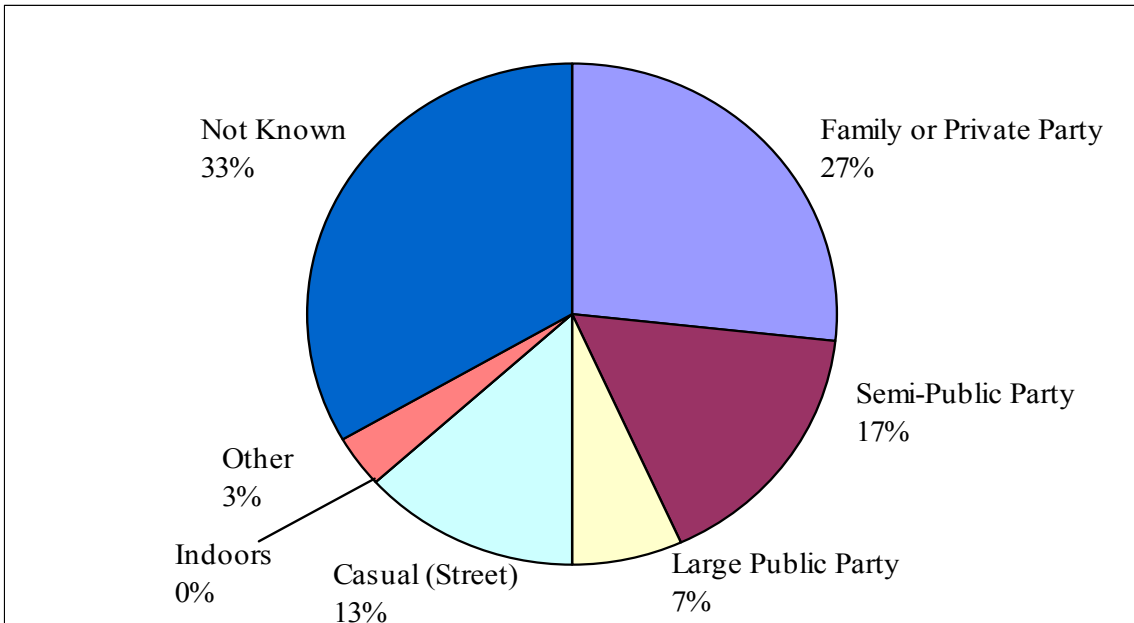
Method	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No Further Treatment	18	11	19	11	8
Referred to GP	33	16	19	5	5
Referred to Outpatients	5	7	2	6	4
Revisit A & E	17	25	26	5	8
Transfer to Another Hospital	3	3	8	3	3
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	2	1	7	0	0
Admitted	6	4	5	0	0
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	2	2	11	2	2
Total	86	69	97	32	30

In the reporting period this year, no persons were admitted to the hospital to which they reported, and three were transferred to another hospital. There were no deaths from injuries.

Place of Occurrence

Place of occurrence of injury was recorded for 20 of the 30 persons injured. 27% of injuries occurred at family or private parties, and 17% occurred at semi-public parties (Figure 4).

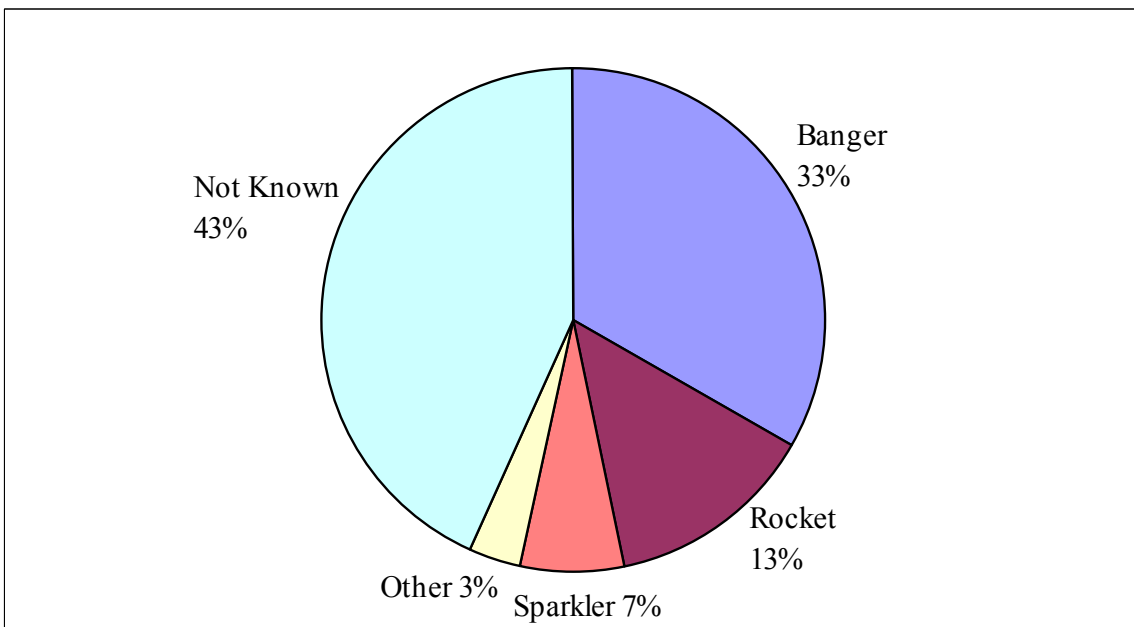
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2009



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 17 of the 30 instances of injury. Where the type of firework was recorded, Bangers were the most common causes of injury (33%), followed by Rocket (13%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2009



Notes

1. This information is collected via a special manual exercise carried out by A&E staff. It is conducted around a fixed four/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 FWK1.
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 2009 covered a four-week period from Saturday 17th October to Saturday 14th November inclusive. Information for previous years reported in this release covers four/five-week periods around Halloween.
6. Recording of information on place where injury occurred and type of firework involved was not mandatory.
7. This is the earliest published figure. The first Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries publication was for the 2000 reporting period and included figures for the reporting periods of 1999 and 2000. The FWK1 return has been collected since 1996 when the number of firework related injuries peaked at 202.

Additional Information

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

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Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
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Castle Buildings
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BT4 3SQ

Tel: 028 9052 2800

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/firework_statistics.htm