

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Firework Injury Statistics

2015



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Reader Information

Background	Assess the effect of the legislative changes since 1996 and the impact of fireworks awareness, safety and enforcement campaigns delivered by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) in partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and in cooperation with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS).
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Statistical Quality	Information detailed in this release has been quality assured by HSC Trusts prior to release. Information on the definitions, technical guidance and guide to using this data, is available to view or download from: https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-using-firework-injury-statistics
Target audience	DHSSPS, Chief Executives of HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics and Health & Social Care stakeholders, DOJ, PSNI, NIFRS, media and the general public.
Internet address	https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/articles/firework-injuries
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Summary of Firework Injury Statistics (2015)

This statistical release presents information on the number of persons injured by fireworks and treated at emergency care departments in Northern Ireland during the 2015 Halloween period. The 2015 Halloween period covered the four-week period from Saturday 17th October to Saturday 14th November 2015.

A survey of fireworks injuries has been carried out annually since 1996 following the enactment of legislation allowing the sale of fireworks in Northern Ireland. The Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) came into operation in 2002, making it compulsory for anyone wishing to purchase, possess and use fireworks for a garden display, to obtain a license.

This annual statistical release is currently the subject of a National Statistics consultation, which includes a proposal to discontinue the publication and its associated data collection. You are invited to provide feedback on the proposals, in the consultation (link below), by Thursday 14th January 2016.

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/consultations/national-statistics-consultation-proposed-changes-dhssps-statistical-publications>

Key Points

During the 2015 Halloween period:

- 15 persons reported to an emergency care department in Northern Ireland with a firework related injury, 3 less than the same period in 2014 (Table 1).
- Of the 15 persons injured, 13 (86.6%) were aged under 18 (Table 5).
- Almost 7 in 10 (66.7%) persons injured were male (Table 6).
- 15 persons attending emergency care departments had a total of 17 firework related injuries, with the wrist \ hand (5 injuries) reported as the most common site of injury (Table 7).

Annual Trend

Between 1996 and 2015, the number of persons injured from fireworks and presenting at emergency care departments in Northern Ireland decreased significantly from 202 to 15. Following the introduction of the new legislation in 2002, the number of persons injured reduced from 136 in 2001 to 38 in 2002, but increased to 97 in 2007. However, since 2007, the number injured from fireworks has decreased by 84.5% (82), from 97 to 15 in 2015 (Table 1 & Figure 1).

When compared with the Halloween period in 2014, the number of persons injured has decreased (3) from 18 to 15 in 2015 (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during the Halloween Period, Northern Ireland (1996 – 2015)

Year	Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks	Year	Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks
1996	202	2006	69
1997	92	2007	97
1998	101	2008	32
1999	139	2009	30
2000	100	2010	47
2001	136	2011	25
2002	38	2012	14
2003	45	2013	6
2004	55	2014	18
2005	86	2015	15

Figure 1: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during the Halloween Period, Northern Ireland (1996 – 2015)

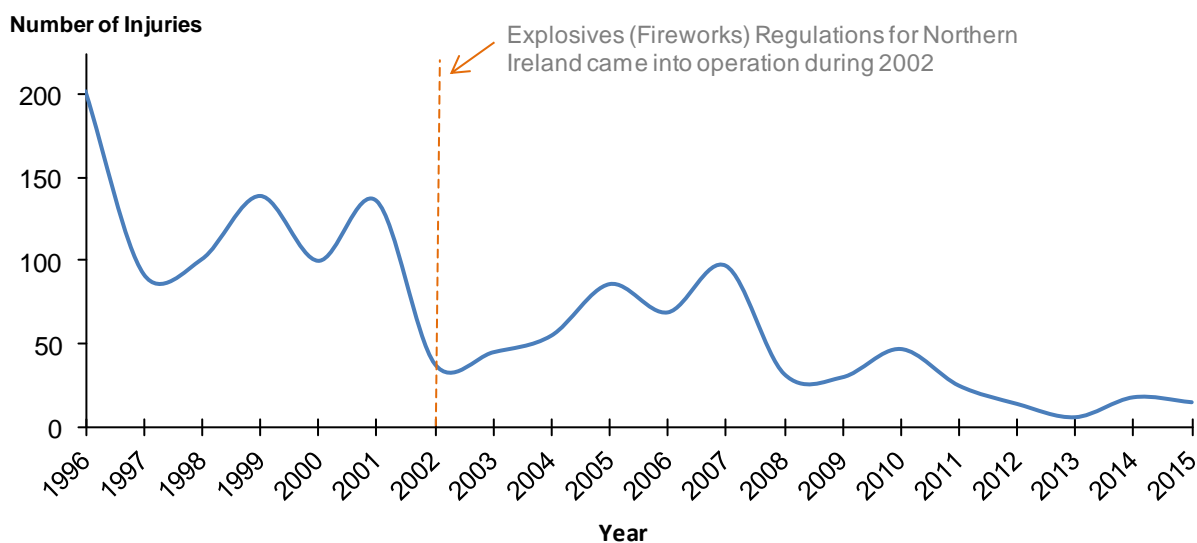


Table 2: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during the Halloween Period, by HSC Trust (2015)

HSC Trust	Total Firework Injuries
Belfast	5
Northern	4
South Eastern	1
Southern	2
Western	3
Northern Ireland	15

Table 3: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during the Halloween Period, by HSC Trust (2011 – 2015)

HSC Trust	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Belfast	7	5	0	3	5
Northern	3	1	0	2	4
South Eastern	1	0	1	4	1
Southern	7	5	5	5	2
Western	7	3	0	4	3
Northern Ireland	25	14	6	18	15

Table 4: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks during each Week of the Halloween Period (2015)

Week	Number of Firework Injuries
17 Oct 2015 - 23 Oct 2015	3
24 Oct 2015 - 30 Oct 2015	4
31 Oct 2015 - 6 Nov 2015	8
7 Nov 2015 - 14 Nov 2015	0
Halloween Period	15

Table 5: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks, by Age Group (2011 – 2015)

Age	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0 to 5	2	3	0	2	6
6 to 10	1	2	0	2	0
11 to 15	13	4	1	4	5
16 to 17	4	1	1	2	2
18 and Over	5	4	4	8	2
Total	25	14	6	18	15

Table 6: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks, by Gender (2011 – 2015)

Gender	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Male	22	10	6	16	10
Female	3	4	0	2	5
Total	25	14	6	18	15

Table 7: Number of Firework Injuries, by Site of Injury (2011 – 2015)

Site of injury	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wrist / Hand	15	5	2	10	5
Face / Head / Neck	4	4	3	2	4
Eye	5	3	1	5	1
Foot / Neck	1	1	0	0	1
Trunk	0	0	0	2	4
Arm	3	3	0	1	2
Total Injuries	28	16	6	20	17

Table 8: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks, by Location of Occurrence (2011 – 2015)

Location of Occurrence	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Family / Private Party	6	5	0	3	9
Semi-Public Party	0	0	0	3	0
Large Public Display	0	1	0	0	1
Casual Incidence in Public Place	13	1	3	3	1
Indoors	1	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	0	1	0
Unknown (Not Recorded) ¹	4	6	3	8	4
Total	25	14	6	18	15

¹ Readers should note that the provision of information on the location of where the injury occurred is not mandatory.

Table 9: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks, by Type of Firework (2011 – 2015)

Firework Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Air Bomb	0	0	0	1	0
Banger	8	1	1	3	0
Home Made	1	0	0	0	0
Rocket	2	1	0	3	2
Roman Candle	0	0	0	0	2
Sparkler	2	3	0	1	4
Squealer	0	1	0	0	0
Other Proprietary Fireworks	1	0	2	0	0
Unknown (Not Recorded) ²	11	8	3	10	7
Total	25	14	6	18	15

Table 10: Number of Persons Injured by Fireworks, by Method of Departure from Emergency Care Departments (2011 – 2015)

Method of Departure	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Admitted	0	1	0	0	1
No Further Treatment	7	4	2	4	4
Referred to GP	6	4	1	5	6
Referred to Minor Injuries Unit	1	1	0	0	0
Referred to Outpatients	0	0	1	4	0
Referred to Physiotherapist	0	1	0	0	0
Revisit A&E	3	1	2	2	2
Transfer to Another Hospital	5	0	0	1	2
Other / Unknown	3	2	0	2	0
Total	25	14	6	18	15

² Readers should note that the provision of information on the type of firework which resulted in the injury is not mandatory.