INJURY DATABASE (IDB)

Gozo General Hospital
Admitting and Emergency Department

January – December 2005

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Injury prevention has always had a long history within the European Union and the surveillance together with the collection of data concerning injuries had prompted the priority for the setting up of preventive interventions. The collection of such data started in 1996 within the European Union, and although it has evolved through different programmes, nonetheless, it has maintained its core characteristics and mainly has been an ongoing process. In past years it was called the European Home and Leisure Accidents Surveillance System. Today the mechanism for such data collection within the European Union is to be found in what is being called the Injury Data Base (IDB).

The scope of this IDB is to record information of all injuries and accidents attended to at selected emergency departments within the European Union. Project managers from various European Union countries together with experts in the field have had several meetings with the aim of harmonising and standardizing accident and injury surveillance in the European Union.

Launch of IDB in Malta

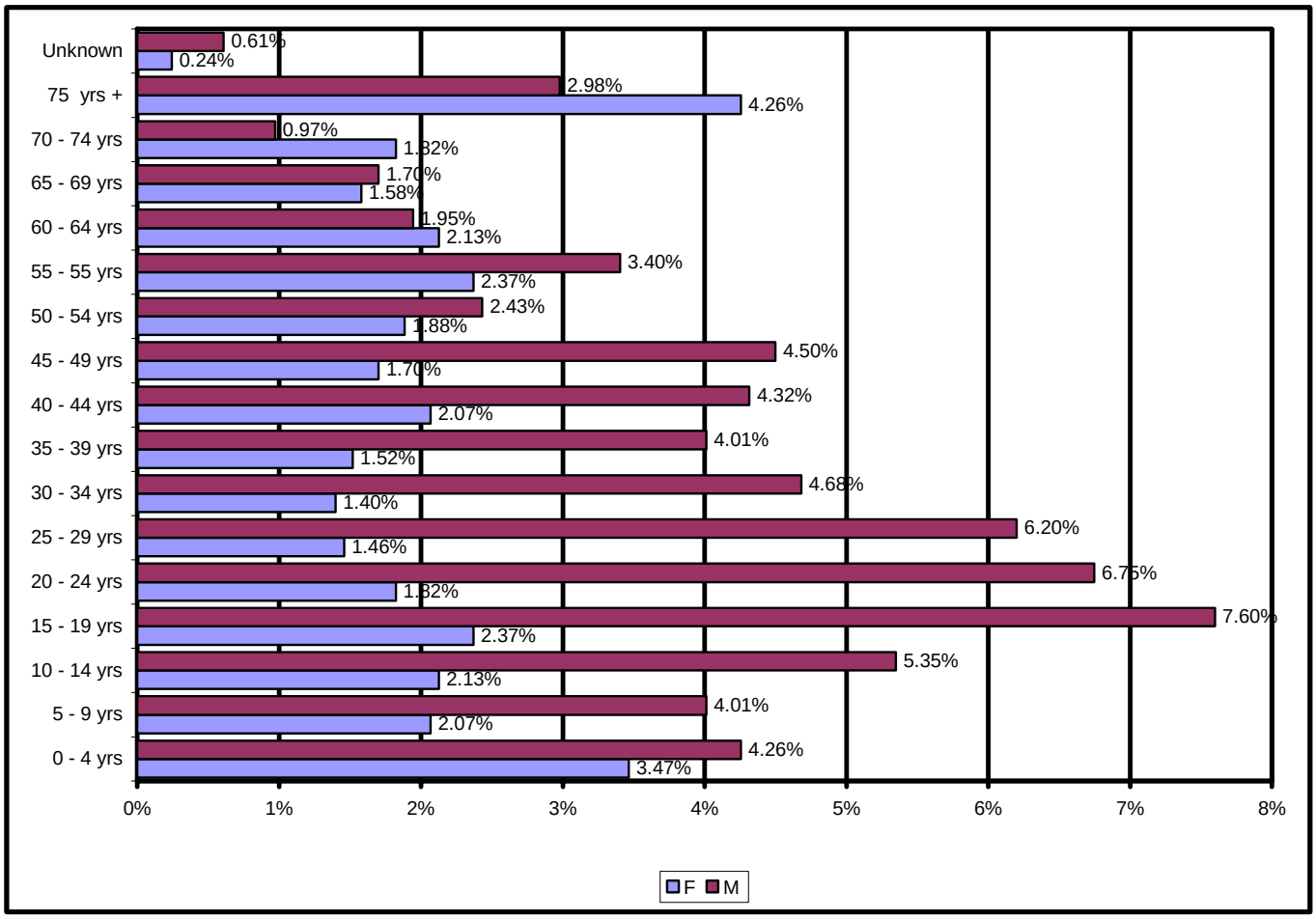
The Injury Data Base was officially launched in Malta in September 2004. The Department of Health Information (DHI) is the responsible body for the compilation of such data. During 2005 a pilot project was initiated at the Gozo General Hospital whereby accidents and injuries are recorded at its Admitting & Emergency (A & E) Department.

On arrival of the patient at the A & E Department, responsible staff, fill in the special form (Annex 1) with standard information which is harmonized with that collected by other Member States. Completed forms are then forwarded to DHI on a regular basis where they are coded against the IDB Coding Manual Data Dictionary issued by the EU-funded Consumer Safety Institute in Amsterdam. All data is then entered into the main database and is kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 2001.

Present Report

This report records admissions at the A & E Department at Gozo General Hospital for 2005.

Accuracy and completeness of data sent on the IDB reporting forms is the responsibility of the department providing the data.

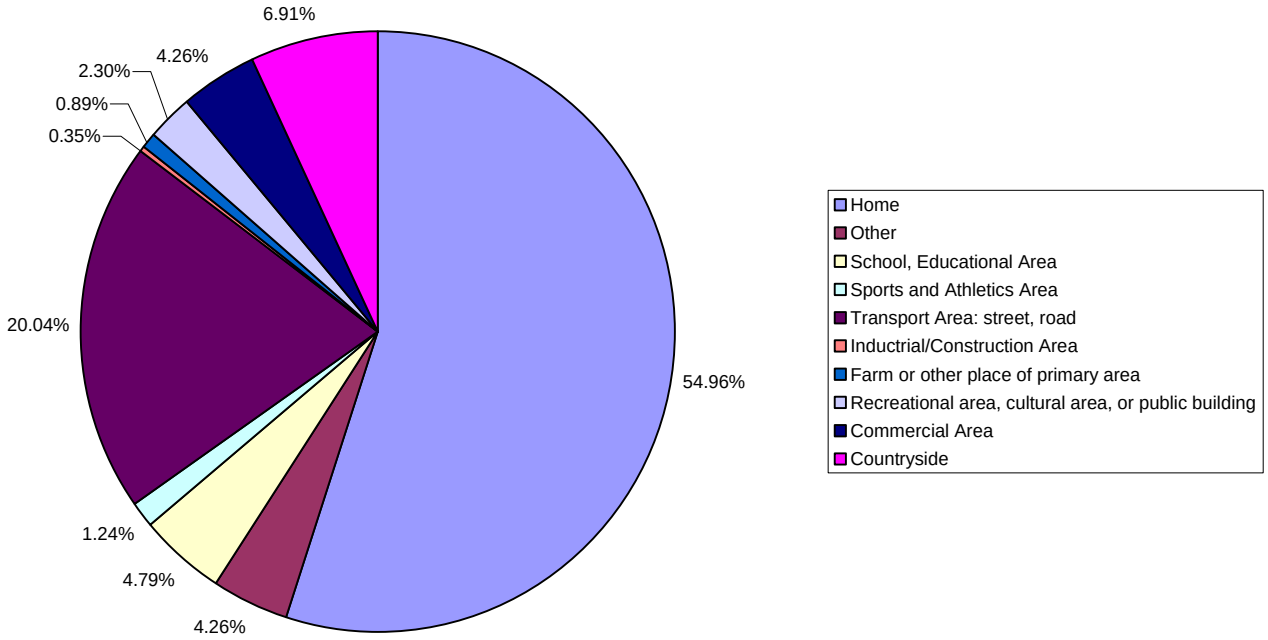


% total of accidents and injuries by age and gender

The table above shows the total number of accidents and injuries by age and gender as a percentage of the total recorded seen at the A & E Department of Gozo General Hospital. 13,278 patients visited the Emergency Department. The number of injuries were 1,645 of which 564 (34.29%) were females and 1081 (65.71%) were males.

Place of Occurrence

The place of occurrence refers to the place where the injured person was when the injury event started.



Place of Occurrence

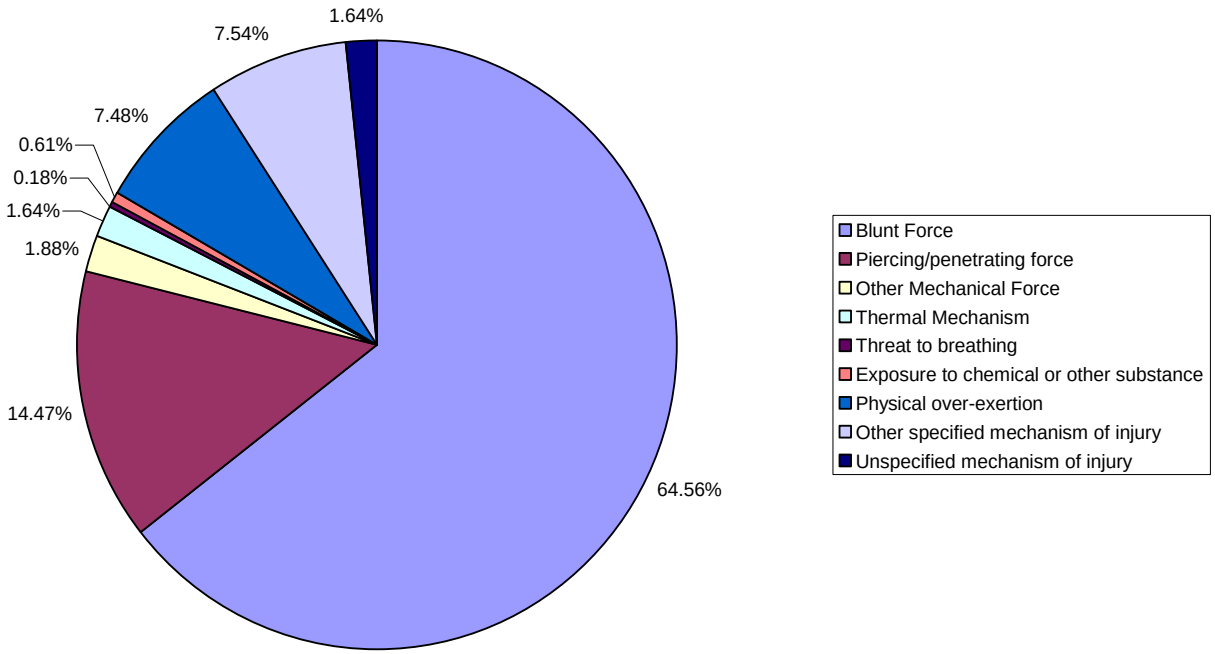
"Other place of occurrence" include also residential institutions, medical service areas.

Place of Accident	F	M	Total
Home	54.96%	37.74%	43.65%
Other	4.26%	7.40%	6.32%
School, Educational Area	4.79%	4.26%	4.44%
Sports and Athletics Area	1.24%	8.60%	6.08%
Transport Area: street, road	20.04%	16.93%	17.99%
Industrial/Construction Area	0.35%	9.53%	6.38%
Farm or other place of primary area	0.89%	2.41%	1.88%
Recreational area, cultural area, or public building	2.30%	3.05%	2.80%
Commercial Area	4.26%	2.50%	3.10%
Countryside	6.91%	7.59%	7.36%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Mechanism of Injury

The mechanism of injury defines the way the injury was sustained, that is, how the person was hurt. This results when human body is acutely exposed to some form of energy and sustains some form of damage. An injury may also be the result of insufficiency of any of the vital elements.

Two main mechanisms of injury are recorded, namely, underlying mechanisms (those involved at the start of the injury event) and direct mechanisms (those producing the actual physical harm).



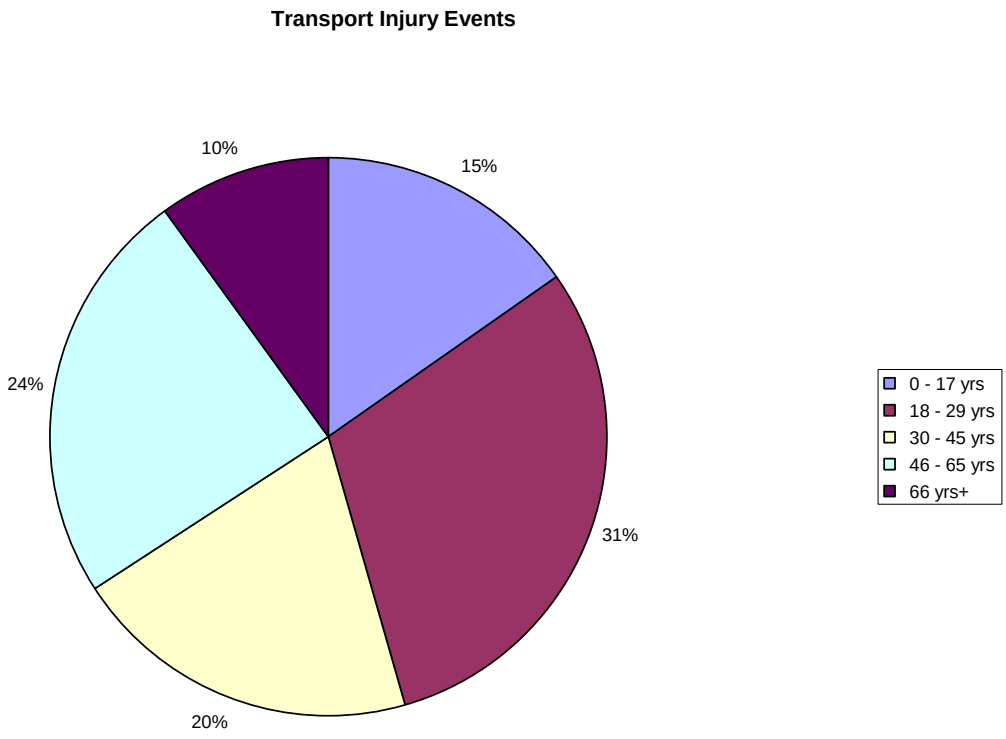
Mechanism of Injury

Mechanism of Injury	F	M	Grand Total
Blunt Force	74.47%	59.39%	64.56%
Piercing/penetrating force	10.64%	16.47%	14.47%
Other Mechanical Force	0.53%	2.59%	1.88%
Thermal Mechanism	1.95%	1.48%	1.64%
Threat to breathing	0.18%	0.19%	0.18%
Exposure to chemical or other substance	1.06%	0.37%	0.61%
Physical over-exertion	8.16%	7.12%	7.48%
Other specified mechanism of injury	2.13%	10.36%	7.54%
Unspecified mechanism of injury	0.89%	2.04%	1.64%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Transport Injury Events

Transport injury events include crashes and other injuries occurring in the course of transportation or involving devices being used primarily for conveying persons from one place to another.

Transport devices include land transport vehicles, which may or may not be motor-driven. Persons recorded in this section may be both pedestrians or users of a transport devise.

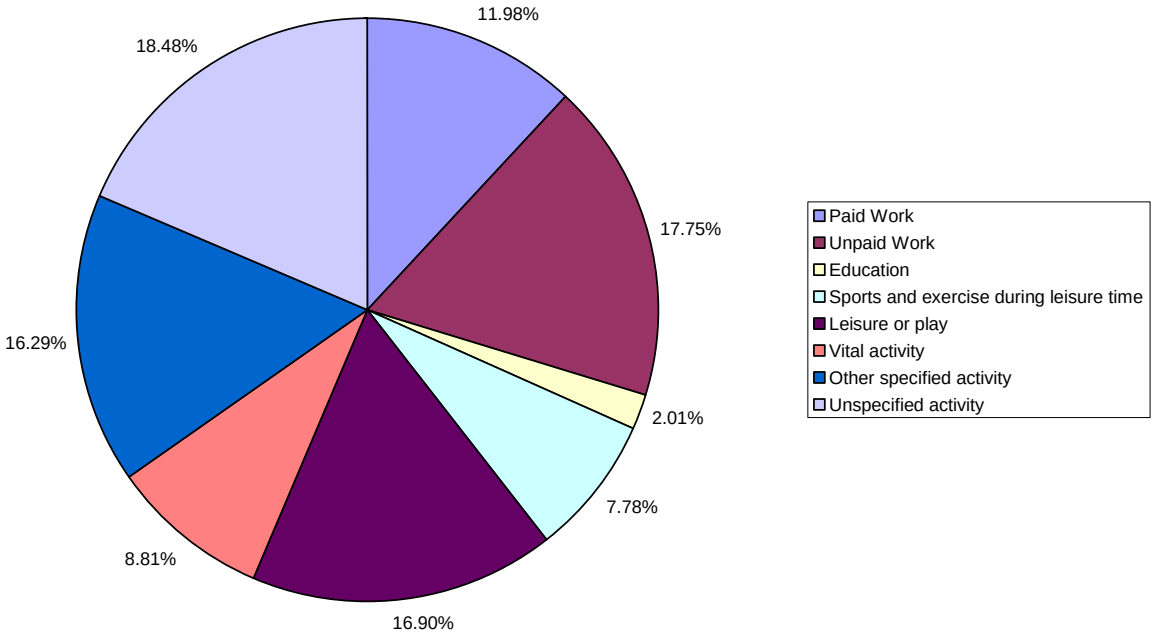


Trasport Injury by gender

F	M	Grand Total
28	51	79

Activity

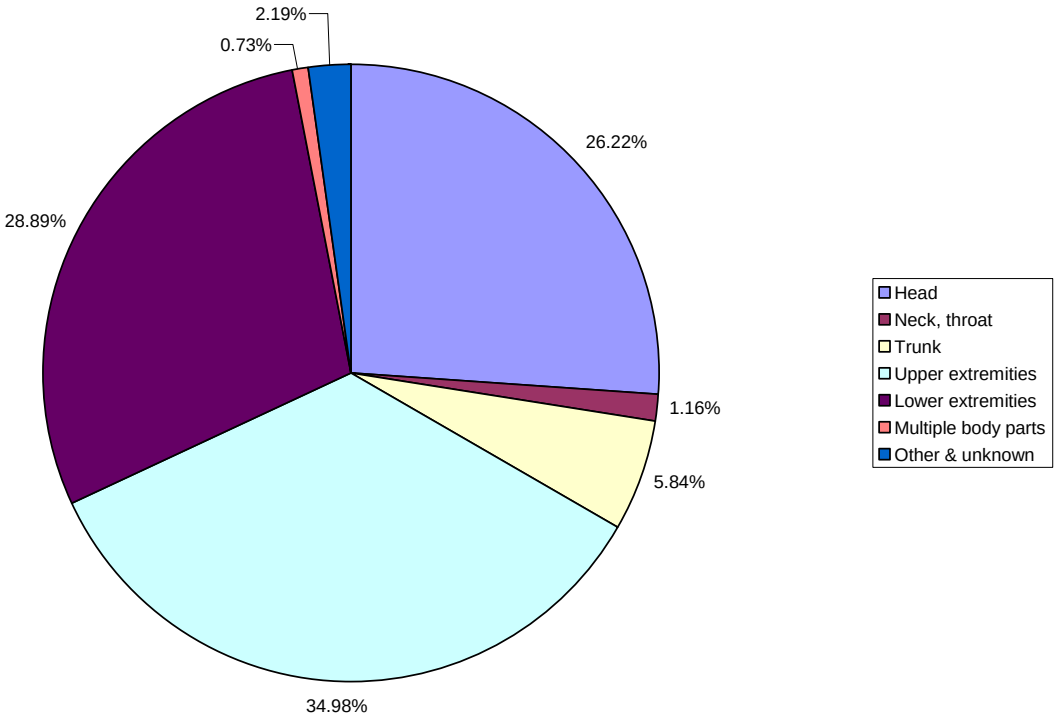
The type of activity shows the activity the injured person was engaged in when the injury occurred. Studies of activities leading to injuries that occur while a person is working or engaged in a sport may help guide development of more effective prevention strategies.



Activity when injured

Activity when injured	F	M	Grand Total
Paid Work	3.19%	16.56%	11.98%
Unpaid Work	19.33%	16.93%	17.75%
Education	2.66%	1.67%	2.01%
Sports and exercise during leisure time	1.95%	10.82%	7.78%
Leisure or play	15.60%	17.58%	16.90%
Vital activity	12.06%	7.12%	8.81%
Other specified activity	24.11%	12.21%	16.29%
Unspecified activity	21.10%	17.11%	18.48%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Part of Body Injured



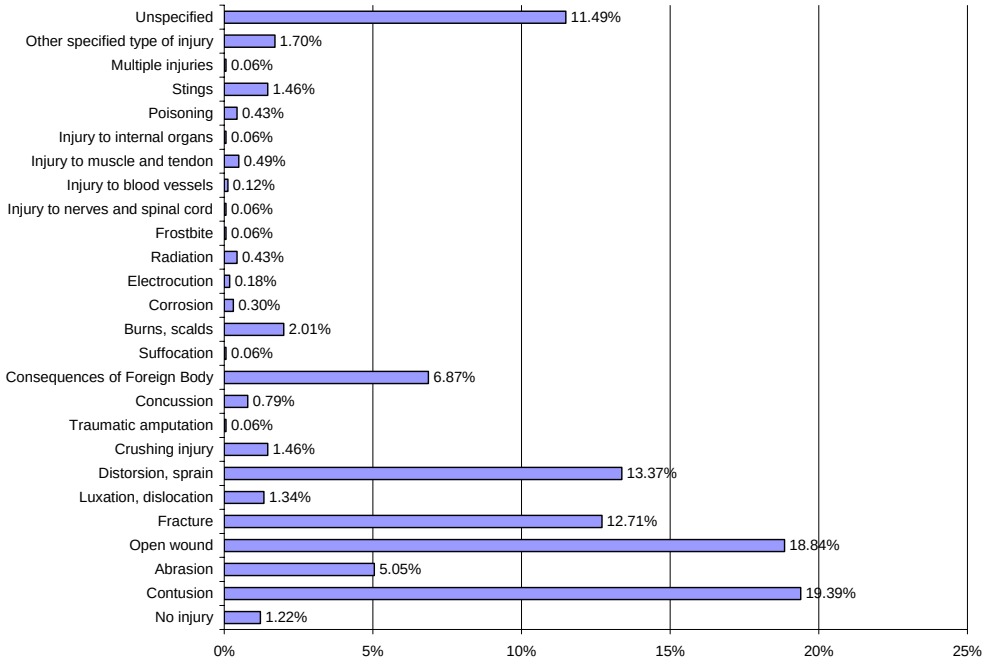
Part of Body injured

The region or part of the body where the injury is located can be seen below.

Part Of Body Injured	F	M	Grand Total
Head	19.01%	29.97%	26.22%
Neck, throat	1.07%	1.20%	1.16%
Trunk	5.86%	5.83%	5.84%
Upper extremities	38.01%	33.40%	34.98%
Lower extremities	33.93%	26.27%	28.89%
Multiple body parts	0.00%	1.11%	0.73%
Other & unknown	2.13%	2.22%	2.19%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Type of Injury

The figure below shows the types of injuries as classified in the database.



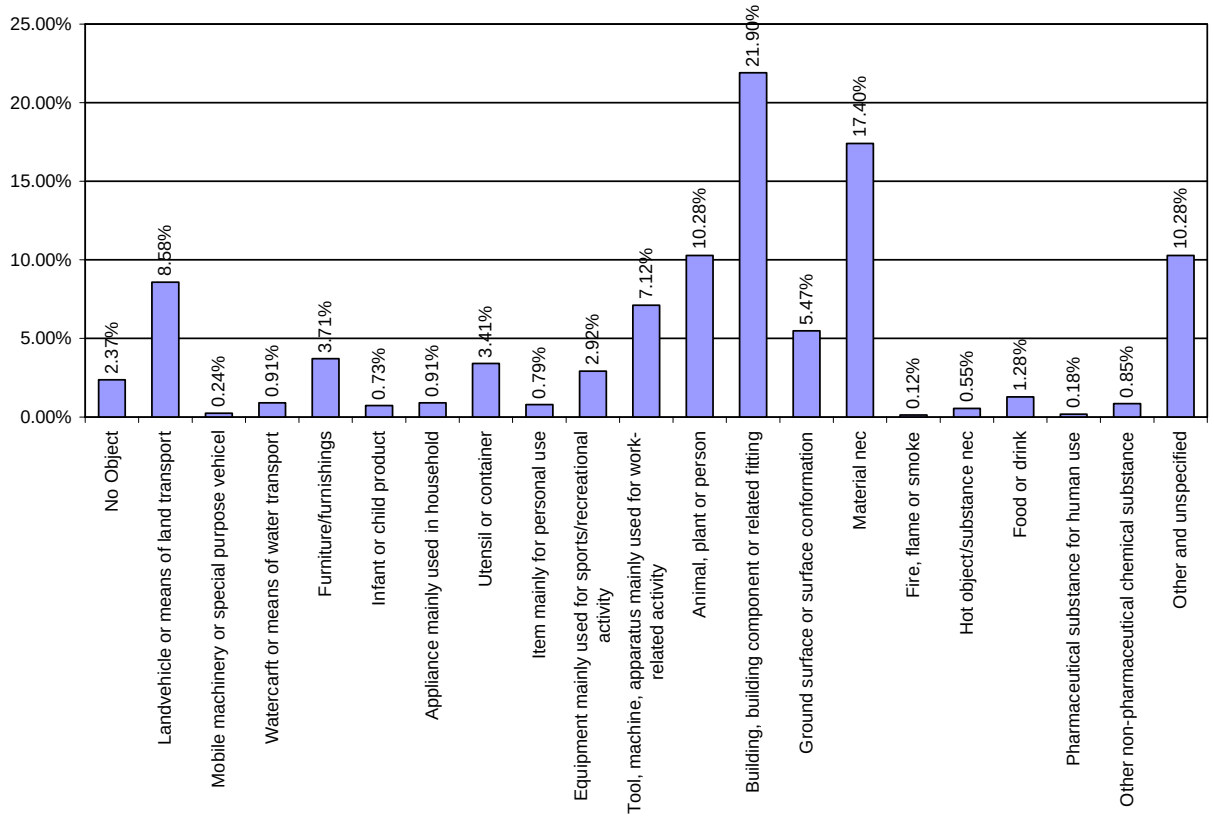
Type of Injury

Type of Injury	F	M	Grand Total
No injury	1.42%	1.11%	1.22%
Contusion	24.47%	16.74%	19.39%
Abrasion	4.08%	5.55%	5.05%
Open wound	13.83%	21.46%	18.84%
Fracture	16.84%	10.55%	12.71%
Luxation, dislocation	1.42%	1.30%	1.34%
Distorsion, sprain	17.20%	11.38%	13.37%
Crushing injury	0.89%	1.76%	1.46%
Traumatic amputation	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Concussion	1.06%	0.65%	0.79%
Consequences of Foreign Body	1.77%	9.53%	6.87%
Suffocation	0.18%	0.00%	0.06%
Burns, scalds	1.77%	2.13%	2.01%
Corrosion	0.71%	0.09%	0.30%
Electrocution	0.00%	0.28%	0.18%
Radiation	0.00%	0.65%	0.43%
Frostbite	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Injury to nerves and spinal cord	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Injury to blood vessels	0.18%	0.09%	0.12%
Injury to muscle and tendon	0.53%	0.46%	0.49%
Injury to internal organs	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Poisoning	0.35%	0.46%	0.43%
Stings	1.42%	1.48%	1.46%
Multiple injuries	0.00%	0.09%	0.06%
Other specified type of injury	1.24%	1.94%	1.70%
Unspecified	10.64%	11.93%	11.49%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Object/Product

Injuries are often the result of a sequence of events (matter, material or thing). Three types of objects/substances may be involved in the injury:

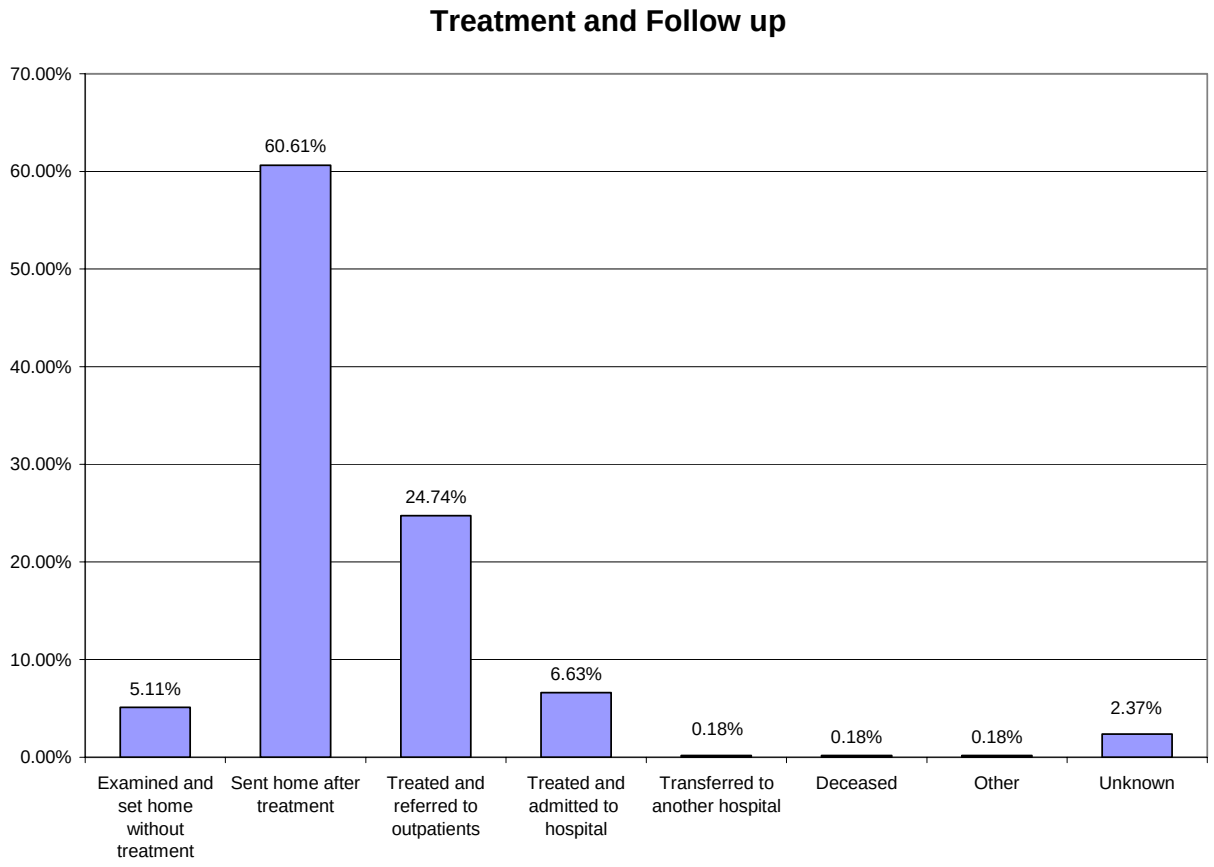
1. The indirect object/substance-the object/substance involved at the start of the injury event;
2. The direct object/substance - the object/substance producing the actual physical harm;
3. Intermediate object/substance – other objects/substances involved in the injury event.



Object Involved	F	M	Total
No Object	3.01%	2.04%	2.37%
Landvehicle or means of land transport	7.62%	9.07%	8.58%
Mobile machinery or special purpose vehicle	0.00%	0.37%	0.24%
Watercarft or means of water transport	1.06%	0.83%	0.91%
Furniture/furnishings	6.21%	2.41%	3.71%
Infant or child product	0.71%	0.74%	0.73%
Appliance mainly used in household	1.42%	0.65%	0.91%
Utensil or container	3.90%	3.15%	3.41%
Item mainly for personal use	1.06%	0.65%	0.79%
Equipment mainly used for sports/recreational activity	0.71%	4.07%	2.92%
Tool, machine, apparatus mainly used for work-related activity	1.77%	9.91%	7.12%
Animal, plant or person	8.51%	11.20%	10.28%
Building, building component or related fitting	29.26%	18.06%	21.90%
Ground surface or surface conformation	6.38%	5.00%	5.47%
Material nec	14.89%	18.70%	17.40%
Fire, flame or smoke	0.18%	0.09%	0.12%
Hot object/substance nec	0.71%	0.46%	0.55%
Food or drink	1.06%	1.39%	1.28%
Pharmaceutical substance for human use	0.18%	0.19%	0.18%
Other non-pharmaceutical chemical substance	1.06%	0.74%	0.85%
Other and unspecified	10.28%	10.28%	10.28%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Treatment and Follow up

Shows management of the injured person after attendance at the Emergency Department. The purpose of this data element is to give a simple indication of the severity and therefore an indication of the burden of injuries.



Treatment & Follow up	F	M	Total
Examined and set home without treatment	2.19%	2.92%	5.11%
Sent home after treatment	20.36%	40.24%	60.61%
Treated and referred to outpatients	9.06%	15.68%	24.74%
Treated and admitted to hospital	2.01%	4.62%	6.63%
Transferred to another hospital	0.00%	0.18%	0.18%
Deceased	0.06%	0.12%	0.18%
Other	0.00%	0.18%	0.18%
Unknown	0.61%	1.76%	2.37%
Grand Total	34.29%	65.71%	100.00%

Acknowledgements:

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