



Information Release

9 February 2006

Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2005

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2005. The survey covered a four-week period from Tuesday 11th October to Saturday 12th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 86 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2005, an increase of 31 (56%) from the 2004 figure.
- 47% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit between 25th and 31st October 2005.
- 90% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- 70% 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 (42% of all injuries) and the face, head or neck area (21%) (Table 4).
- 38% were referred to their GP and 21% of those injured required no further treatment. Nine persons were admitted to hospital or transferred to another hospital (Table 5).

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.

Total Injuries

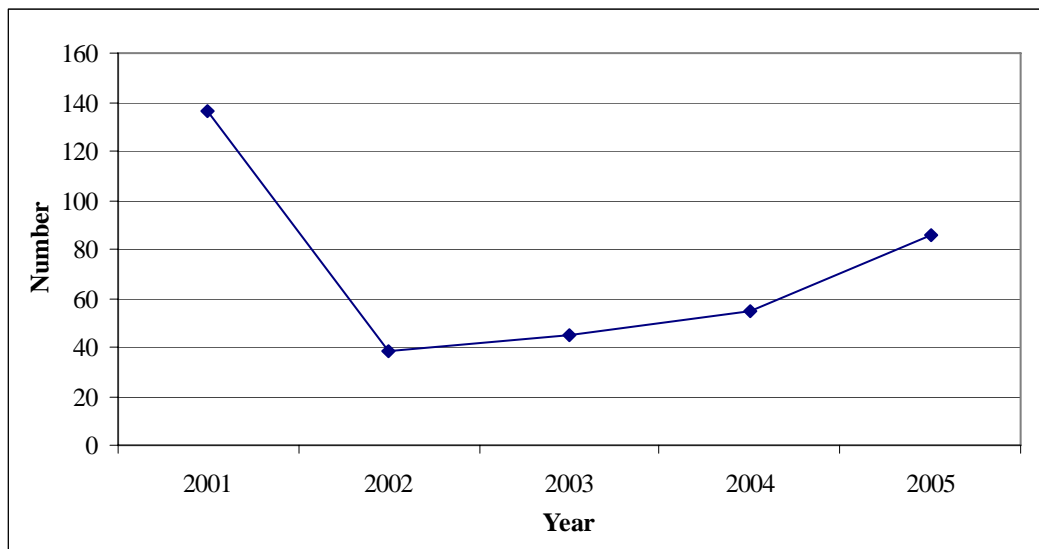
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2005 reporting period was 86 (Table 1). This is an increase of 31 (56%) from the 2004 figure (55). There was an increase in both the number of males and females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% change 2001 - 2005
Persons Injured						
Males	115	28	38	47	77	-33.0
Females	20	10	7	8	9	-55.0
Not Known	1	0	0	0	0	-
Total	136	38	45	55	86	-36.8

There has been slight upward trend in number of injuries between 2002 and 2005 (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2005 was just over 38% down on the number (139) in 1999, the highest ever recorded number of injuries.

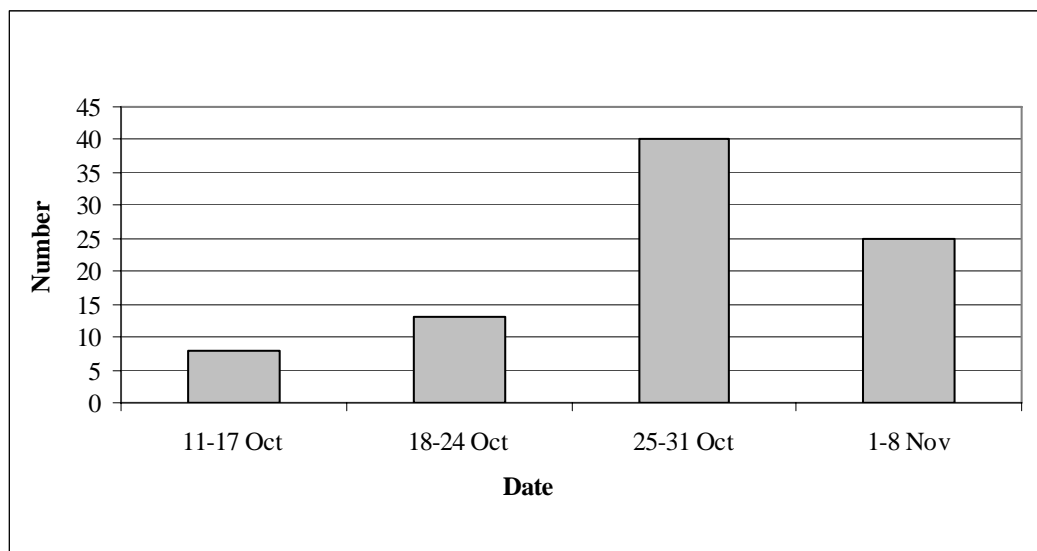
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2001–2005



Date of Injury

Of the 86 persons injured, 40 (47%) 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, 2005



Note: No incidents were recorded between 9th and 12th November 2005.

Age

In each of the years from 2001 to 2005, the majority of those injured were aged under 20 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 2000–2005

Age	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 10	30	11	6	11	13
10-19	77	17	29	29	47
20 and Over	29	10	9	14	26
Unknown	0	0	1	1	0
Total Injured	136	38	45	55	86

This year 15% of all persons injured were children aged less than 10 years. Three children aged less than 5 years and only ten children aged 5-9 years, were injured by fireworks, during the reporting period.

Area

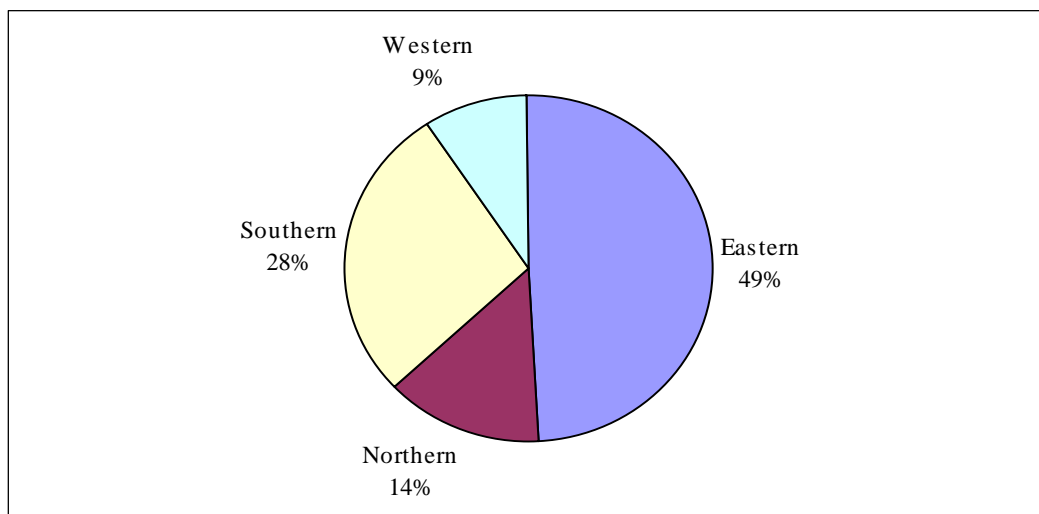
The number of those reporting to hospitals by Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 2001–2005

Trust/Board	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Belfast City	7	1	0	2	1
Down Lisburn	2	2	0	2	14
Mater Infirmorum	15	7	3	4	7
Royal Group	12	10	6	6	14
Ulster	14	2	4	5	6
<i>Eastern Board</i>	50	22	13	19	42
Causeway	7	1	1	3	2
United Hospitals	19	2	6	8	10
<i>Northern Board</i>	26	3	7	11	12
Armagh & Dungannon	4	1	3	1	3
Craigavon Group	14	1	8	4	10
Newry & Mourne	20	6	3	13	11
<i>Southern Board</i>	38	8	14	18	24
Altnagelvin Group	2	0	2	2	3
Sperrin Lakeland	20	5	9	5	5
<i>Western Board</i>	22	5	11	7	8
Total	136	38	45	55	86

49% of persons injured in 2005 reported to Trusts in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2005



Site of Injury

In the year 2005, 72 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 11 persons received injuries to two sites and only two 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, 2001–2005

Site	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Wrist/Hand	72	14	31	35	42
Face/Head/Neck	35	14	10	15	21
Eye	22	8	5	8	13
Foot/Leg	16	4	2	7	6
Trunk	6	4	4	2	7
Arm	5	0	3	2	11
Total Sites	156	44	55	69	100

Method of Departure

In 2005, 38% were referred to a GP and 21% of persons injured needed no further treatment, (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 2001–2005

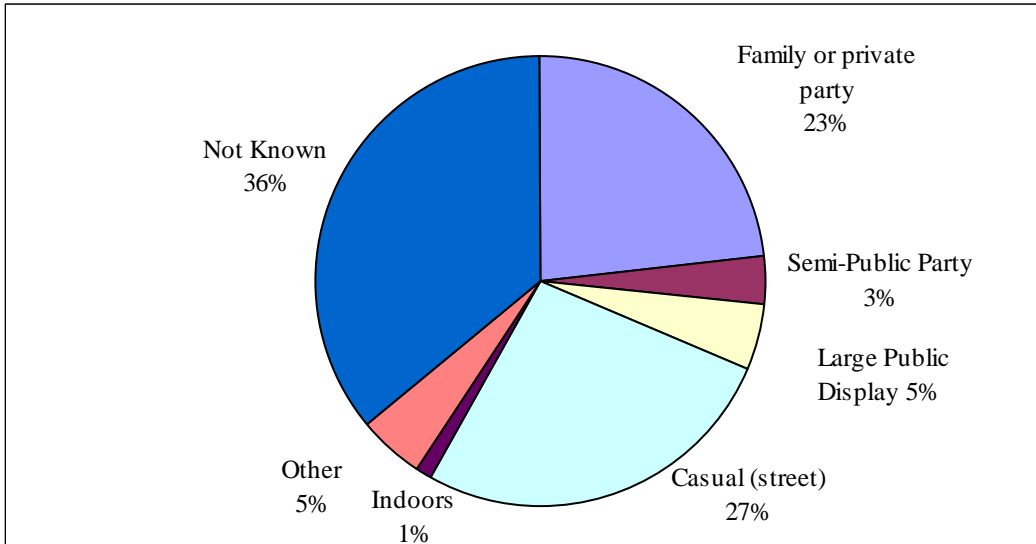
Method	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No Further Treatment	30	16	10	13	18
Referred to GP	38	7	9	8	33
Referred to Outpatients	7	0	2	1	5
Revisit A & E	37	5	14	20	17
Transfer to Another Hospital	13	1	0	3	3
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	1	0	3	0	2
Admitted	6	6	5	4	6
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	4	3	2	6	2
Total	136	38	45	55	86

This year, six 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 55 of the 86 persons injured. Where the place of occurrence was recorded, 27% of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street) and 23% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 4).

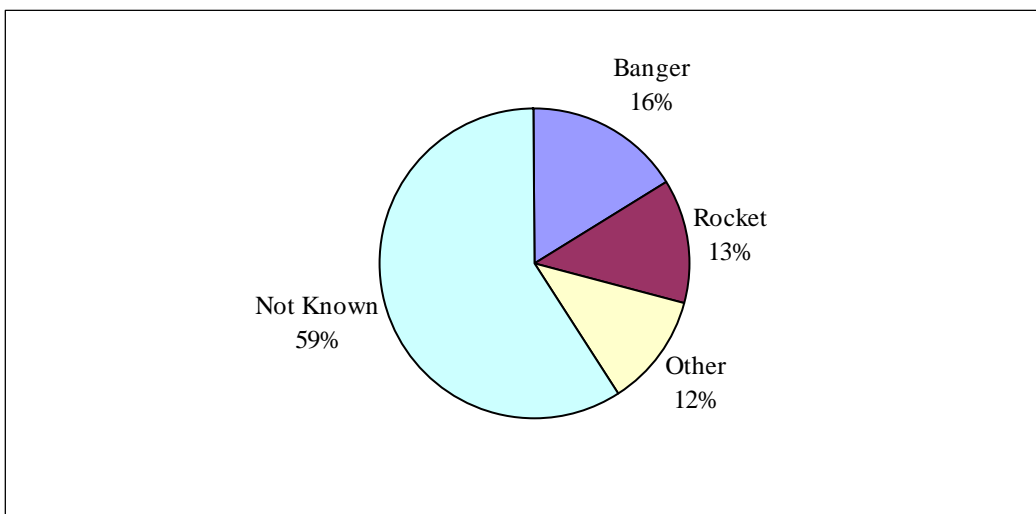
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2005



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 35 of the 86 instances of injury. Where the type of firework was recorded, bangers were the most common causes of injury (16%), followed by Rockets (13%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2005



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 2005 covered a four-week period from Tuesday 11th October to Saturday 12th 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
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-pubs/stats-hospital_community_statistics.htm#fireworks