

# INJURY DATABASE (IDB)

**Gozo General Hospital  
Admitting and Emergency Department**



January – December 2008

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report exhibits admissions due to injuries at the A & E Department at Gozo General Hospital for 2008.

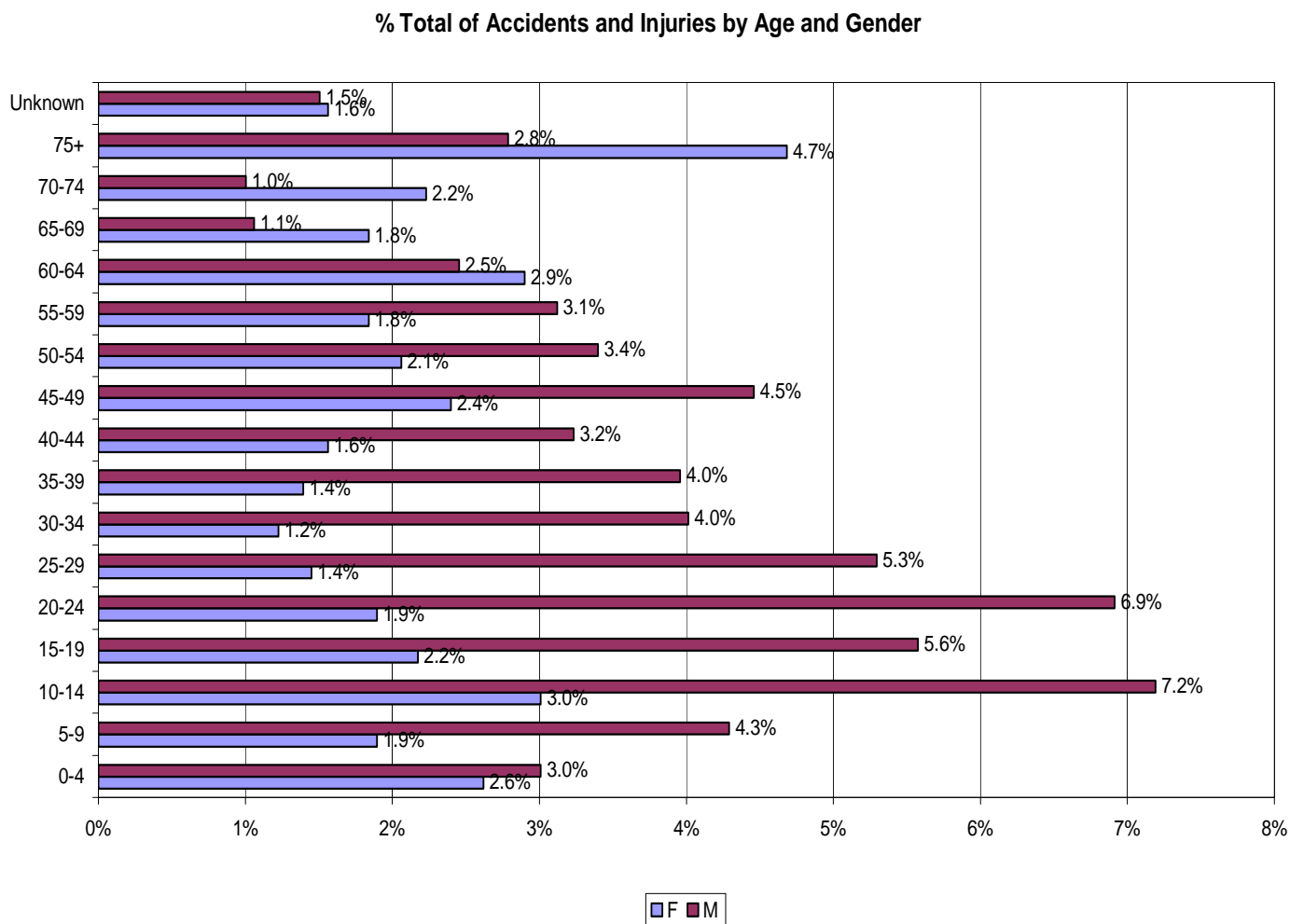
Accuracy and completeness of data sent on the IDB reporting forms is the responsibility of the department providing the data. To enhance data collection and quality, an official from the Department of Health Information and Research visits GGH on a regular basis to collect further information.

### **Acknowledgements:**

In the compilation of this report, we would like to thank Dr. Neville Calleja, Director Health Information and Research, Dr. Frank Calleja and Dr. Kathleen England, for providing cross linkages with their registers Hospital Information Systems and National Death Register respectively to refine IDB data. Appreciation goes to Ms. Maryann Magro for her patience and dedication in data entry process and Ms. Claudia Galea, student, for providing the tables.

Acknowledgements for support go to Dr. A. Livori, Medical Administrator GGH, the Officers in charge and Ms. Catherine Vella, Officer i/c and Mr. Mario Borg, deputy Officer A & E Department GGH and the staff for their committed cooperation in view of the increase in information requirements to make this project possible.

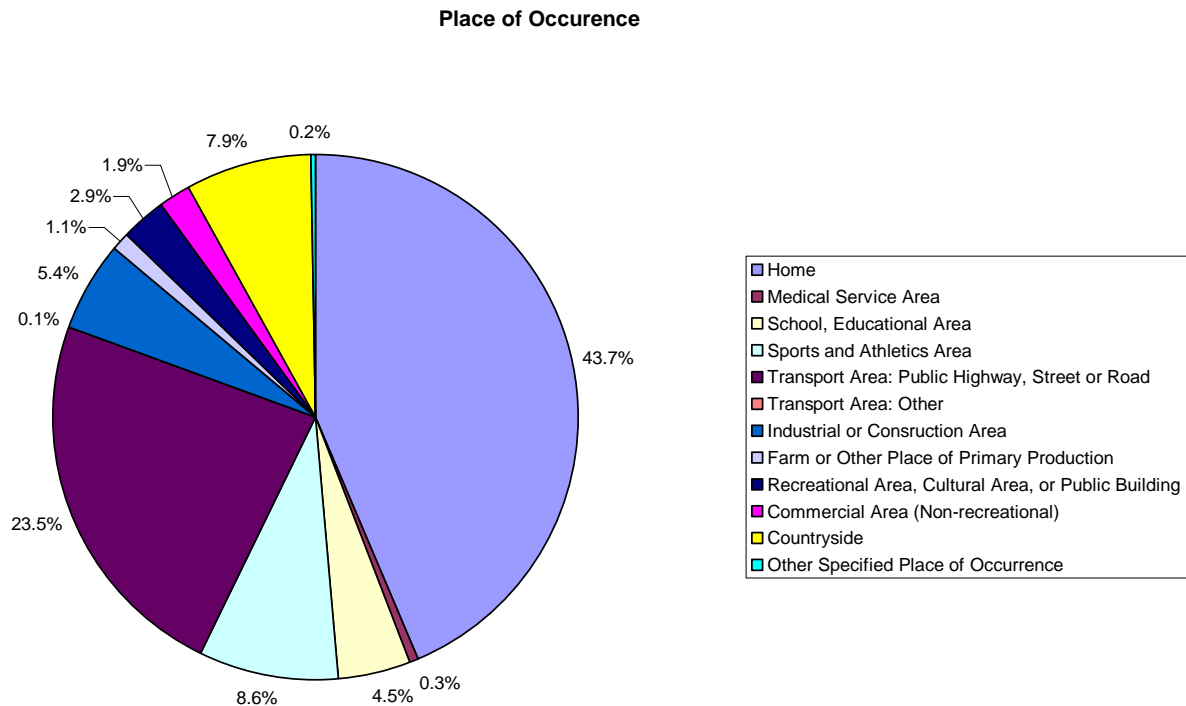
## Total Accidents and Injuries by Age and Gender



The figure above shows the total number of persons presenting following accidents and injuries by age group and gender as a percentage of the total recorded at the A & E Department of Gozo General Hospital. The number of injured persons presenting at the A & E amounted to 1,794 of which 659 (36.73%) were females and were 1135 (63.27%) males.

## Place of Occurrence

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

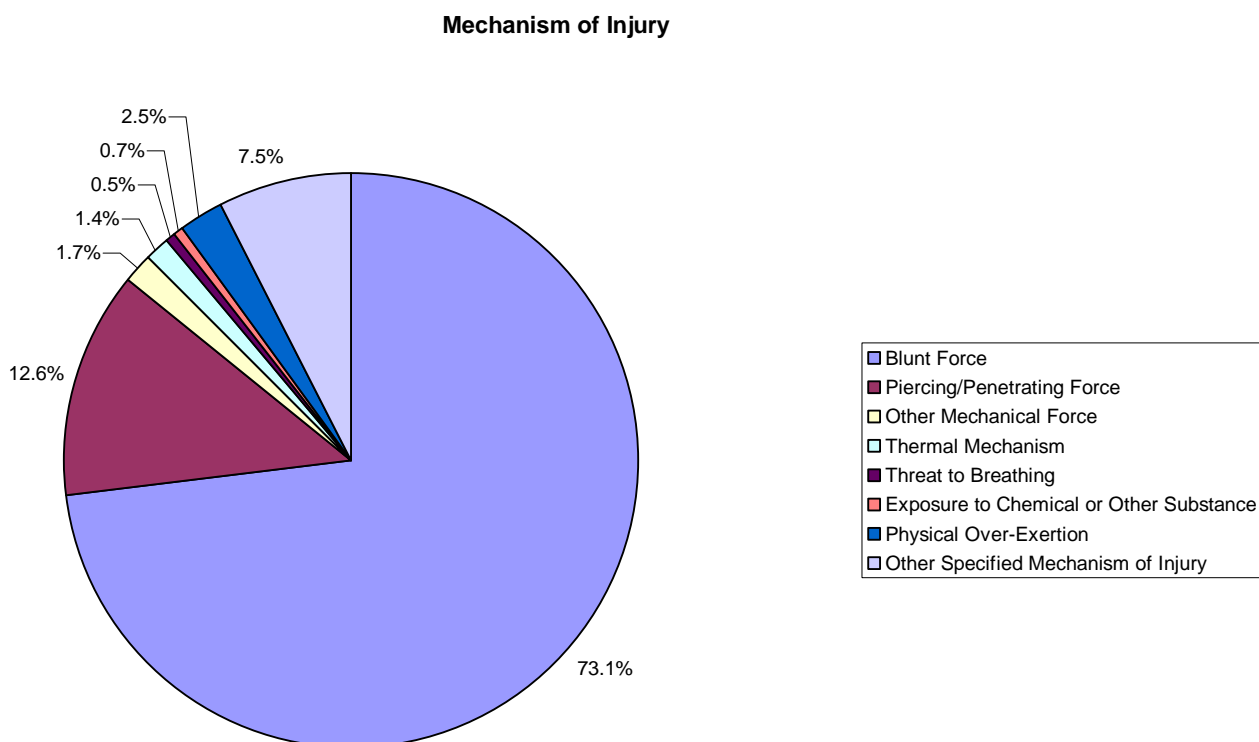


“Other specified place of occurrence” also included residential institutions, medical service areas.

Place of Accident	F	M	Total
Home	20.15%	23.57%	43.72%
Medical Service Area	0.08%	0.24%	0.33%
School, Educational Area	1.79%	2.69%	4.49%
Sports and Athletics Area	1.14%	7.42%	8.56%
Transport Area: Public Highway, Street or Road	9.14%	14.36%	23.49%
Transport Area: Other	0.08%	0.00%	0.08%
Industrial or Construction Area	0.08%	5.30%	5.38%
Farm or Other Place of Primary Production	0.16%	0.98%	1.14%
Recreational Area, Cultural Area, or Public Building	0.82%	2.04%	2.85%
Commercial Area (Non-recreational)	0.73%	1.14%	1.88%
Countryside	2.69%	5.22%	7.91%
Other Specified Place of Occurrence	0.00%	0.16%	0.16%
Grand Total	36.87%	63.13%	100.00%
Home	20.15%	23.57%	43.72%
Medical Service Area	0.08%	0.24%	0.33%

% “place of occurrence” by gender

## 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 (eg drowning/near drowning, strangulation or freezing).

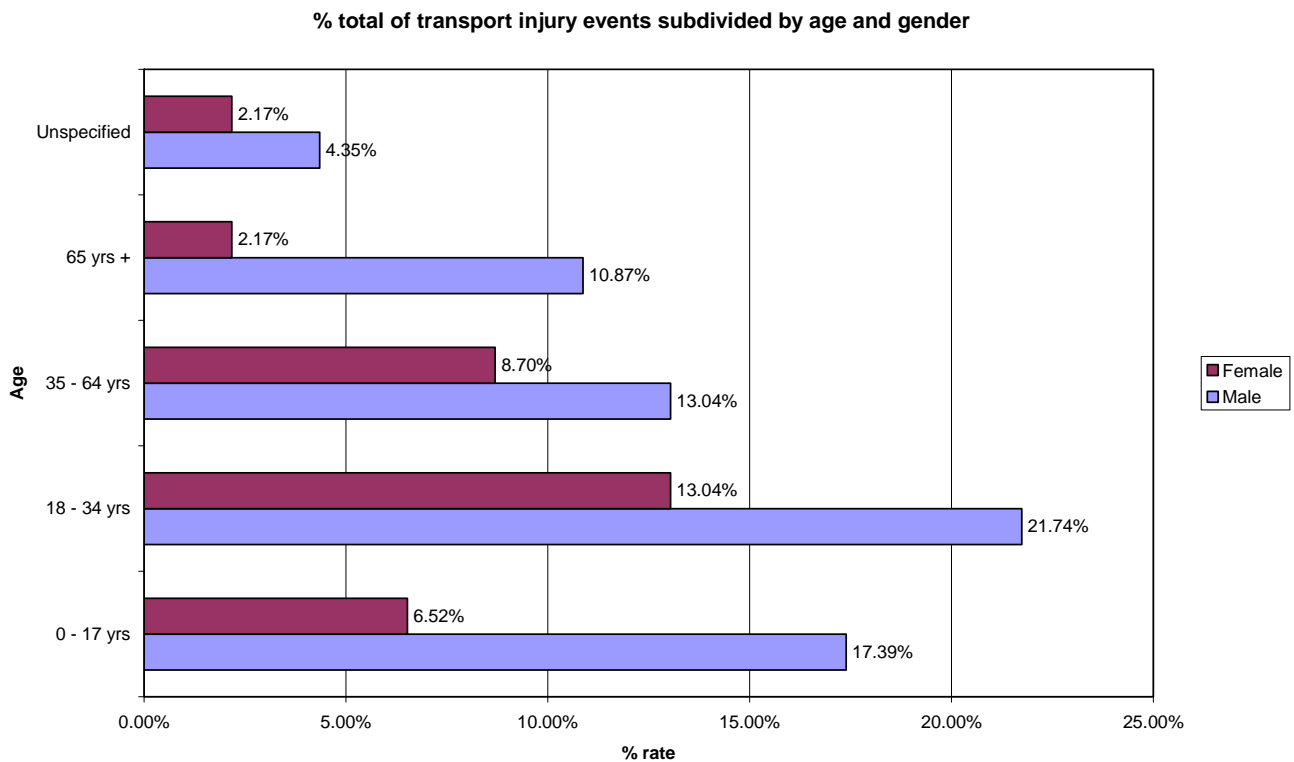
Two main mechanisms of injury are recorded, namely, underlying mechanisms (those involved at the start of the injury event) and direct mechanisms (those producing the actual physical harm).

<b>Mechanism of Injury</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Total</b>
Blunt Force	29.60%	43.55%	73.15%
Piercing/Penetrating Force	3.73%	8.84%	12.56%
Other Mechanical Force	0.23%	1.43%	1.66%
Thermal Mechanism	0.86%	0.57%	1.43%
Threat to Breathing	0.29%	0.23%	0.52%
Exposure to Chemical or Other Substance	0.11%	0.57%	0.69%
Physical Over-Exertion	0.98%	1.55%	2.52%
Other Specified Mechanism of Injury	1.03%	6.43%	7.46%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36.83%</b>	<b>63.17%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Blunt Force	29.60%	43.55%	73.15%

## Transport Injury Events

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

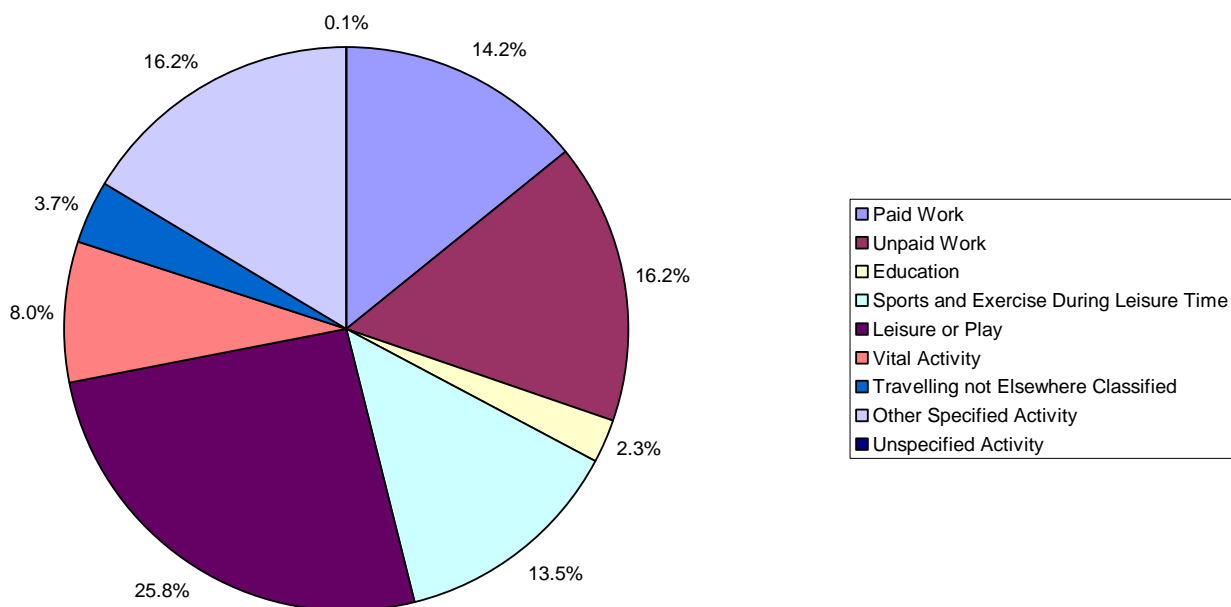
Transport devices include land transport vehicles, which may or may not be motor-driven. Persons recorded in this section may be both pedestrians or users of a transport device.



## Activity

The type of activity denotes 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 in the development of more effective prevention strategies.

Activity when Injured



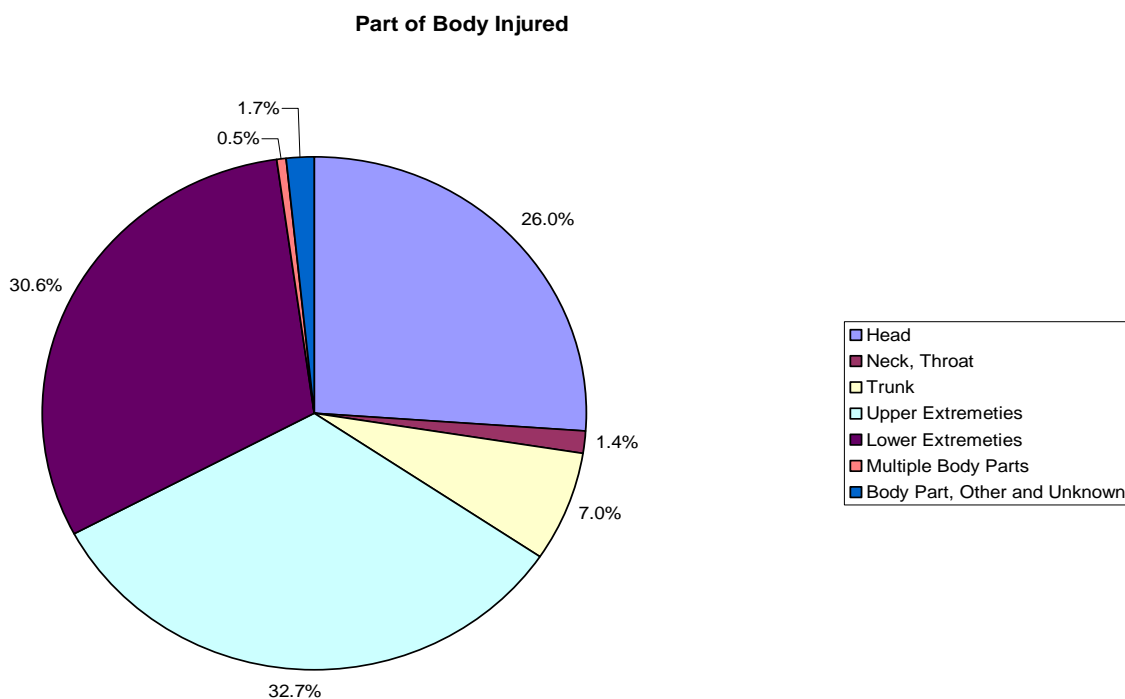
Activity	F	M	Total
Paid Work	0.89%	13.31%	14.20%
Unpaid Work	6.65%	9.53%	16.19%
Education	1.29%	0.99%	2.28%
Sports and Exercise During Leisure Time	2.28%	11.22%	13.51%
Leisure or Play	8.64%	17.18%	25.82%
Vital Activity	4.37%	3.67%	8.04%
Travelling not Elsewhere Classified	1.09%	2.58%	3.67%
Other Specified Activity	8.14%	8.04%	16.19%
Unspecified Activity	0.10%	0.00%	0.10%
Grand Total	33.47%	66.53%	100.00%

### Total % of activity by gender



## Part of Body Injured

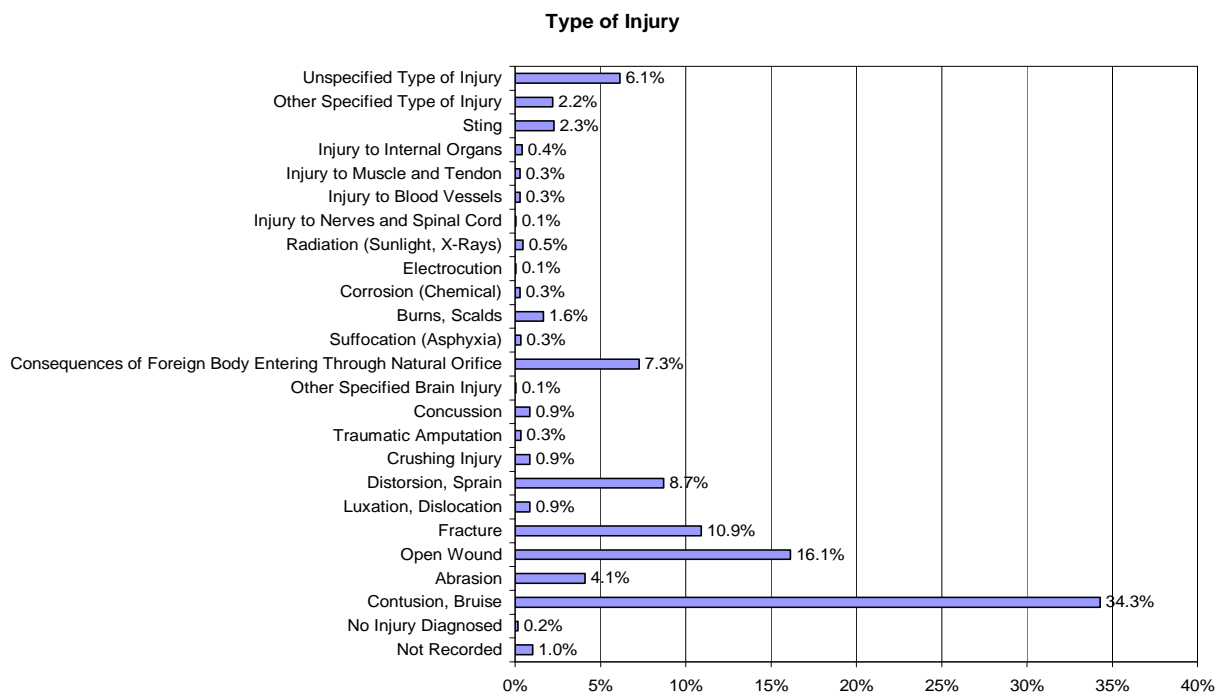
The region or part of the body where the injury is located can be seen below.



Part of Body Injured	F	M	Total
Head	7.11%	18.87%	25.98%
Neck, Throat	0.74%	0.68%	1.42%
Trunk	2.39%	4.66%	7.05%
Upper Extremities	11.31%	21.38%	32.69%
Lower Extremities	14.27%	16.37%	30.64%
Multiple Body Parts	0.11%	0.40%	0.51%
Body Part, Other and Unknown	0.74%	0.97%	1.71%
Grand Total	36.67%	63.33%	100.00%

## Type of Injury

The figure below shows the types of injuries as a percentage of all injuries entered in the database.



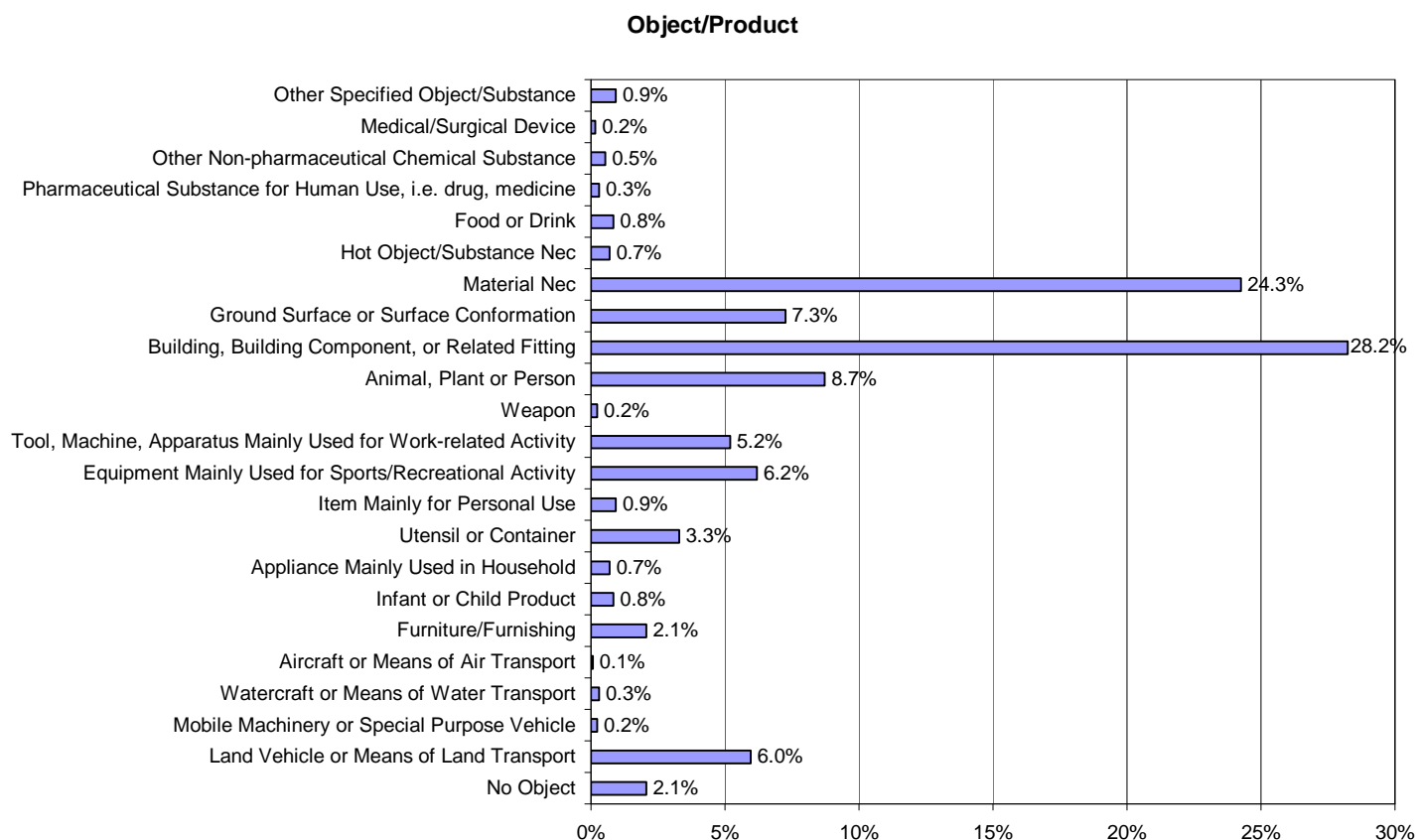
Type of Injury	F	M	Total
Not Recorded	0.45%	0.57%	1.02%
No Injury Diagnosed	0.06%	0.11%	0.17%
Contusion, Bruise	13.08%	21.21%	34.28%
Abrasion	1.53%	2.56%	4.09%
Open Wound	4.32%	11.82%	16.15%
Fracture	5.80%	5.12%	10.92%
Luxation, Dislocation	0.45%	0.40%	0.85%
Distorsion, Sprain	3.70%	5.00%	8.70%
Crushing Injury	0.23%	0.63%	0.85%
Traumatic Amputation	0.06%	0.28%	0.34%
Concussion	0.17%	0.68%	0.85%
Other Specified Brain Injury	0.00%	0.06%	0.06%
Consequences of Foreign Body Entering Through Natural Orifice	1.31%	5.97%	7.28%
Suffocation (Asphyxia)	0.17%	0.17%	0.34%
Burns, Scalds	0.85%	0.80%	1.65%
Corrosion (Chemical)	0.00%	0.28%	0.28%
Electrocution	0.00%	0.06%	0.06%
Radiation (Sunlight, X-Rays)	0.00%	0.45%	0.45%
Injury to Nerves and Spinal Cord	0.06%	0.00%	0.06%
Injury to Blood Vessels	0.00%	0.28%	0.28%
Injury to Muscle and Tendon	0.06%	0.23%	0.28%
Injury to Internal Organs	0.11%	0.28%	0.40%
Sting	0.97%	1.31%	2.27%
Other Specified Type of Injury	0.85%	1.36%	2.22%
Unspecified Type of Injury	2.44%	3.70%	6.14%

## **Type of injuries as a % of all injuries by gender**

## 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.



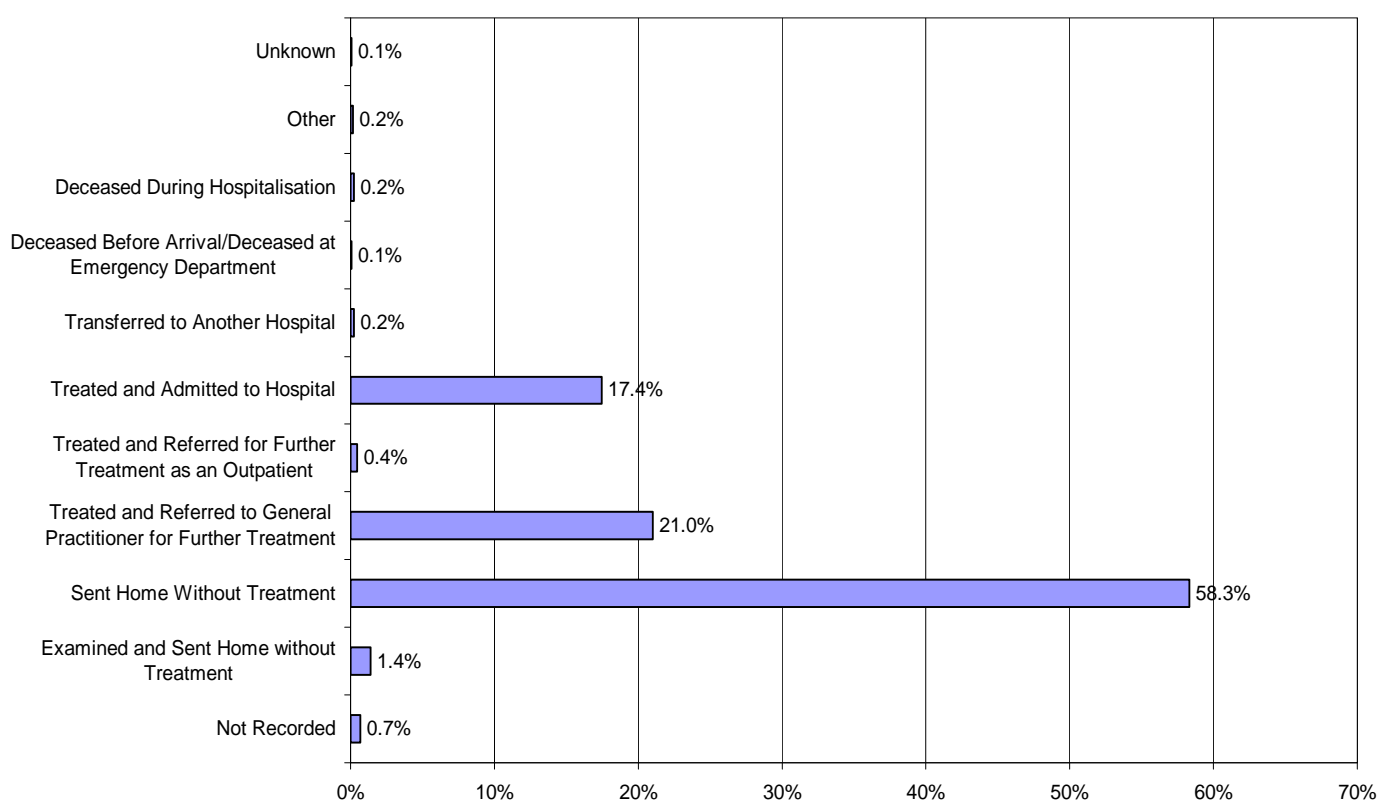
<b>Objects and Products</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Total</b>
No Object	0.84%	1.22%	2.07%
Land Vehicle or Means of Land Transport	1.99%	3.98%	5.97%
Mobile Machinery or Special Purpose Vehicle	0.00%	0.23%	0.23%
Watercraft or Means of Water Transport	0.00%	0.31%	0.31%
Aircraft or Means of Air Transport	0.08%	0.00%	0.08%
Furniture/Furnishing	0.99%	1.07%	2.07%
Infant or Child Product	0.38%	0.46%	0.84%
Appliance Mainly Used in Household	0.46%	0.23%	0.69%
Utensil or Container	0.99%	2.30%	3.29%
Item Mainly for Personal Use	0.46%	0.46%	0.92%
Equipment Mainly Used for Sports/Recreational Activity	1.30%	4.90%	6.20%
Tool, Machine, Apparatus Mainly Used for Work-related Activity	0.15%	5.05%	5.20%
Weapon	0.00%	0.23%	0.23%
Animal, Plant or Person	3.06%	5.66%	8.72%
Building, Building Component, or Related Fitting	14.61%	13.62%	28.23%
Ground Surface or Surface Conformation	2.37%	4.90%	7.27%
Material Nec	7.57%	16.68%	24.25%
Hot Object/Substance Nec	0.31%	0.38%	0.69%
Food or Drink	0.69%	0.15%	0.84%
Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use, i.e. drug, medicine	0.15%	0.15%	0.31%
Other Non-pharmaceutical Chemical Substance	0.00%	0.54%	0.54%
Medical/Surgical Device	0.08%	0.08%	0.15%
Other Specified Object/Substance	0.38%	0.54%	0.92%
Grand Total	36.88%	63.12%	100.00%
No Object	0.84%	1.22%	2.07%

### **Objects in involved in accidents by gender**

## Treatment and Follow up

This denotes the status of treatment of the injured person after attendance at the Emergency Department. This parameter relates to the severity of injuries and hence gives an indication of the burden of injuries.

**Treatment and Follow -up**



<b>Treatment and Follow Up</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Total</b>
Not Recorded	0.45%	0.22%	0.67%
Examined and Sent Home without Treatment	0.78%	0.61%	1.39%
Sent Home Without Treatment	20.07%	38.24%	58.31%
Treated and Referred to General Practitioner for Further Treatment	7.97%	13.04%	21.01%
Treated and Referred for Further Treatment as an Outpatient	0.22%	0.22%	0.45%
Treated and Admitted to Hospital	6.97%	10.48%	17.45%
Transferred to Another Hospital	0.06%	0.17%	0.22%
Deceased Before Arrival/Deceased at Emergency Department	0.00%	0.06%	0.06%
Deceased During Hospitalisation	0.11%	0.11%	0.22%
Other	0.11%	0.06%	0.17%
Unknown	0.00%	0.06%	0.06%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36.73%</b>	<b>63.27%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

