

Information Release



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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Northern Ireland Fireworks Injuries 2006

This statistical release gives details of the number of persons injured by fireworks in the Halloween period of the year 2006. The survey covered a four-week period from Tuesday 17th October to Tuesday 14th November and covers those injuries treated at A&E Departments and Minor Injuries Units (see Note 1).

Key Points

- 69 persons were injured over the Halloween period of the year 2006, a decrease of 17 (20%) from the 2005 figure (Table 1).
- 62% of persons injured over the Halloween period attended an Accident and Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit between 31st October and 6th November 2006 (Figure 2).
- 97% of those injured were male (Table 1).
- 70% 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 (57% of all injuries) and the face, head or neck area (18%) (Table 4).
- 36% were asked to revisit the A&E department and 23% of those injured were referred to their GP. Seven persons were admitted to hospital or transferred to another hospital (Table 5).

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.

Total Injuries

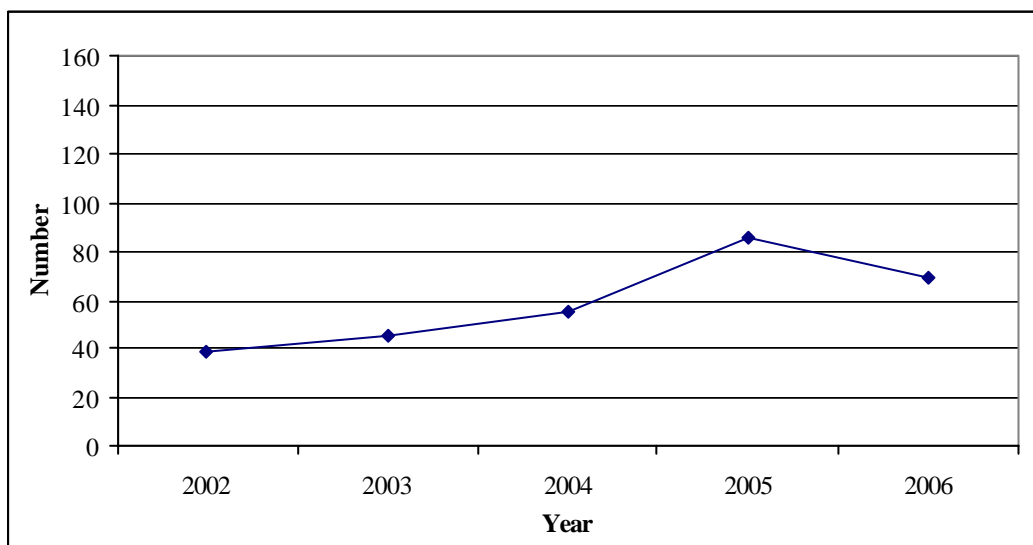
The total number of persons injured by fireworks during the 2006 reporting period was 69 (Table 1). This is a decrease of 17 (20%) from the 2005 figure (86). There was a decrease in both the number of males and females injured.

Table 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change 2002 - 2006
Persons Injured						
Males	28	38	47	77	67	139.3
Females	10	7	8	9	2	-80.0
Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	-
Total	38	45	55	86	69	81.6

There has been slight upward trend in number of injuries between 2002 and 2006 (Figure 1). The number of injuries in 2006 was 50% down on the number (139) in 1999, the highest ever recorded number of injuries.

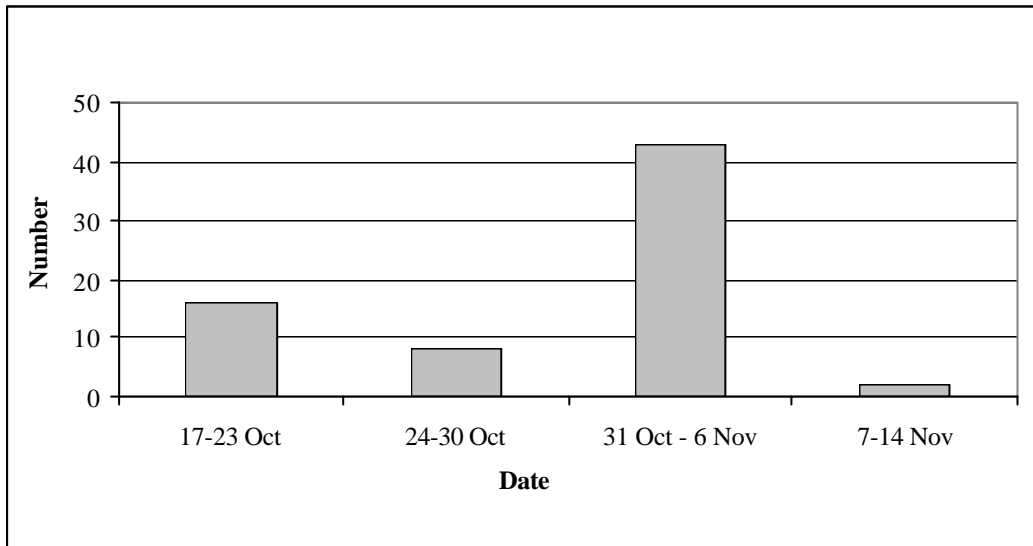
Figure 1: Fireworks Injuries, 2002–2006



Date of Injury

Of the 69 persons injured, 43 (62%) reported to an Accident or Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit in the period between 31st October and 6th November 2006 inclusive (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Time Period, 2006



Age

In each of the years from 2002 to 2006, the majority of those injured were aged under 18 (Table 2).

Table 2: Fireworks Injuries, by Age, 2002–2006

Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0-5	0	0	5	4	1
6-10	11	9	9	13	10
11-15	17	18	23	33	30
16-17	0	6	2	8	7
18 and Over	10	11	15	28	21
Unknown	0	1	1	0	0
Total Injured	38	45	55	86	69

This year 16% of all persons injured were children aged 10 years or less.

Area

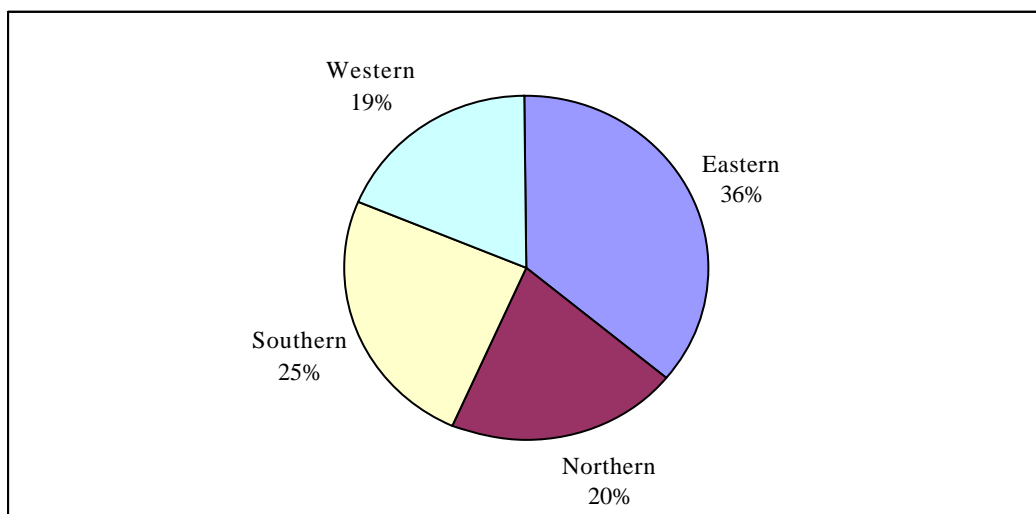
The number of those reporting to hospitals by Trust and Board areas is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Trust and Board Area of Reporting Hospital, 2002–2006

Trust/Board	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Belfast City	1	0	2	1	0
Down Lisburn	2	0	2	14	6
Mater Infirmorum	7	3	4	7	4
Royal Group	10	6	6	14	10
Ulster	2	4	5	6	5
<i>Eastern Board</i>	22	13	19	42	25
Causeway	1	1	3	2	2
United Hospitals	2	6	8	10	12
<i>Northern Board</i>	3	7	11	12	14
Armagh & Dungannon	1	3	1	3	2
Craigavon Group	1	8	4	10	4
Newry & Mourne	6	3	13	11	11
<i>Southern Board</i>	8	14	18	24	17
Altnagelvin Group	0	2	2	3	1
Sperrin Lakeland	5	9	5	5	12
<i>Western Board</i>	5	11	7	8	13
Total	38	45	55	86	69

36% of persons injured in 2006 reported to Trusts in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Fireworks Injuries, by Board Area, 2006



Site of Injury

In the year 2006, 61 persons received injuries to one site on the body, 6 persons received injuries to two sites and only two person received injuries to three sites. The most common sites of injury were to the wrist/hand and to the face/head/neck (Table 4).

Table 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Site of Injury, 2002–2006

Site	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Wrist/Hand	14	31	35	42	45
Face/Head/Neck	14	10	15	21	14
Eye	8	5	8	13	12
Foot/Leg	4	2	7	6	1
Trunk	4	4	2	7	2
Arm	0	3	2	11	5
Total Sites	44	55	69	100	79

Method of Departure

In 2006, 36% were asked to revisit the A&E department and 23% of persons injured were referred to a GP (Table 5).

Table 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Method of Departure from Accident and Emergency Department, 2002–2006

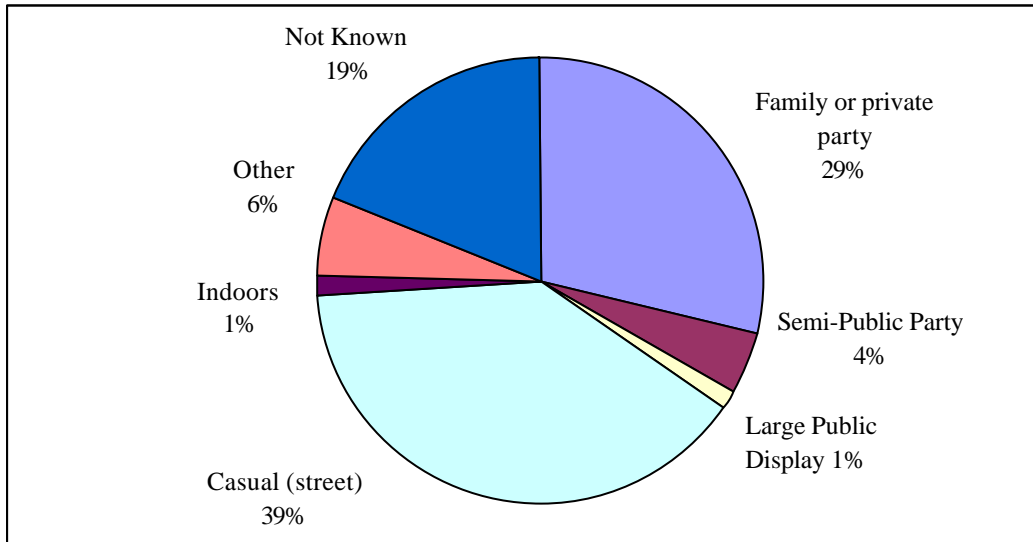
Method	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
No Further Treatment	16	10	13	18	11
Referred to GP	7	9	8	33	16
Referred to Outpatients	0	2	1	5	7
Revisit A & E	5	14	20	17	25
Transfer to Another Hospital	1	0	3	3	3
Referral to Minor Injuries Unit	0	3	0	2	1
Admitted	6	5	4	6	4
Dead on Arrival/Died	0	0	0	0	0
Other/Not Known	3	2	6	2	2
Total	38	45	55	86	69

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 56 of the 69 persons injured. Where the place of occurrence was recorded, 39% of injuries were casual incidents in public places (e.g. in the street) and 29% occurred at family or private parties (Figure 4).

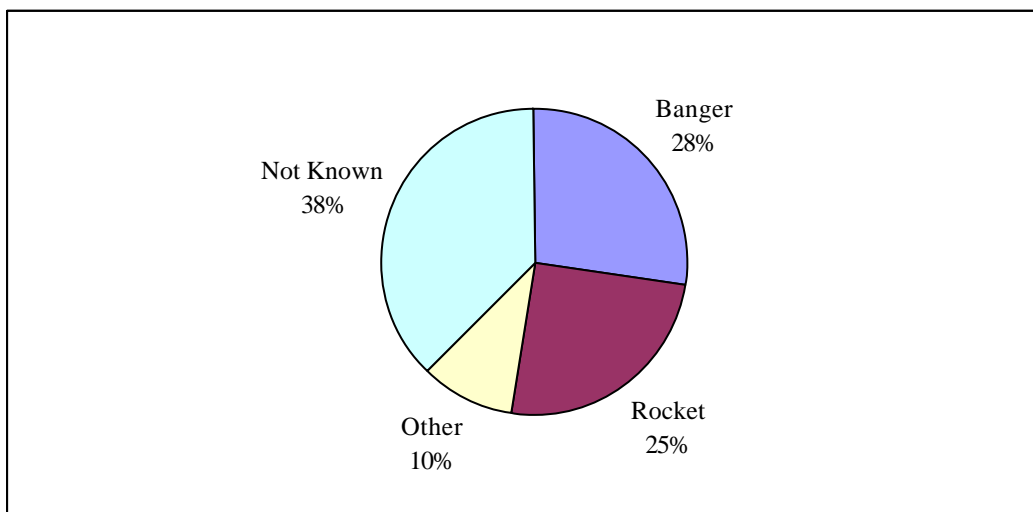
Figure 4: Fireworks Injuries, by Place of Occurrence, 2006



Type of Firework

The type of firework involved was recorded for 43 of the 69 instances of injury. Where the type of firework was recorded, bangers were the most common causes of injury (28%), followed by Rockets (25%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Fireworks Injuries, by Type of Firework, 2006



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 2006 covered a four-week period from Tuesday 17th October to Tuesday 14th 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.

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/stats-hospital_community_statistics.htm#fireworks