



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**New Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**NEW YEAR FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES REMAIN HIGH**

HONOLULU - According to the Injury Prevention and Control Program (IPCP) of the Hawaii State Department of Health, 94 people were treated at Hawaii emergency departments (EDs) for fireworks-related injuries during this New Year period. Almost all patients were taken to the hospital via private transport and nearly all who were treated were discharged. Only 2 patients required hospitalization.

The number of injuries increased by 9% compared to last New Year's period (86 injuries), and the current total of 94 injuries is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest total in the 7 years of gathering this information. The majority of injuries occurred on Oahu (68, or 72% of the total). The remaining 26 injuries were reported from Neighbor Islands, which exceeds any previous total. Thirteen of those injuries occurred on Maui, approximately double the average number of 7 injuries for that island in previous years.

Most (91%) of the injuries were burns, with hands and fingers being the most commonly affected parts of the body. The age of the patients ranged from 2 to 54 years, but more than half (54 of 92, or 59%) were 16 years or younger. Six were between the ages of 2 and 4 years, 24 were between 5 and 9 years, and 24 were 10 to 16 year-olds. Only 9 patients (10%) were older than 30 years of age (age was not known for 2 patients).

Fireworks-related injuries continue to be a significant cause of ED-treated trauma around the New Year period, particularly among young children. Among children aged 2 through 14 years, there were more injuries (45) from fireworks during this 2-day period, than in an average month from car crashes (42), assaults (21), poisonings (13), or pedestrian crashes (9).

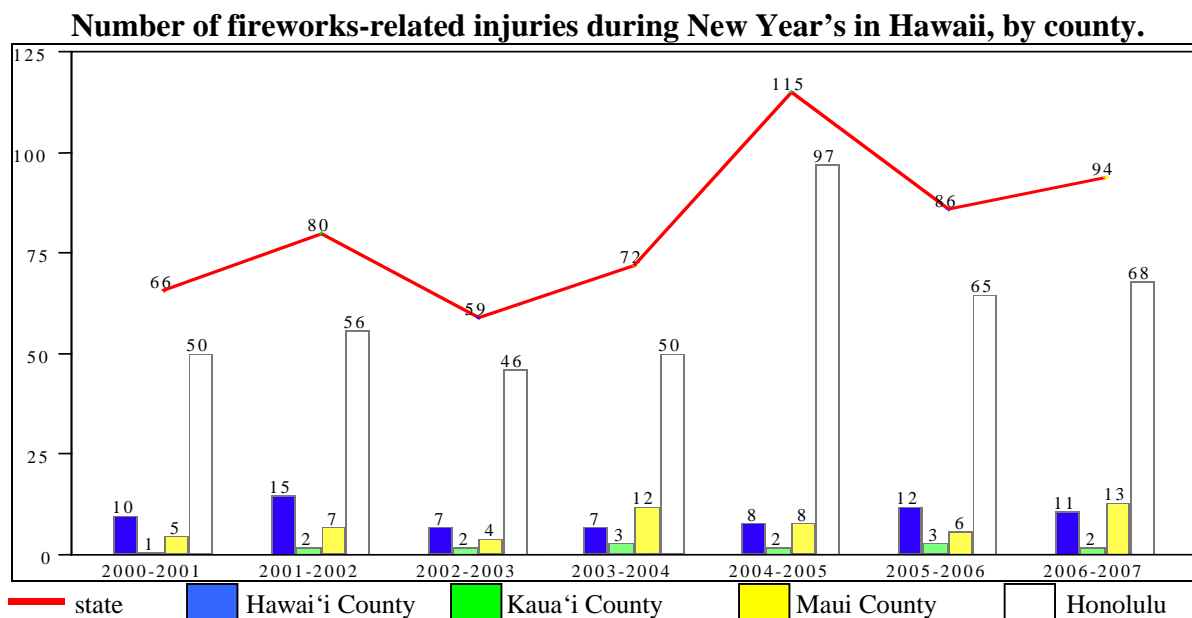
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## Summary of fireworks-related injury surveillance for 12/30/2006 - 1/2/2007

*\*Background:* The Injury Prevention Program of the Hawaii Department of Health annually collects information on fireworks-related injuries that require medical attention over the New Year period. Data was collected from the emergency departments (EDs) of all hospitals in the state (22 in total) and 2 health centers (Hana and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center).

*\*Results:* A total of 94 injuries were treated at EDs in Hawaii. This was a 9% increase from the total of 86 injuries during the previous New Year period, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest total in the 7 years of gathering this information (graph). Most of the increase was among patients in Maui County, from 6 injuries last year to 13 this year (117% increase). The number of injuries on Oahu increased slightly from 65 to 68.



\* The age of the victims ranged from 2 to 54 years, but more than half (54 of 92, or 59%) were 16 years or younger. Six were between the ages of 2 and 4 years, 24 were between 5 and 9 years, and 24 were 10 to 16 year-olds. Only 9 victims (10%) were older than 30 years of age. (Age was not known for 2 victims.) Most of the victims (71%) were males.

### \*Other findings:

- Almost all of the injured were eventually discharged from the EDs; only 2 were hospitalized.
- Most of the injuries (91%) were burns.
  - Hands and fingers (59 injuries) were the most commonly burned areas, followed by burns to the eyes (11) or other areas of the head and face (8).
- Most (86%) victims were injured while setting off or holding the firework; 14% observing.
- "Firecrackers" were the most commonly specified cause of injury.

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