INJURIES IN PRISONS

QISPP recorded 686 injuries occurring in prisons during the four year period from July 1988 to June 1992.

OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN PRISONS
13% of injuries recorded by QISPP as occurring in prisons were in an occupational context. One quarter of these occurred in the 35 - 39 years age group. More of these injuries occurred in July than in any other month of the year.
The on-the-job injuries in prisons reported to QISPP tended to be minor, with only 2% of these injuries requiring admission to hospital. On-the-job injuries decreased noticeably on Saturdays and Sundays.

- 15% of these injuries were the result of falls
- 40% of injuries were violence-related
- 21 people were injured during legal intervention
- 78% of those injured were prison officers or police

The most common injury scenarios were:
- restraining prisoner, was punched/kicked
- slipped on wet floor/polished floor
- injured while breaking up tights between inmates
- closed door/gate on finger/face/arm
- assaulted
- injured while grinding/welding/sawing
- fell down stairs

(Continued on page 2)
NON-OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN PRISONS

87% of QISPP prison injuries fell into the non-occupational category. Over half of these injuries occurred in the 20 - 29 years age group. None of those injured was over 60 years of age. 18% of these injuries required admission to hospital. The numbers of non-occupational prison injuries showed a sustained increase in November and December. Almost one third of injuries were the result of fights, quarrels and aggression, one fifth of the injuries were the result of intended self harm and almost one fifth of the injuries were related to falls.

Only 8% of injuries occurred during sport, compared with the database average of 13% of injuries occurring during sport.

15% of injuries were cuts and lacerations to the forearm, wrist, hand or fingers, 14% of injuries were cuts and lacerations to the face or head and 12% of injuries were bruising or haematoma to the face or head.

6% of injuries involved foreign bodies in the gastro-intestinal tract, 6% of injuries were fractures to the face or head, 6% of injuries were fractures to the hand, fingers or wrist and 3% of patients suffered back injuries.

3 patients suffered lacerations to the genitalia.

The injuries occurred more often on Fridays than any other day of the week, and the most common time for them to occur was between 6pm and 7 pm, followed by the period between 2 pm and 3 pm.

The following factors were most often reported in the non-occupational injuries:
- razors/shavers: 63 cases
- football/rugby: 31 cases
- drugs/alcohol/pesticides: 21 cases
- knives: 18 cases
- stairs or steps: 13 cases
- power workshop grinders/buffers/polishers: 11 cases
- bath tubs/showers etc: 9 cases
- batteries: 5 cases
- nails/screws/tacks/pins/needles: 5 cases

Four people were injured while handling livestock. The most common injury scenarios were:
- stole and ingested drugs
- hit by other inmates
- slipped and fell in shower
- self mutilations
- playing sport
- fighting with other inmates
- intentional overdose
- drinking/drunk
- hanging
- fell over/fell against

- swallowed razor blades
- lacerations by razor blades
- lacerations by broken glass
- slipped on wet floors/steps
- knife slipped
- assaulted
- swallowed batteries/safety pins/screws
- using equipment eg grinder/welder
- hit by cricket bat/broom/baton/chair/wood