



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**INDEPENDENCE DAY 2005: FIREWORK INJURIES REPORT**

HONOLULU – The number of injuries reported during Independence Day celebrations in Hawaii, 57, is the highest total reported since fireworks-related injury surveillance began for this holiday in 2003. This year's data, collected by the Injury Prevention Program of the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), indicates that injuries may have been preventable by simply complying with the age requirements and time limits set by law.

The majority of injuries (46, or 81%) occurred on July 4, 2005; however, five injuries occurred on July 3, 2005 and six were reported on July 5, 2005. Half (23) of the injuries that occurred on July 4 were sustained between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Legally, fireworks use was restricted to July 4, from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Three-quarters (43, or 75%) of those injured were under age 18, the age requirement to purchase and use fireworks in Hawaii. The victims ranged in age from 1 year to 42 years; the majority of victims (41, or 72%) were 14 years of age or younger, including four children between the ages of 6 and 9 years.

Geographically, the majority of injuries (37, or 65%) occurred on Oahu, 8 (14%) took place on Kauai, 7 (12%) occurred on Hawaii Island, and 5 (9%) took place on Maui. There was a predominance of male victims by almost 3:1.

(more)

Most (47, or 89%) of those injured were hurt while setting off or holding the fireworks, and six observers were also injured; data on these circumstances were not available for four of the victims. Nearly all of the injuries reported were burns, except for one injury described as a “blast injury.” The most frequently injured areas of the body were hands and fingers (47 injuries). There were also five leg injuries, five injuries to the head or face and two eye injuries.

Data collected are results of a survey of emergency departments at 22 hospitals statewide, including the Hana Health Center and the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. The Hawaii State Department of Health reminds the public that injuries are painful, injuries are preventable and injuries can change our lives in an instant. Find firework safety tips on the DOH website at [www.hawaii.gov/health](http://www.hawaii.gov/health).

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