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2025 FIREWORKS ANNUAL REPORT

FIREWORKS-RELATED FATALITIES AND NEISS ESTIMATE OF U.S. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT-TREATED INJURIES IN 2025

THE AMERICAN FIREWORKS STANDARDS LABORATORY
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND
USA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the results of the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL) staff's analysis of data on non-occupational, fireworks-related fatalities and injuries during calendar year 2025. The data is collected and maintained by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

AFSL obtained information on fireworks-related fatalities through CPSC's Clearinghouse database. The database contains information from various sources such as news clippings, internet news alerts, CPSC's Death Certificate database (DTHS), Medical Examiner and Coroner Reports database (MECAPS), and the Injury/Potential Injury Incident database (IPII). AFSL also estimated fireworks-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments from data contained in CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).

AFSL was founded in 1989 by key members of the fireworks industry to provide the American consumer the safest consumer fireworks available in the USA by monitoring and improving the quality of consumer fireworks being exported out of China. AFSL's Consumer Fireworks Standards are more extensive and more rigorous than CPSC standards, thus offering requirements that are more protective against unreasonable risk of injury and property damage. AFSL tests consumer fireworks for compliance to its standards in China and Cambodia, with smaller volumes being tested on occasion in Brazil, Thailand, and Mexico.

There is no legal requirement to test with AFSL. AFSL members elect to have their consumer fireworks tested to the most rigorous set of standards available because they are committed to providing the safest consumer fireworks available to the American consumer. AFSL typically tests about 70% of the consumer fireworks being imported into the USA. AFSL has tested over 183 million cases of consumer fireworks since the launch of the consumer fireworks testing and certification program, rejecting 13.5 million cases as noncompliant with AFSL Standards. The remaining roughly 30% of the imported fireworks, those not tested by AFSL, include illegal explosives/overloaded fireworks that are not compliant with federal law and present the greatest risk of a fireworks-related injury to the consumer.

KEY FINDINGS

Fatalities

AFSL reviewed reports of 24 non-occupational, fireworks-related fatalities that occurred during 2025. Much of the CPSC Clearinghouse data on fireworks-related fatalities lacks sufficient detail to determine the type of device or the hazard scenario that led to these tragic outcomes. In those cases that contained sufficient information, AFSL found that four (4) of the fatalities involved launching fireworks from the body or holding them in the hands, and another six (6) fatalities were associated with the use of devices illegal for consumer use, such as professional-grade display devices and highly energetic illegal explosives marketed as consumer fireworks. These extremely dangerous devices are not consumer fireworks devices and typically contain large amounts of very energetic pyrotechnic compositions.

Injuries

Fireworks were reportedly associated with an estimated 13,004 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2025, down 12% from the prior year. At the 95% confidence interval, the estimated 2025 injuries can range from 9,925 to 16,133. An estimated 9,538 (73%) of the injuries were treated and the victim was released from the emergency department. Another estimated 266 (2%) of the

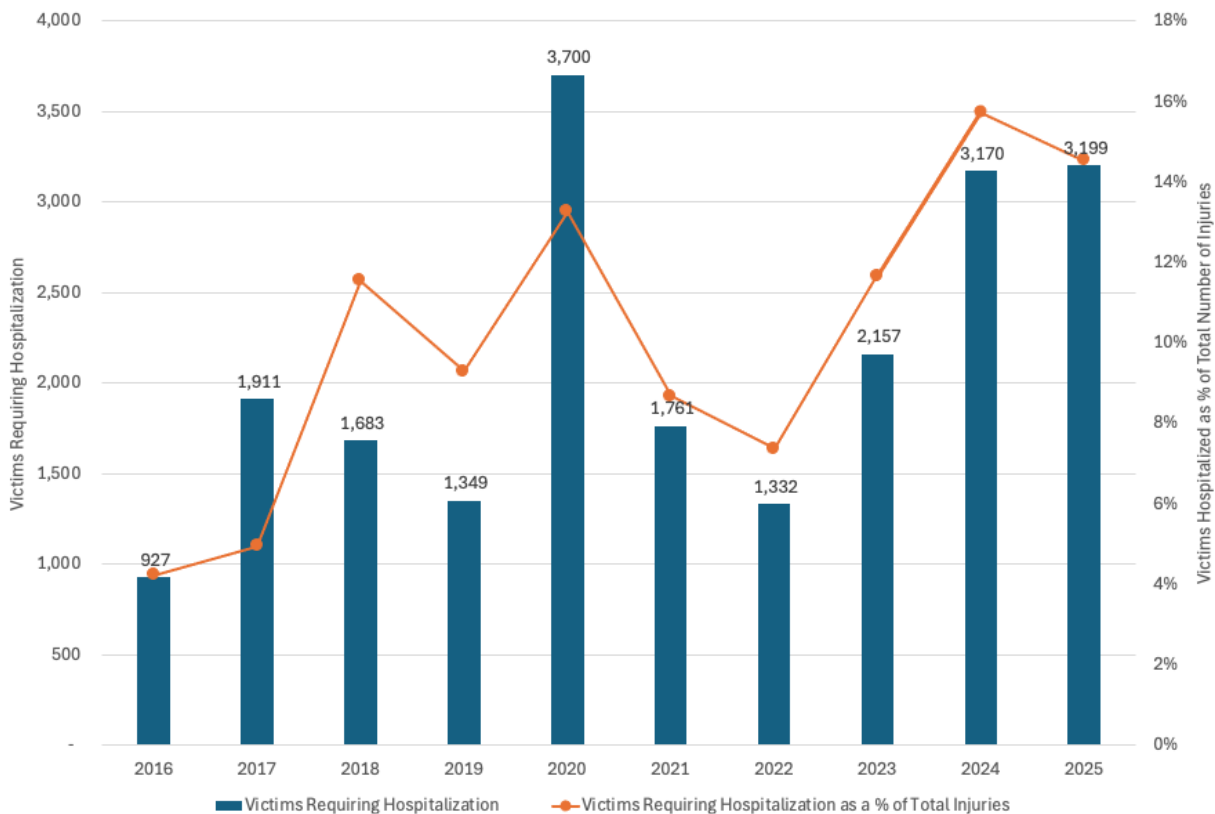
victims left the emergency department without being seen by emergency department personnel. The remaining estimated 3,147 (25%) of the injuries required hospitalization.

The consumption of fireworks has doubled in the last 25 years, growing 99.5% from 161.6 million pounds in 2001 to 322.4 million pounds in 2025, trending upwards over the period at a rate of about 6.8 million pounds per year. During the same 25-year period, the number of estimated injuries associated with fireworks has also grown, albeit at a much slower pace, with an estimated growth of 36.8% from 2001 through 2025.

With the consumption rate of fireworks growing much faster than the growth of estimated injuries, the estimated injury rate per 100,000 pounds of fireworks consumed has dropped from 5.9 in 2001 to 4.0 in 2025. The decline is not statistically significant.

As illustrated in the chart below, the number of injuries resulting in hospitalization as a percentage of total estimated injuries has also increased significantly over the last 10 years (up 1.2 percentage points year, p-value = .0269). There is not a significant trend in total number of injuries, indicating that the injury severity has worsened.

NEISS Estimated Injuries as Percentage of Total



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

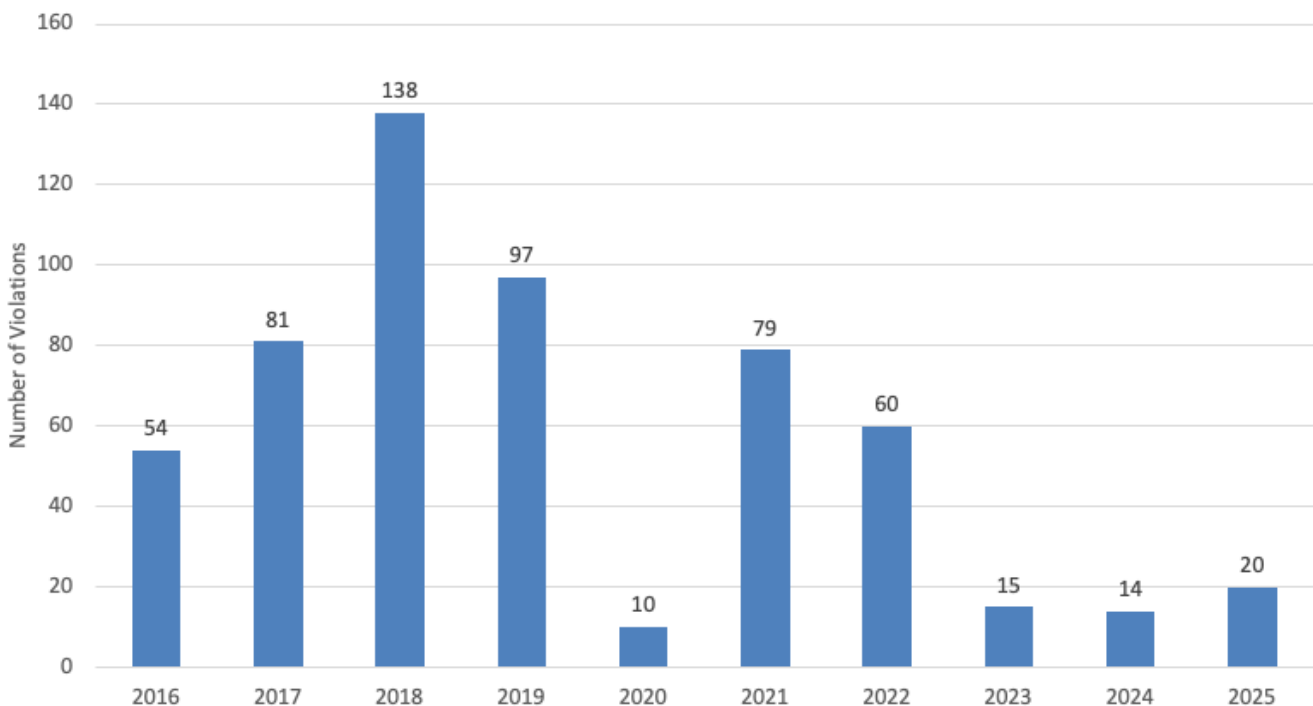
AFSL has seen, and continues to see, evidence of illegal fireworks devices, falsely packaged and marketed as legitimate consumer fireworks, being sold across the country in increasing volumes. Items such as Reloadable Aerial Shells, Multiple-tube devices, Rockets, Missiles, and large Firecrackers containing illegal amounts of highly energetic pyrotechnic materials that are being openly displayed and sold to consumers. These devices typically do not list the name of the manufacturer or retailer and may not have all the required warnings

and instructions. These illegal devices have not been tested and certified as compliant with all federal requirements, as required by CPSC regulations, and present an unreasonable risk of injury to the American consumer.

CPSC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A review of the Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by CPSC provides some indication of the level of enforcement activity surrounding fireworks. As shown in Figure 1.1, the number of NOVs issued for violation of CPSC’s fireworks regulation has been declining for many years. In 2025, NOVs were issued to 14 importers for 20 devices found to be in violation of CPSC regulations. According to CPSC’s review of these products, nine (9) of the devices failed fuse requirements specifying secure fuse attachment, fuse burn time, and the prevention of fuse side ignition; two (2) revealed evidence of pyrotechnic material leakage; two (2) contained prohibited chemicals; two (2) were prone to tip-over when functioning; two (2) failed for Blowout/Burnout; one (1) was identified as failing device stability requirements. Two (2) NOVs were issued for unspecified violations.

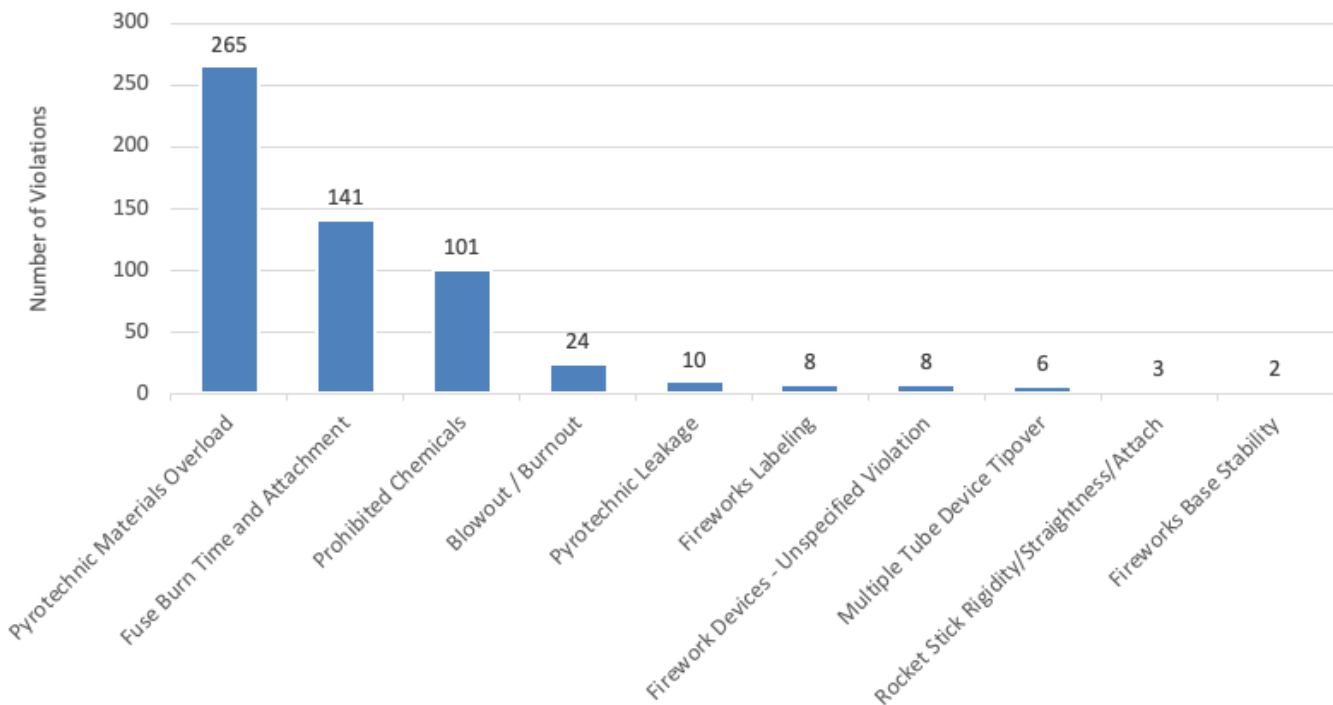
Figure 1.1
CPSC Notices of Violations
Fireworks
2016 – 2025



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Office of Import Surveillance. CPSC-NOV-DATA-2026-03-20.

Since 2016, most NOV's have been issued for excessive amount of pyrotechnic material, accounting for 47% of the violations. Fuse performance, which includes specifications controlling the speed at which the fuse burns and resistance to ignition of the fuse from the side, was found to be non-compliant in about 25% of the NOV's issued, as shown in Figure 1.2. There were no NOV's issued for pyrotechnic materials overload in 2024 or 2025.

Figure 1.2
Distribution of Violations Cited in CPSC Notice of Violations
2016-2025



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Office of Import Surveillance. CPSC-NOV-DATA-2026-03-20.

Enforcement at the federal level has not been effective at deterring the distribution and sales of these illegal and dangerous fireworks devices.

AFSL conducts Fireworks Regulatory Compliance Training for local and state fire services and law enforcement personnel to facilitate more aggressive enforcement of fireworks laws and regulations at the state and local level, in the absence of federal enforcement. This growing network of fire services and law enforcement personnel is committed to enforcing the applicable laws in their jurisdictions and sharing information on illegal products and operators.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes observations about the fireworks-related emergency department-treated injury data contained in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) and related fatality data contained in CPSC’s Clearinghouse database. For over two decades, CPSC published the *Fireworks Annual Report* in June of each year but decided to discontinue the report in 2024 to allocate resources to other matters. The American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL) assumed responsibility for the publication of the report in June 2025.

AFSL reviews the data released each year to inform and guide the development of the AFSL Consumer Fireworks Standards. AFSL standards are more expansive and more rigorous than CPSC standards, thus offering requirements that are more protective against the unreasonable risk of injury and property damage. These additional requirements include more stringent fuse burn times, restrictions on the composition and amounts of pyrotechnic and explosive materials, requirements for fuse covers and device stability, additional warning labels, residual burn restrictions, specifications for device and effect trajectories, and launch tube strength requirements.

These standards for consumer fireworks imported, distributed, and sold in the USA are created and managed by the AFSL Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is a balanced committee, with half its members representing the fireworks industry and the other half representing the insurance industry, State Fire Marshals’ offices, consumers, and technical experts. Staff from DOT’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regularly attend as non-voting participants.

AFSL tests consumer fireworks for compliance to its standards in China and Cambodia, with smaller volumes being tested on occasion in Brazil, Thailand, and Mexico. There is no legal requirement to test with AFSL. AFSL members elect to have their consumer fireworks tested to the most rigorous set of standards available because they are committed to providing the safest consumer fireworks available to the American consumer. AFSL typically tests about 70% of the consumer fireworks being imported into the USA.

A review of CPSC’s NEISS data, ranked from the highest to the lowest number of estimated emergency department-treated injuries assigned to each product code, reveals fireworks ranked 174 of the 767 products tracked in the 2025 NEISS database. The 173 products ranked higher than fireworks are associated with 91% of the total estimated consumer product-related injuries for 2025. Refer to Appendix B for the detailed listing of the top 174 consumer products, as ranked by number of estimated injuries, contained in the NEISS 2025 dataset.

This report is organized into six sections: Section 1 – Introduction, Section 2 – Information Sources and NEISS Data, Section 3 – Fireworks-Related Fatalities for 2025, Section 4 – National Injury Estimates for 2025, Section 5 – 2025 Fireworks-Related Injury Analysis and Observations, and Section 6 – Summary.

2. INFORMATION SOURCES AND NEISS DATA

AFSL obtained information on fireworks-related fatalities from news clippings, internet news alerts, CPSC’s Death Certificate database (DTHS), Medical Examiner and Coroner Reports database (MECAPS), and the Injury/Potential Injury Incident database (IPII) available through CPSC’s Clearinghouse database.

AFSL also estimated fireworks-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments from data contained in CPSC’s National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS, pronounced “nice”). NEISS is designed and structured as a probability sample of the U.S. hospitals having emergency departments, with representation from Children’s Hospitals and hospitals of various sizes across the country. CPSC collects injury information from these NEISS hospitals, including the victim’s age and sex, the emergency department diagnosis, the body part(s) injured, the consumer product(s) identified as associated with the injury by hospital staff, and a narrative that oftentimes provides insight into how the injury occurred.

Figure 2.1
NEISS Nationally Representative Probability Sample of Hospitals
Updated October 2024



NEISS. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. NEISS Hospital Sample Map.

Lastly, in order to calculate the injury rate per 100,000 population, AFSL retrieved data from the Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2025 (NC-EST2025-AGESEX-RES). Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Population estimates for prior years were taken from the following sources:

- 2010 to 2020 - Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019; April 1, 2020; and July 1, 2020 (NST-EST-2020).
- 2007 to 2009 - Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2009 (NST-EST2009).

Unless noted otherwise, all tables, charts, and NEISS data elements (e.g., weight, case #) are derived from the data sources identified in this section.

CPSC DEVICE CATEGORY

NEISS coders have been provided with codes, distributed by the CPSC, that designate the type of fireworks device (e.g., sparkler, firecracker) associated with the reported injury. This code, listed in Table 2.1, is assigned by the coder based on their interpretation of the information contained in the medical records generated during treatment of a fireworks-related injury, and is included in the NEISS narrative when provided, as in the case below (emphasis added).

CPSC Case#: 250706209

26YOM STATES THAT HE WAS LIGHTING A FOUNTAIN FIREWORK **TYPE J** WHEN HE ACCIDENTALLY BURNED HIS RIGHT FOREARM NOTHING STATED ABOUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DX: SUPERFICIAL BURN OF RIGHT FOREARM

Knowledge of the type of device involved in a fireworks-related injury is required for a comprehensive analysis of the contribution of each fireworks device to the number of emergency department-treated injuries.

Table 2.1
CPSC Fireworks Categories

CPSC Category	Description	CPSC Category	Description
A	Small Firecrackers	I	Roman Candles
B	Large Illegal Firecrackers	J	Fountains
C	Silver Salutes, M-Series, etc.	K	Ground Spinners, Novelties
D	Missiles	L	Sparklers
E	Rocket or Missile, unknown type	M	Pro Display Devices
E1	Bottle Rocket	N	Homemade Devices
E2	Stick Rocket	P	Firecracker, size unknown
F	Helicopters	R	Unknown/Unidentified Device
G	Multiple-tube Devices	T	Pest/Wildlife Control Device
H	Reloadable Aerial Shells		

Unfortunately, the use of these codes is inconsistent, with 308 of the 332 records comprising the 2025 NEISS fireworks-related data submitted without the CPSC code. These records represent approximately 12,128 of the 13,004 estimated fireworks-related injuries.

AFSL DEVICE CATEGORY

Appendix A contains a list of the various types of consumer fireworks devices. AFSL reviewed the narrative for each case recorded in the NEISS data and assigned a category, when possible, based on the description noted in the narrative. AFSL was able to increase the estimated number of injuries associated with a known type of device from 3% to 40% by identifying the device in an additional 120 records. This report will include analysis of those incidents where the type of device is identified, or inferred from prior years' data, as we strive to gain useful insights into ways to mitigate the risk of future injuries.

3. FIREWORKS-RELATED FATALITIES FOR 2025

AFSL reviewed reports, contained in the CPSC Clearinghouse database, of 19 non-occupational, fireworks-related incidents that occurred during 2025 and resulted in 24 fatalities. Most of the information provided on the fireworks-related fatalities lacks sufficient detail to determine the type of device or the hazard scenario that led to these tragic outcomes. The number of fireworks-related fatalities recorded for 2025 may increase, as there can be a delay in the transmission of death certificates and medical examiners' reports to the CPSC.

MISUSE

Four (4) fatalities were identified as resulting from individuals holding devices not designed to be handheld, attempting to launch aerial fireworks from their body, or failing to secure a safe shooting area. The unedited narrative contained in NEISS is as follows (emphasis added):

CPSC Case#: 20251220-B0B02-5792724

A 47 YOM WAS **HOLDING A FIREWORK IN HIS LEFT HAND** WHEN IT EXPLODED. THE VICTIM SUFFERED LOSS OF LEFT HAND LEFT SUBDURAL HEMATOMA PULMONARY CONTUSIONS LIVER LACERATION PANCREATIC CONTUSION SPLENIC BLEED GASTRIC ARTERY AVULSION TRAUMATIC SMALL BOWEL PERFORATION BURNS.

CPSC Case#: 20250217-60866-2147333112

THE PIERCE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE RECEIVED A REPORT OF DEATH OF A 15-YEAR-OLD MALE WHOSE DEATH IS RELATED TO THE MISUSE OF A 'MASTER 5' CANISTER SHELLS 80 SERIES' FIREWORK. THE DECEDENT **HELD THE FIREWORK TO HIS RIGHT CHEST** (AIMED AWAY FROM HIS BODY) AND LIT IT. THE FIREWORK FIRED INTO THE DECEDENT'S CHEST CAUSING A SIGNIFICANT INJURY THAT APPEARED TO CAUSE HIS DEATH.

CPSC Case#: 20250606-5AABC-5323706

39 YOM DECD WAS SHOOTING MORTAR TYPE FIREWORKS W/ HIS SON IN BACKYARD WHEN ONE OF THE FIREWORKS **EXPLODED IN HIS HANDS** RESULTING IN MAJOR INJURIES TO DECD, ÅS HANDS CHEST & NECK AREA AT HOME. COD: FIRE/BURN/ELECTRICAL (MULTIPLE LACERATIONS)/MAJOR INJURIES TO HAND AND NECK.

CPSC Case#: 20250915-C889D-5572477

HOUSE FIRE CLAIMED LIVES OF ELDERLY FEMALE & PETS. THEY WERE FOUND DECEASED INSIDE HOUSE AFTER MAJORITY OF FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED. INVESTIGATION DETERMINED THAT **FIRE STARTED IN YARD & SPREAD TO HOUSE LIKELY IGNITED BY FIREWORKS** DISCHARGED NEARBY.

MALFUNCTION

One (1) fatality may have been associated with a device misfire/malfunction, as indicated in the NEISS narrative (emphasis added), provided the device was placed upright on a hard smooth surface, as directed in the required warning labels.

CPSC Case#: 20250718-8F7EF-5405703

AN 8 YOF WAS FATALLY STRUCK BY AN [REDACTED] FIREWORK. SHE WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL WHERE SHE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AFTER BEING INJURED. A HOMEOWNER PLACED A **FIREWORKS DISPLAY WHEN THEY BEGAN TO MISFIRE** AND HIT THE GIRL.

ILLEGAL AND HOMEMADE DEVICES

Six (6) fatalities were associated with the use of devices illegal for consumer sale, such as professional-grade display devices and highly energetic illegal explosives marketed as consumer fireworks, as noted in the NEISS narrative (emphasis added). These extremely dangerous devices are not consumer fireworks devices and typically contain large amounts of very energetic pyrotechnic compositions.

CPSC Case#: 20250121-4667F-5119898

A FIREWORK BLAST HAPPENED AT A HOME AND PILES OF DEBRIS COULD BE SEEN IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. **THE EXPLOSION BROKE WINDOWS ACROSS THE STREET** AND FIREWORKS TIPPED OVER A TABLE AND FIRED SIDWAYS INTO ADDITIONAL FIREWORKS. EMS RESPONDED TO 3 DEAD AND 20 INJURED PEOPLE. [Note: Ultimately 6 fatalities]

ASSOCIATED WITH, BUT NOT NECESSARILY CAUSED BY, CONSUMER FIREWORKS

One (1) fatality contained in CPSC's database was only remotely related to fireworks, as described in the summary below (emphasis added):

CPSC Case#: 20250410-B4D2C-5222646

56 YOM DECEDENT WAS IN BASEMENT POSSIBLY MAKING FIREWORKS WHEN A **PROPANE TANK SUDDENLY EXPLODED**. FD RESPONDED TO A SMALL FIRE. DECEDENT HAD BURN INJURIES AND AMPUTATED FOOT. PRONOUNCED IN HOSPITAL.

UNIDENTIFIED

The circumstances surrounding the twelve (12) remaining incidents found in the Clearinghouse database are unclear from the narrative provided in NEISS. It is important to note that reports of fireworks-related fatalities submitted to CPSC for 2025 may not be complete.

4. NATIONAL INJURY ESTIMATES FOR 2025

ESTIMATED FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURY AND HOSPITALIZATION TRENDS

NEISS contains records of fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries under product code 1313. The structure of the NEISS system permits the development of national injury estimates associated with the various fireworks products captured in the data. It is important to note that some of the fireworks involved in the estimates are not legal consumer fireworks.

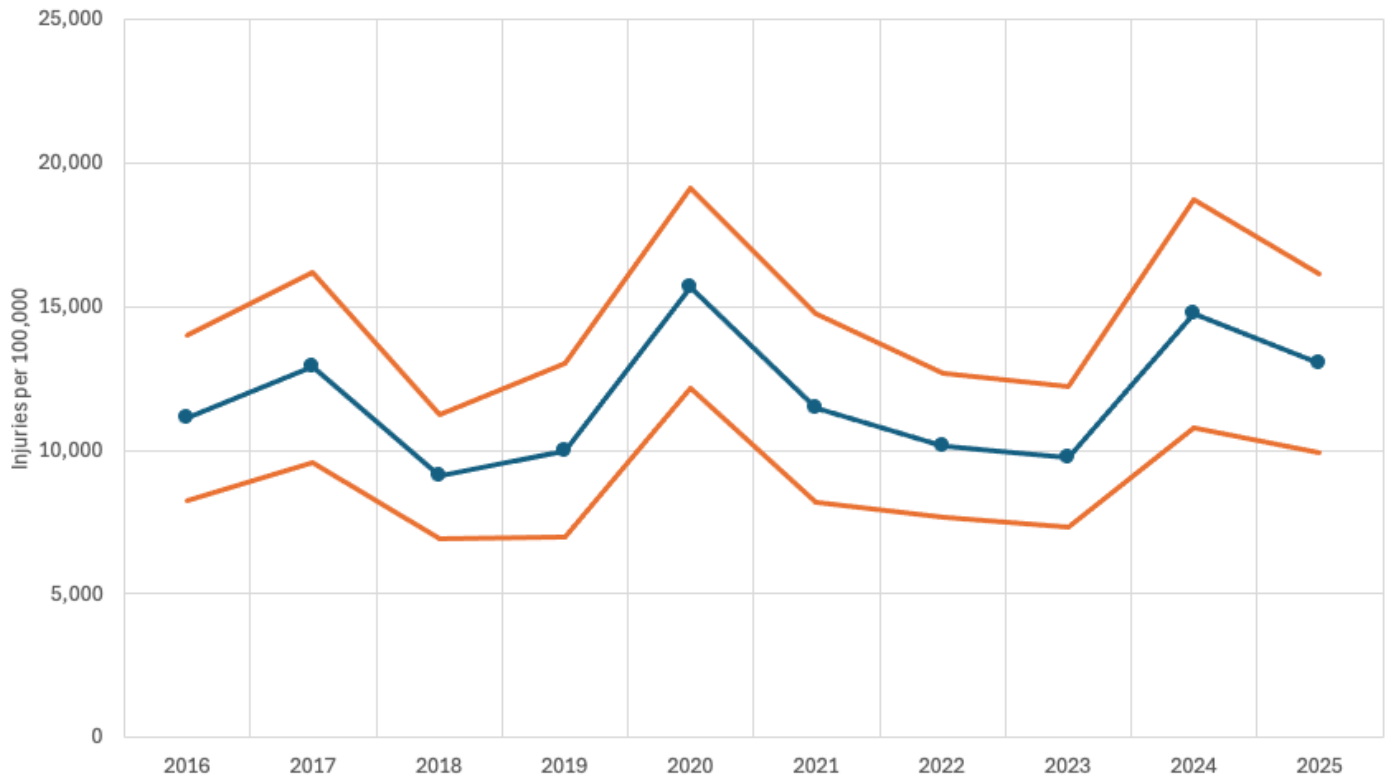
Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 display the estimated fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries, and the injury rate per 100,000 population, from 2016 through 2025.

Table 4.1
Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries Associated with Fireworks
2016 - 2025

Year	Estimated Injuries	Estimated Injuries per 100,000 Population
2016	11,100	3.4
2017	12,900	4.0
2018	9,100	2.8
2019	10,000	3.0
2020	15,600	4.7
2021	11,500	3.5
2022	10,200	3.1
2023	9,700	2.9
2024	14,700	4.3
2025	13,000	3.8

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Population estimates for 2023 through 2025 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2025 (NC-EST2025-AGESEX-RES). Population estimates for 2020-2022 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022 (NST-EST2022-POP). Population Estimates for 2016 to 2020 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019; April 1, 2020; and July 1, 2020 (NST-EST-2020).

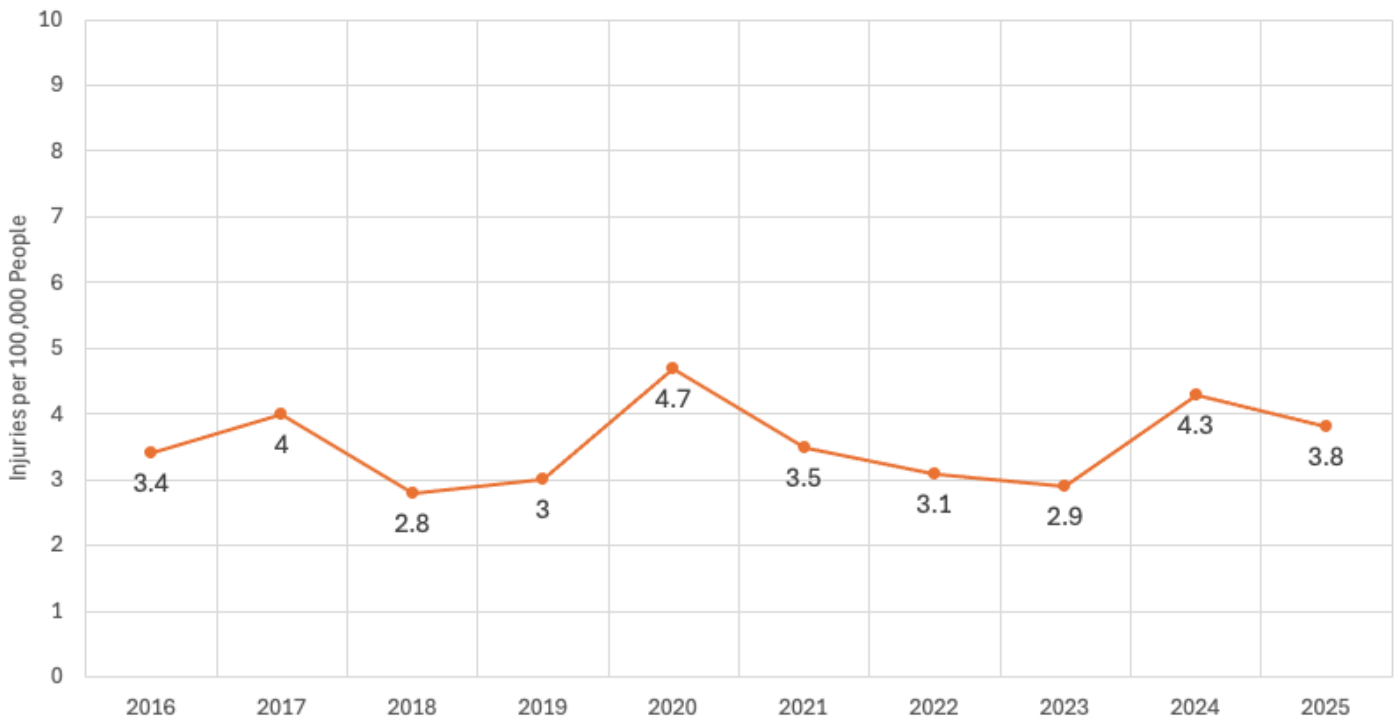
Figure 4.1
Estimated Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries
Bounded at the 95% Confidence Interval
2016 - 2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Fireworks were reportedly associated with an estimated 13,004 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2025, down 12% from the prior year. At the 95% confidence interval, the estimated 2025 injuries can range from 9,925 to 16,133.

Figure 4.2
Estimated Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries Per 100,000 People
2016 - 2025

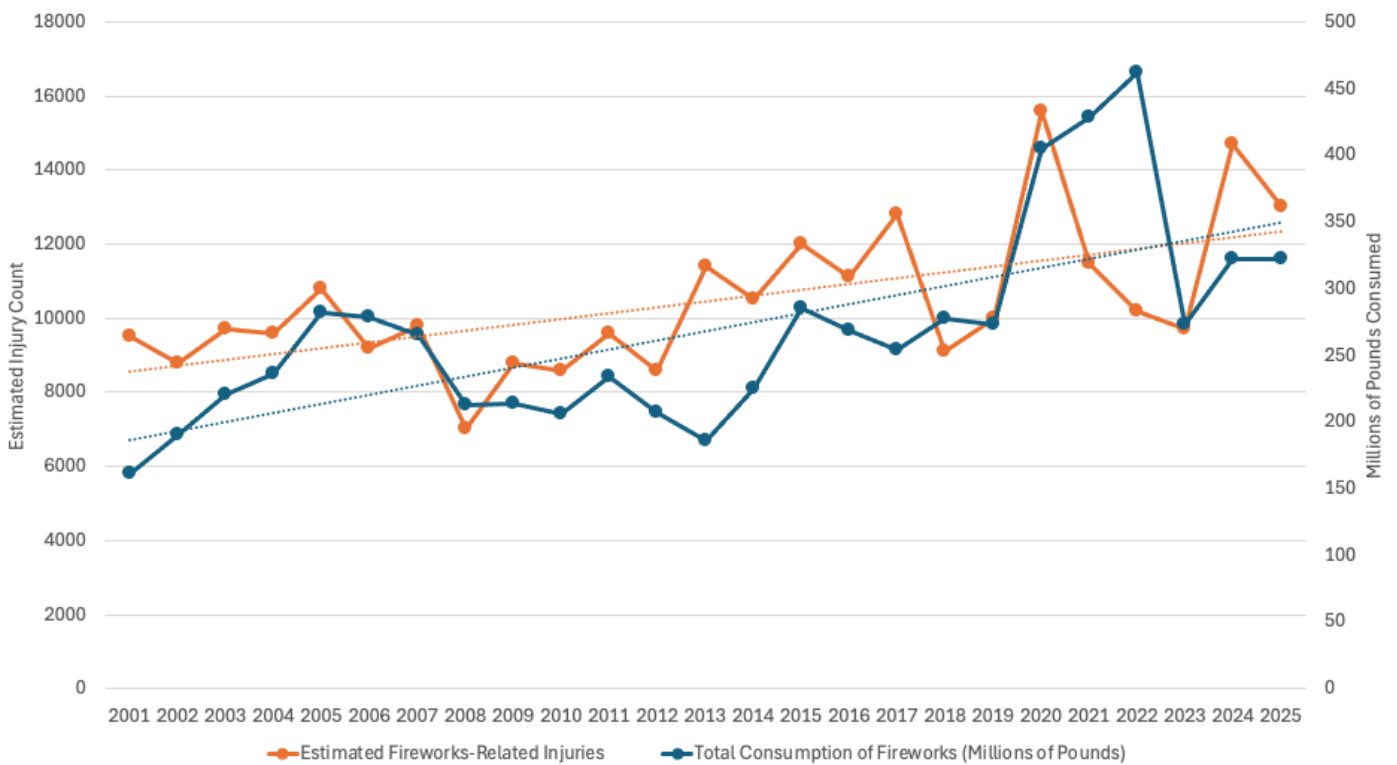


Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Population estimates for 2023 through 2025 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2025 (NC-EST2025-AGESEX-RES). Population estimates for 2020-2022 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022 (NST-EST2022-POP). Population Estimates for 2016 to 2020 are from Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019; April 1, 2020; and July 1, 2020 (NST-EST-2020).

Figure 4.2 illustrates the estimated injury rate per 100,000 population. The estimated rate of emergency department-treated injuries for 2025 is 3.8 per 100,000 population in the United States, a decrease from the 4.3 estimated injuries per 100,000 population in 2024.

However, the number of fireworks devices consumed may be a better indicator of exposure, which is a key element in the risk calculation¹. The consumption of fireworks has doubled in the last 25 years, as illustrated in Figure 4.3, growing 99.5% from 161.6 million pounds in 2001 to 322.4 million pounds in 2025, trending upwards over the period at a rate of about 6.8 million pounds per year (p-value = 0.0002). During the same 25-year period, the number of estimated injuries associated with fireworks has also grown, albeit at a much slower pace, with an estimated growth of 36.8% from 2001 through 2025 (an additional 160 injuries per year, p-value = 0.0018).

Figure 4.3
Fireworks Consumption and Estimated Number of Injuries
2001 – 2026

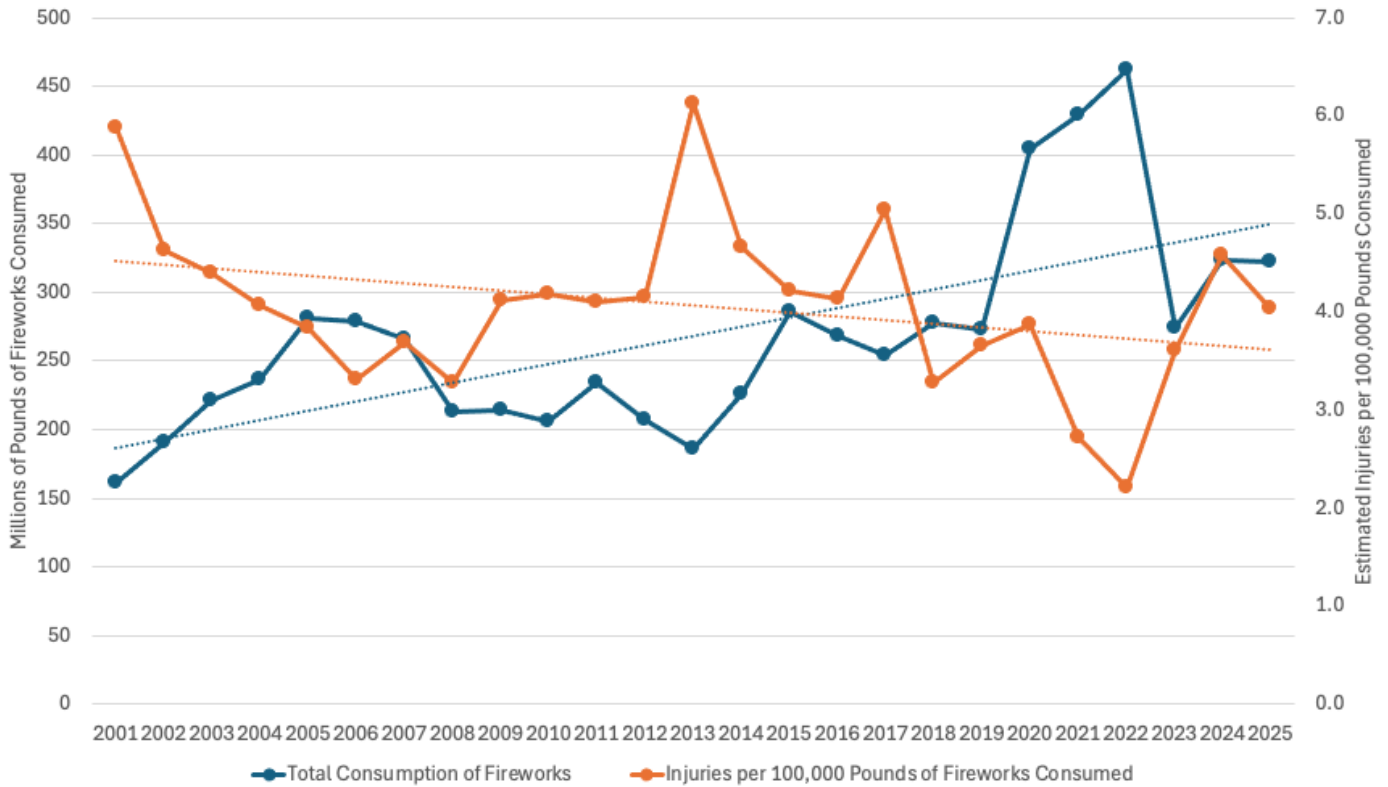


Source: American Pyrotechnic Association. Industry Facts and Figures, Fireworks Consumption vs. Injury Rate Table.

¹ The basic formula used to calculate risk is Risk = likelihood of exposure to the hazard (probability) x severity (potential impact).

With the consumption rate of fireworks growing at a much faster rate than the growth of estimated injuries, the estimated injury rate per 100,000 pounds of fireworks consumed has dropped from 5.9 in 2001 to 4.0 in 2025, as illustrated in Figure 4.4. The decline is not statistically significant, and it should be noted the data suggests a bounce in the estimated injury rate from 2021 through 2025.

Figure 4.4
Fireworks Consumption and Estimated Injury Rate
2001 – 2026

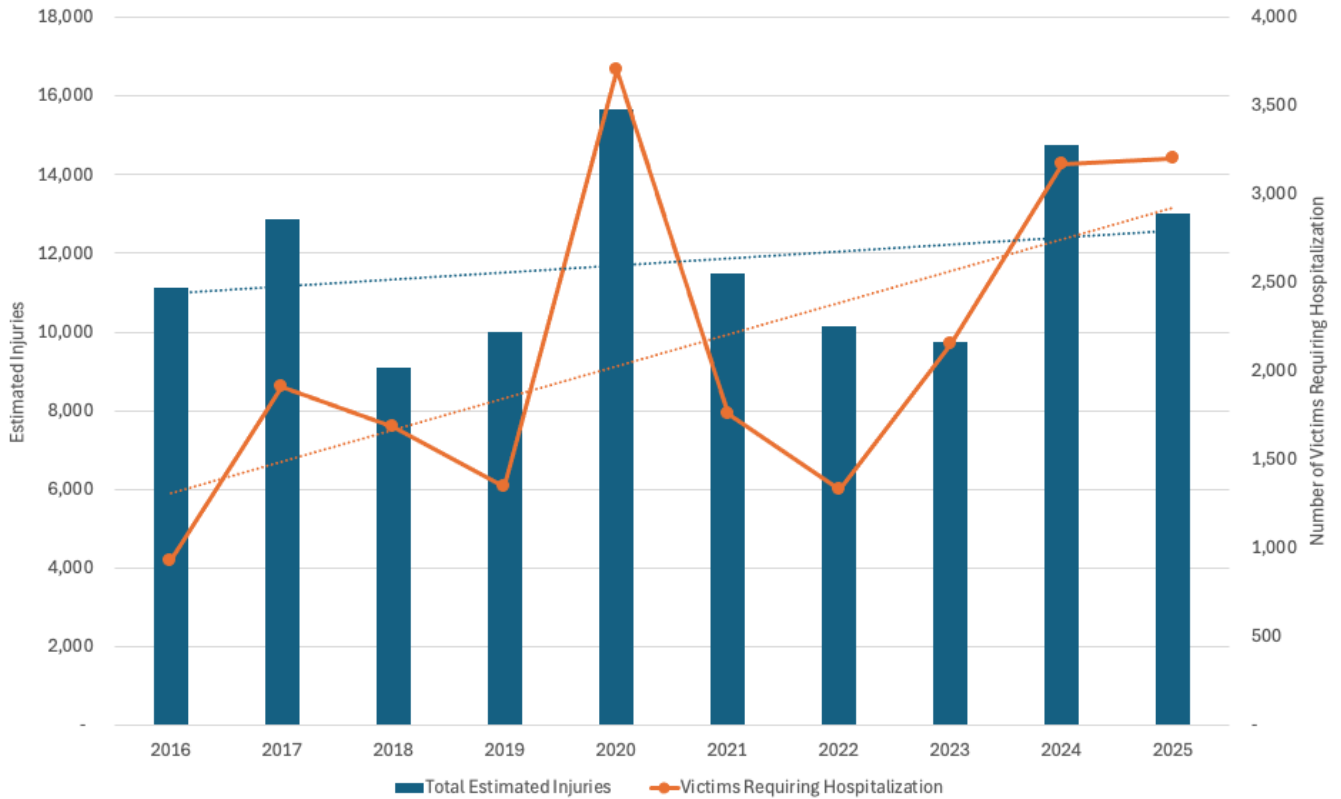


Source: American Pyrotechnic Association. Industry Facts and Figures, Fireworks Consumption vs. Injury Rate Table.

When considering injury severity, the potential impact part of the risk equation, NEISS provides case disposition and diagnosis data to aid in the analysis. For the purposes of this analysis, we will consider dispositions involving hospitalization or death as indicators of the most severe injuries versus those cases with dispositions indicating the victim was treated and released or left without being seen.

The estimated number of fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries considered severe enough to require treatment and admission/hospitalization has increased significantly from 2016 through 2025 (an additional 141.6 estimated cases per year, p-value = 0.0338), as shown in Figure 4.5.

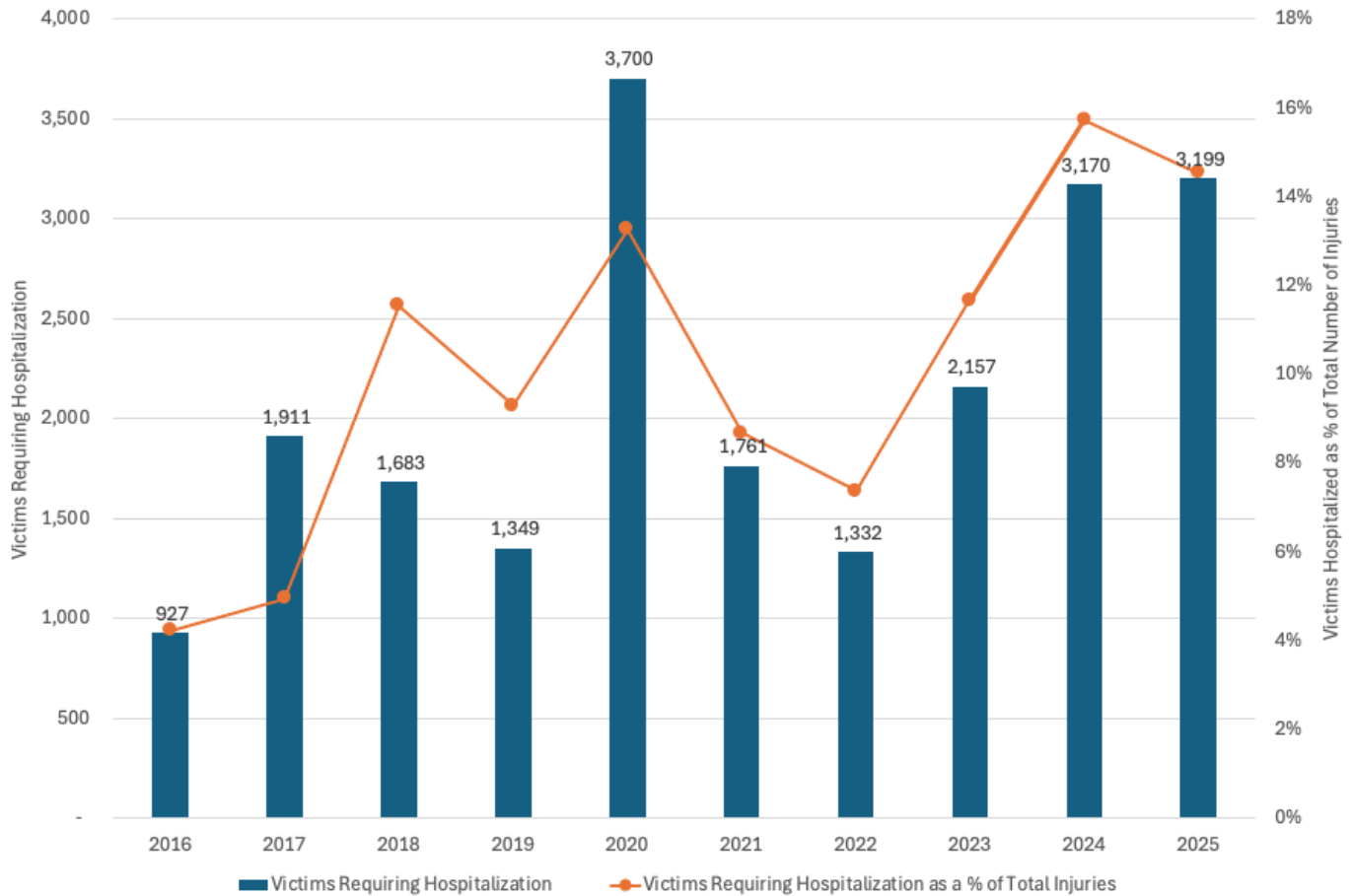
Figure 4.5
NEISS Estimated Injuries Requiring Hospitalization



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As illustrated in Figure 4.6, the injuries resulting in hospitalization as a percentage of total estimated injuries has also increased significantly over the last 10 years (up 1.2 percentage points year, p-value = .0269). There is not a significant trend in total number of injuries, indicating that the injury severity has worsened.

Figure 4.6
NEISS Estimated Injuries as Percentage of Total



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

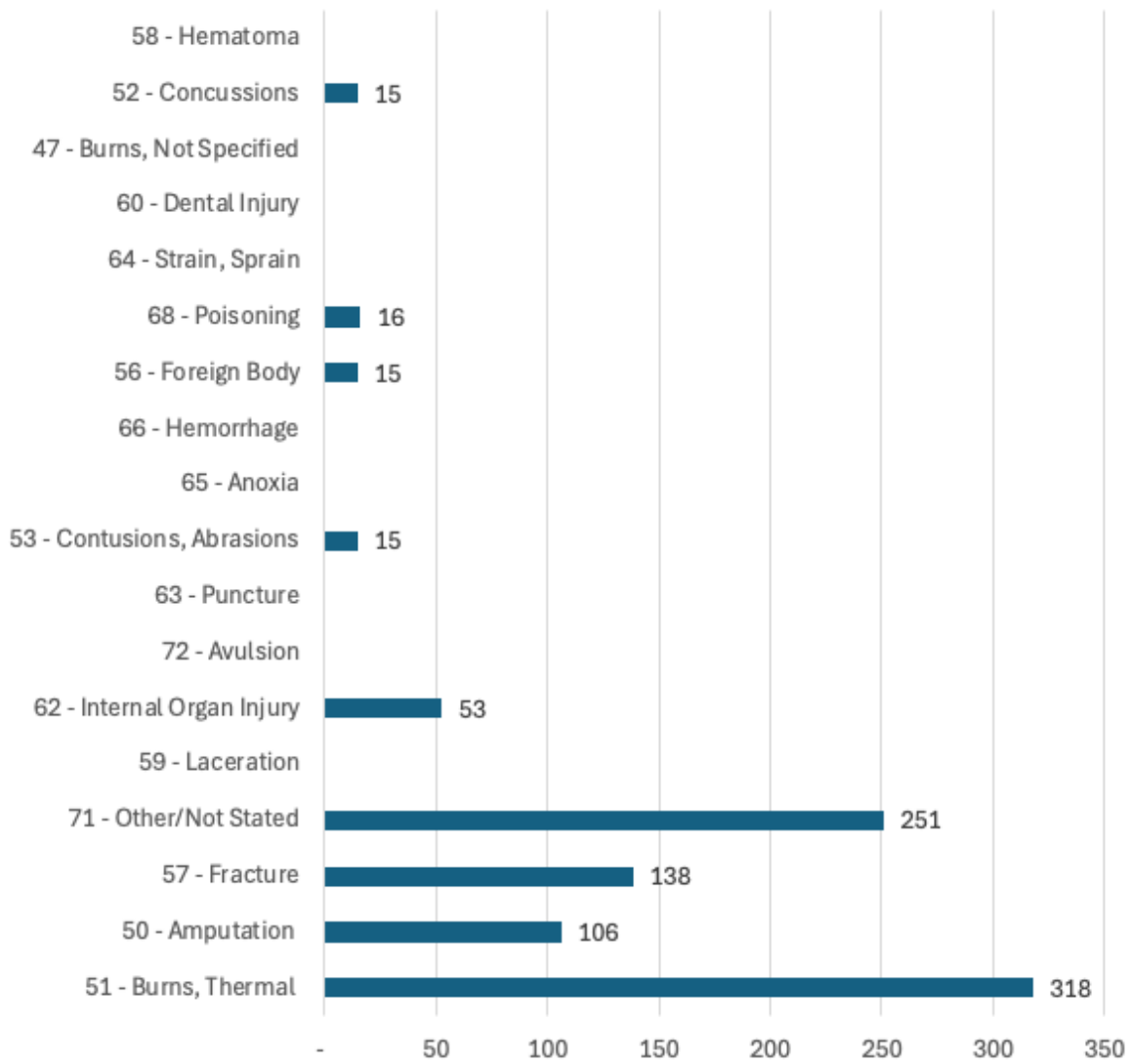
To better understand why the data suggests fireworks injuries are becoming more severe, we look to the diagnoses associated with these severe injuries. The diagnoses associated with the estimated fireworks-related injuries resulting in hospitalization have shifted over the last ten years, as seen in Table 4.2. In 2016, the number of estimated fireworks-related injuries involving thermal burns that required hospitalization was about three times the number of estimated injuries that were associated with amputations and fractures, as shown in Figure 4.7.

Table 4.2
Diagnoses Associated with Cases Requiring Hospitalization

Diagnosis Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
51 - Burns, Thermal	318	674	364	414	749	215	138	567	484	447
50 - Amputation	106	500	415	318	625	180	477	442	739	515
57 - Fracture	138	244	261	228	889	552	203	392	728	642
71 - Other/Not Stated	251	363	107	193	724	327	161	290	395	438
59 - Laceration		78	371	78	225	175	84	231	156	219
62 - Internal Organ Injury	53	5	55	23	129	96	101	24	118	208
72 - Avulsion		31		17	90	85	82	55	108	128
63 - Puncture					78	17	19	17	192	120
53 - Contusions, Abrasions	15	16	19					41	64	243
65 - Anoxia			5		56	57		82	53	26
66 - Hemorrhage					56					139
56 - Foreign Body	15			55	5			17	28	66
68 - Poisoning	16				56	57				7
64 - Strain, Sprain			86	18						
60 - Dental Injury									104	
47 - Burns, Not Specified							65			
52 - Concussions	15			5						
58 - Hematoma					17					
Grand Total	927	1,911	1,683	1,349	3,700	1,761	1,332	2,157	3,170	3,199

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

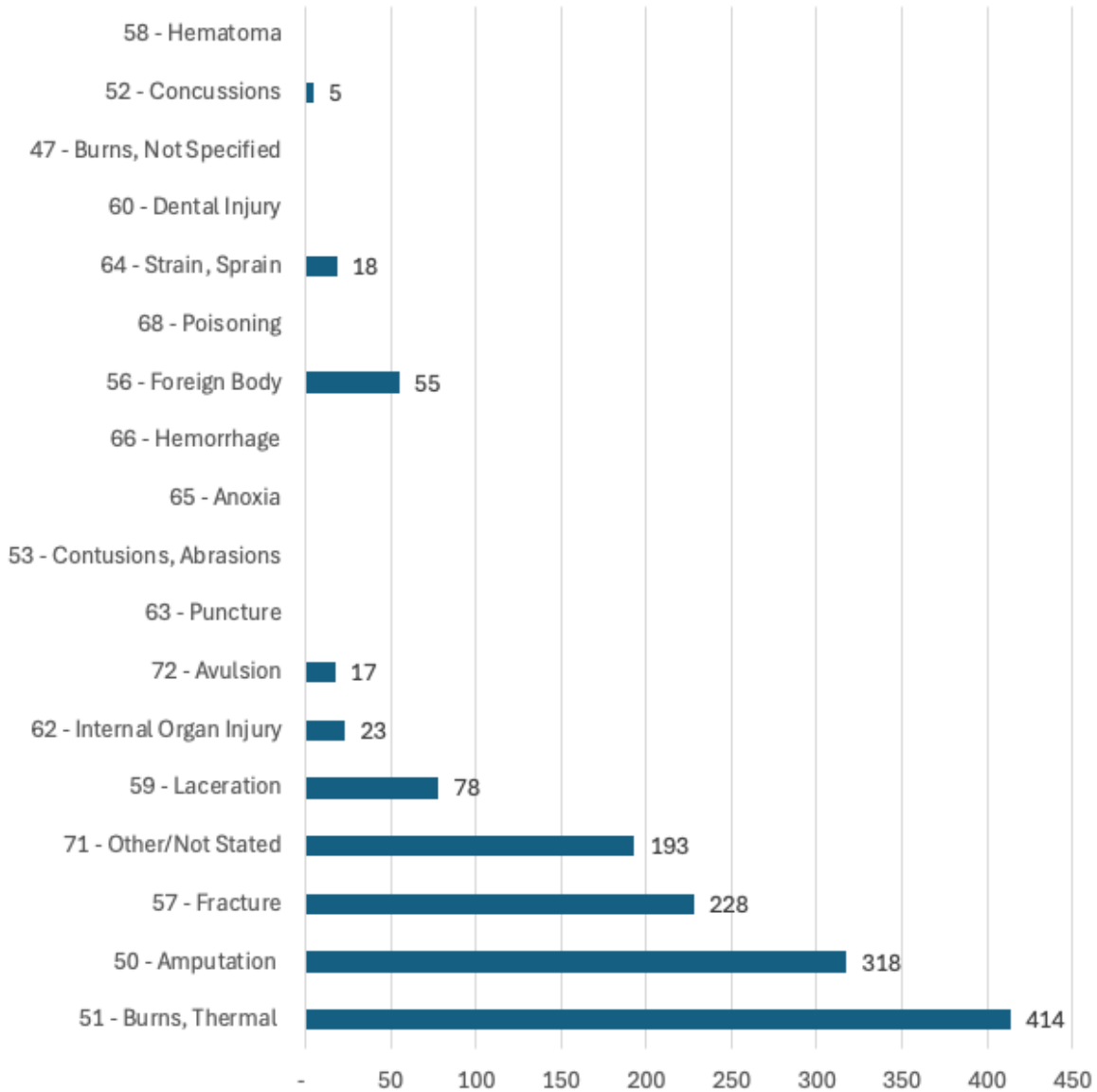
Figure 4.7
Diagnoses Associated with Cases Requiring Hospitalization
2016



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Three years later, as illustrated in Figure 4.8., the number of estimated fireworks-related injuries involving thermal burns that required hospitalization had only increased by 30% while those associated with amputations and fractures had increased at a much faster pace, growing 199% and 65% respectively.

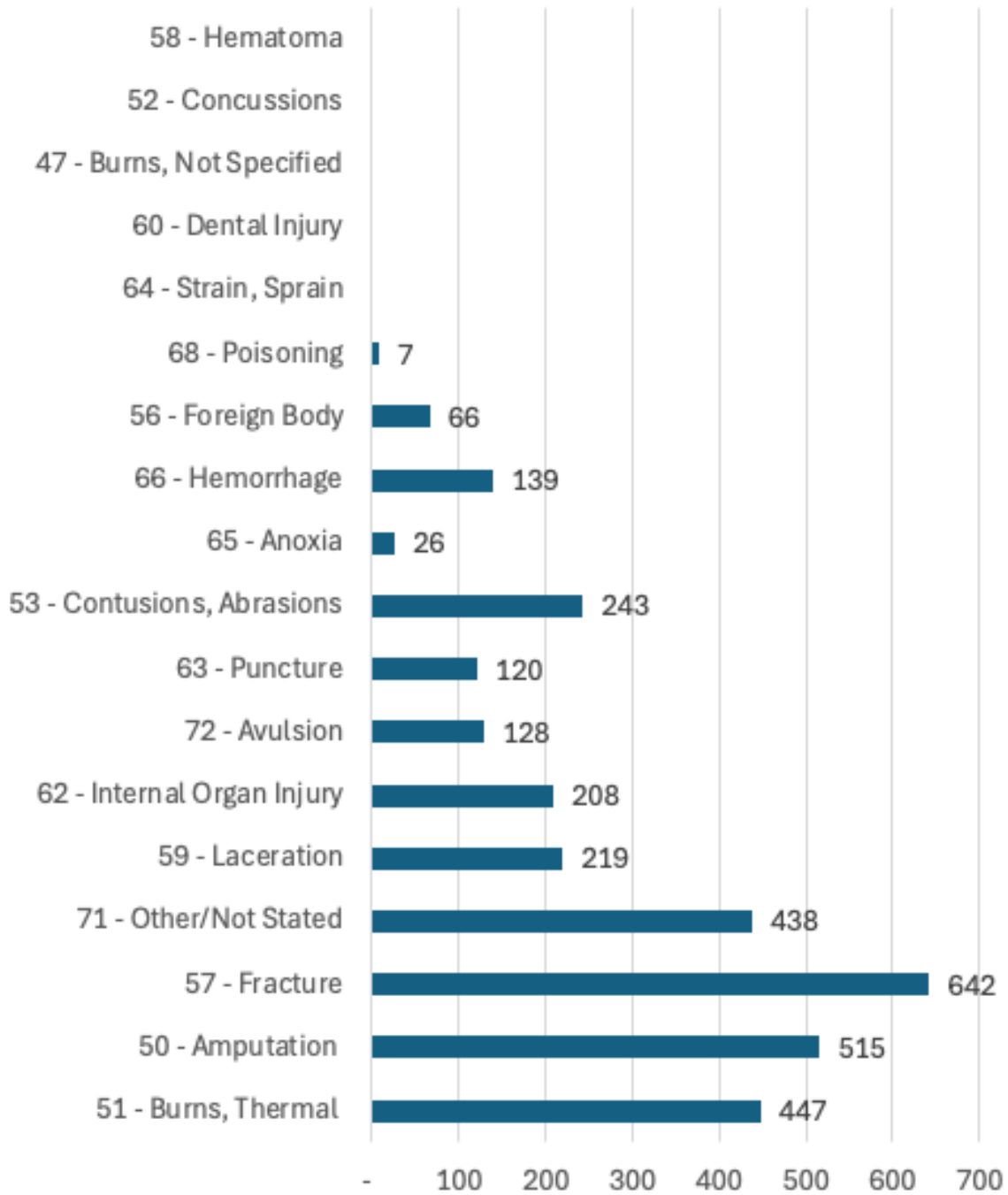
Figure 4.8
Diagnoses Associated with Cases Requiring Hospitalization
2019



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

By 2025, the number of victims diagnosed with fractures or amputations resulting in hospitalization had surpassed the number of victims diagnosed with thermal burns as the leading diagnoses associated with fireworks injuries, as shown in Figure 4.9.

Figure 4.9
Diagnoses Associated with Cases Requiring Hospitalization
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Amputations and fractures are typically associated with very energetic fireworks detonating in close proximity to an individual. The growing presence of illegal explosives, often disguised as consumer fireworks, in the consumer fireworks marketplace only increases the risk of a severe injury.

FIREWORKS DEVICE ASSOCIATION WITH NEISS ESTIMATED INJURIES

Only 3% of the 13,004 estimated fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries were identified in the data as being associated with a specific type of fireworks device (e.g., Firecracker, Fountain, Sparkler). The NEISS cases containing narrative noting the generic description “fireworks” as the product were placed into the “Unidentified” Device Type Category (unknowns), absent an identifying CPSC Fireworks Code.

AFSL staff used NEISS data collected from 2021 through 2023, where the NEISS data reflects a greater percentage of identified explosive devices (knowns) than was reported in 2024 and 2025, as a basis upon which to infer the distribution of estimated injuries across the various explosive devices, as shown in Table 4.3. The data was stratified by age group to better reflect the types of devices to which each group was typically exposed and the associated injuries experienced by each group. This methodology creates additional uncertainty regarding the estimates of injuries per type of consumer fireworks/explosive devices but provides some important directionally relevant insights on the relationship between device type and other attributes, such as diagnosis and case disposition.

Table 4.3
Distribution of Estimated Injuries by Type of Fireworks Device
2025

Fireworks Devices Associated with NEISS Reports	2025 NEISS Emergency Department-Treated Fireworks-Related Estimated Injuries	2025 Inferred Injury Distribution By Device Type
Small Firecrackers	26	855
Large illegal firecracker-like devices		425
Silver Salutes, M-80, M-500, etc.		49
No CPSC Category Noted in NEISS	12128	1545
Missiles		237
Rocket or Missile, specific type unknown		574
Bottle Rockets		502
Stick rockets		144
Helicopters		48
Multiple Tube Devices	113	517
Reloadable Aerial Shells		618
Roman Candles	26	632
Fountains	52	58
Ground Spinners and Novelty devices		644
Sparklers	77	1236
Professional Display devices		84
Homemade devices		429
Firecracker, size unknown	113	2270
Unknown or unidentified device	470	2137
Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries	13004	13004

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As shown in Tables 4.4 and 4.5, Firecrackers were associated with most of the fireworks-related injuries, accounting for an estimated 24% of the reported injuries. An estimated 17% of those injuries were severe enough to require hospitalization. Roman Candles were associated with an estimated 5% of the reported injuries, with 33% of those injuries requiring hospitalization. Reloadable Aerial Shells were associated with 5% of the cases, with 26% of those suffering a reloadable aerial shell-associated injury requiring hospitalization.

Table 4.4
Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries
by Type of Fireworks Devices Identified
2025

Fireworks Devices as Identified in NEISS Reports	2025 Inferred Injury Distribution By Device Type
Small Firecrackers and Firecrackers, size unknown	3125
Unknown or unidentified device	2137
No CPSC Category Noted in NEISS	1545
Sparklers	1236
Ground Spinners and Novelty devices	644
Roman Candles	632
Reloadable Aerial Shells	618
Rocket or Missile, specific type unknown	574
Multiple Tube Devices	517
Bottle Rockets	502
Large illegal firecracker-like devices	475
Homemade devices	429
Missiles	237
Stick Rockets	144
Professional Display devices	84
Fountains	58
Helicopters	48
Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries	13004

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Illegal and homemade explosive devices were associated with 7% of the NEISS fireworks-related injuries, with 33% of those injured by one of these devices requiring hospitalization.

**Table 4.5
Distribution of Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-treated Injuries by Type of Fireworks Devices Identified
2025**

Fireworks Devices as Identified in NEISS Reports	Percentage of 2025 Inferred Estimated Injuries Associated with Fireworks Device	Percentage of Injuries Associated with Identified Device Requiring Hospitalization
Small Firecrackers and Firecrackers, size unknown	24%	17%
Unknown or unidentified device	16%	35%
No CPSC Category Noted in NEISS	12%	34%
Sparklers	10%	11%
Ground Spinners and Novelty devices	5%	14%
Roman Candles	5%	33%
Reloadable Aerial Shells	5%	26%
Rocket or Missile, specific type unknown	4%	15%
Multiple Tube Devices	4%	10%
Bottle Rockets	4%	31%
Large illegal firecracker-like devices	4%	20%
Homemade devices	3%	45%
Missiles	2%	36%
Stick Rockets	1%	53%
Professional Display devices	1%	21%
Fountains	0%	9%
Helicopters	0%	13%
Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries	100%	25%

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

NEISS ESTIMATED FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES BY AGE

Tables 4.6 and 4.7 list the number of estimated fireworks-related injuries for each age group² by the type of fireworks device associated with the injury. Of those devices that were identified, Sparklers were associated with the highest number of estimated injuries for infants and preschool children. Ground Spinners and other Novelty devices were associated with the highest number of fireworks-related injuries involving children ages 6 to 12. Teens, Young Adults, and Adults suffered injuries from small Firecrackers and Firecrackers of unknown size more frequently than any other device.

² For the purposes of this analysis, AFSL sorted the data into the following age groups: Infant – under 2 years of age, Preschool – 2 to 5 years of age, Child – 6 to 12 years of age, Teen – 13 to 19 years of age, Young adult – 20 to 29 years of age, and Adult – 30 years of age and older.

Table 4.6
Inferred Estimated Injuries for Ages Up to 12 Years by Type of Fireworks Device
2025

Device Type	Child	Preschool	Infant
Small Firecrackers and Firecrackers, size unknown	378	133	22
Illegal and Homemade devices	11	4	17
Roman Candles	153		
Reloadable Aerial Shells			
Bottle Rockets	49		
Sparklers	186	361	123
Ground Spinners and Novelty devices	463	30	
Rocket or Missile, specific type unknown	41		
Missiles			
Stick Rockets			
Multiple Tube Devices		111	
Professional Display devices	2	20	5
Helicopters			
Fountains			5
Unidentified or Unknown	219	129	204
Total Estimated Injuries	1504	788	376
Injuries Requiring Hospitalization	158	14	7

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Table 4.7
Inferred Estimated Injuries for Ages 13 and Up by Type of Fireworks Device
2025

Device Type	Adult	Young Adult	Teen
Small Firecrackers and Firecrackers, size unknown	471	990	1130
Illegal and Homemade devices	328	298	247
Roman Candles	55	25	398
Reloadable Aerial Shells	196	289	134
Bottle Rockets	243	177	33
Sparklers	281	75	211
Ground Spinners and Novelty devices			150
Rocket or Missile, specific type unknown	366	17	149
Missiles	19	17	201
Stick Rockets	144		
Multiple Tube Devices	243	33	130
Professional Display devices			56
Helicopters		11	37
Fountains		52	
Unidentified or Unknown	2282	596	252
Total Estimated Injuries	4628	2580	3128
Injuries Requiring Hospitalization	1529	782	709

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

5. 2025 ESTIMATED FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURY ANALYSIS AND OBSERVATIONS

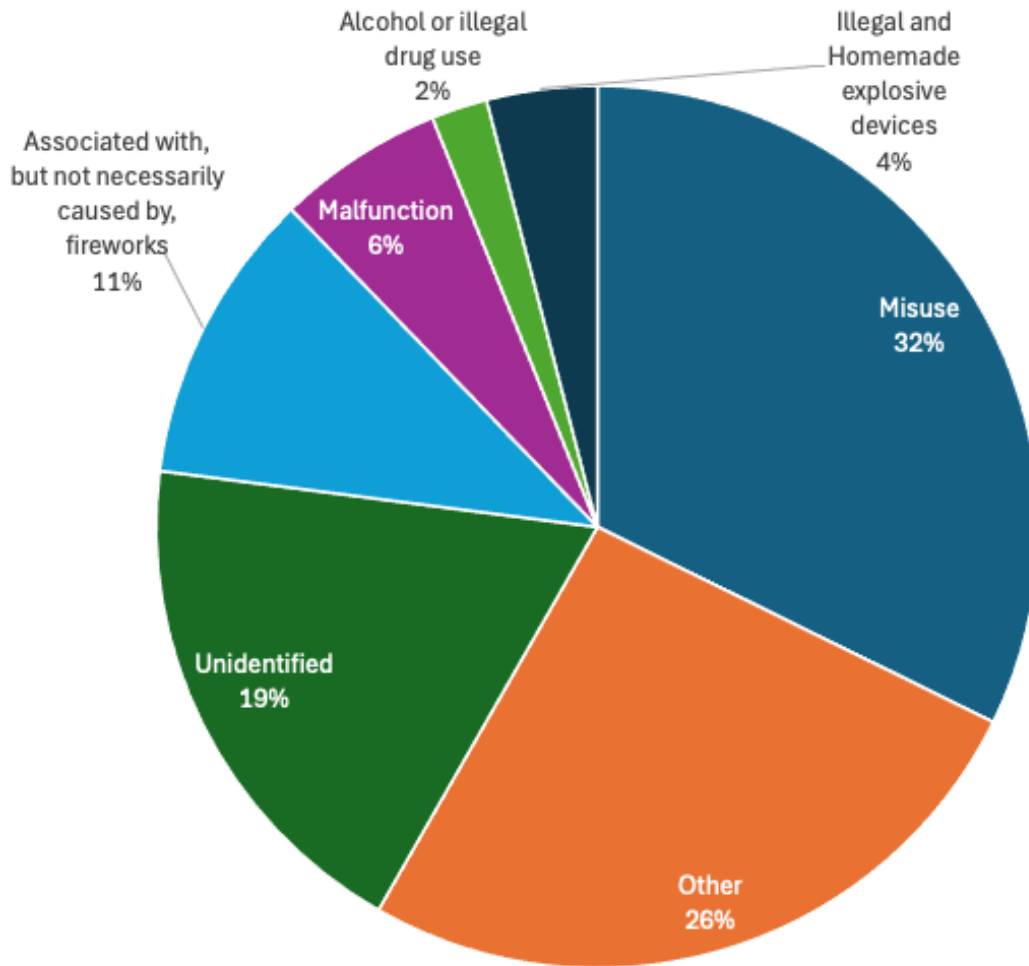
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

A close analysis of the NEISS fireworks-related narrative provides some insight into factors contributing to many of the fireworks-related injuries: Malfunction, Misuse, Other, Unidentified, and Associated with, but not necessarily caused by, consumer fireworks. AFSL has defined these categories as follows:

- Malfunction
 - Failure of the consumer firework to function as designed and intended.
- Misuse
 - Use of the consumer fireworks in ways contrary to warnings, instructions, and the common perception and judgement possessed by the general population regarding fireworks devices.
 - This category does not include cases where the narrative noted the use of drugs or alcohol but there was no clear reference to another form of misuse.
- Other
 - Cases containing narrative where the product functioned as designed and intended but the narrative did not provide a clear indication of misuse.
- Unidentified
 - All cases where the narrative lacks sufficient detail to assign the case to another category.
- Associated with, but not necessarily caused by, consumer fireworks
 - It is not uncommon for NEISS to include cases containing narrative indicating the product in question had little direct involvement in the reported accident. However, these cases can distort any meaningful analysis of the data. Those cases where the narrative indicates a remote or no association with consumer fireworks were placed into this category.

Figure 5.1 shows the Contributing Factor categories, along with drug/alcohol involvement, that are associated with the 2025 NEISS estimated fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries.

Figure 5.1
NEISS Estimated Injuries by Contributing Factor Category
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The injury analysis in this report presents the results of the analysis of the 13,004 estimated fireworks associated injuries treated in emergency departments from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

ILLEGAL AND HOMEMADE DEVICES

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), consumer fireworks whose pyrotechnic material content exceeds CPSC’s regulatory limits are classified as illegal explosives.³ A review of the narrative contained in the 2025 NEISS dataset revealed 11 incidents representing an estimated 526

³ <https://www.atf.gov/explosives/tools-services-explosives-industry/explosive-products-and-devices/illegal-explosives>

estimated injuries associated with illegal or homemade devices. An estimated 300 of the victims (60%) required hospitalization as a result of their injuries. Dynamite, M-80, and Firecrackers associated with amputations and avulsions (severe injuries suggesting the device contained illegal amounts of explosive materials) were the most mentioned types of fireworks associated with this category.

As noted in Table 4.2 - Distribution of Estimated Injuries by Type of Fireworks Device, the estimated injury distributions from prior years across the various types of fireworks devices, from which we inferred a model distribution for 2025, suggests about 425 of the estimated 13,004 estimated injuries in 2025 were associated with large illegal firecracker-type devices, like those mentioned in the NEISS narrative field. An additional 49 were associated with illegal devices such as M-Series, Silver Salutes, and Cherry Bombs. The model dataset also contained an estimated 429 injuries associated with homemade explosive devices.

These illegal and homemade explosives are not fireworks. They have not been tested for compliance with federal standards and generally contain dangerous amounts of highly sensitive and very energetic explosive compositions. Federal law prohibits the manufacture, storage, distribution, receipt, or transport of explosive materials without a federal explosives license or permit. The mere possession of illegal explosives can result in being federally prosecuted with substantial monetary penalties and jail time attached to a conviction. In addition to being illegal, these illegal explosives are very dangerous and expose all in the vicinity of these devices to an unreasonable risk of injury.

DEVICE MALFUNCTION

Device malfunction contributed an estimated 793 fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries. The devices were not identified with a CPSC code, or otherwise identified in the narrative, in those cases associated with 511 of the 793 estimated injuries. In those cases where the device was identified, 58% of the estimated 282 malfunction-related injuries were attributed to malfunction of Professional Display Devices, 19% to Party Poppers, 18% to Reloadable Aerial Shells (primarily tip-over), 3% to Multiple-Tube devices, and 3% attributed to Smoke devices. Some examples of the narrative associated with this category are as follows:

2YOM WAS WATCHING FIREWORKS WITH FAMILY TONIGHT, THEY WERE STANDING FAR AWAY FROM THE FIREWORKS, BUT A STRAY FIREWORK HIT HIS EYE. DX: CORNEAL ABRASION VS THERMAL BURN TO R EYELID

19 MOF PRESENTS WITH BURN TO UPPER AND LOWER ARMS AND FACE S/P WAS BEING HELD BY MOTHER OUTSIDE DURING A FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND ONE OF THE FIREWORKS EXPLODED NEAR PATIENT AND HIT PATIENT. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF FIRE DEPARTMENT ATTENDED. DX: SUPERFICIAL BURN OF LEFT FOREARM; SUPERFICIAL BURN OF LEFT UPPER ARM; SUPERFICIAL BURN OF FOREHEAD

8YOM WAS PLAYING WITH POPPERS AND WAS HIT IN THE RIGHT EYE DX CORNEAL ABRASION

DRUG/ALCOHOL USE

CPSC and others warn against using fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs that impair judgement. Drug and/or alcohol use was associated with 267 of the estimated injuries.

66YOM FIREWORK EXPLOSION R HAND BLEEDING TO AREA DRINKING ALCOHOL BA 140 DX
HAND AMPUTATION

38YOM WHO PRESENTS TODAY WITH TRAUMA TO THE HAND WHICH BEGAN TODAY, EMS
REPORTS PATIENT WAS PLAYING WITH A FIREWORK, WHICH EXPLODED IN HIS LEFT HAND.
PT ENDORSES SMOKING WEED TODAY AND SMOKING METHAMPHETAMINE YESTERDAY. DX:
BLAST INJURY, PARTIAL TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION OF LEFT RING FINGER THROUGH
PHALANX

ASSOCIATED WITH, BUT NOT NECESSARILY CAUSED BY, CONSUMER FIREWORKS

An estimated 1,400 NEISS fireworks-related injuries were not necessarily caused by legal fireworks, apart from estimated injuries associated with illegal and homemade explosive devices. These reported incidents involved injuries only remotely associated with consumer fireworks, such as injuries sustained while running from fireworks, injuries caused by pets, and injuries suffered from reacting to a firework detonation as if it were a gun shot. Some examples of the narrative associated with this category are as follows:

30YOM C/O FALL S/P PER BOTH PATIENT AND GIRLFRIEND, THE PATIENT WAS RUNNING
DOWN HIS DRIVEWAY WITH A LIT FIREWORK WHEN HE TRIPPED, LANDING ON HIS LEFT SIDE,
INCLUDING LEFT FACE AND LEFT FIFTH FINGER TRAUMA DX: FALL; INJURY OF HEAD;
TRAUMATIC INJURY OF HEAD; CLOSED NONDISPLACED FRACTURE OF DISTAL PHALANX OF
LEFT LITTLE FINGER; ABRASION OF FACE

9YOM WITH CHEST PAIN. THE PATIENT STATES THAT HE WAS PLAYING OUTSIDE WITH HIS
FRIENDS AND WAS GETTING CHASED BY A FRIEND SHOOTING A ROMAN CANDLE AT HIM. HE
ENDORSED GETTING HIT IN THE LEFT LOWER LEG BY A SHOT FROM THE ROMAN CANDLE. HE
STATES THAT HE WAS RUNNING VERY HARD AND DEVELOPED SOME SHORTNESS OF BREATH
AND CENTRAL CHEST PAIN WITH DEEP BREATHING. DX: CHEST PAIN

14YOM REPORTS THAT HE WAS SETTING OFF FIREWORKS WITH HIS COUSIN WHEN HE FELT A
SUDDEN PAIN IN HIS LEFT CHEST AND NOTICED BLOOD. HE IS UNSURE OF HOW IT HAPPENED
BUT THINKS IT WAS SHRAPNEL FROM THE FIREWORKS. HOWEVER, XRAY REVEALS LEAD
PELLET FROM AN AIR GUN. PT DOES NOT THINK ANYONE WAS TRYING TO SHOOT HIM OR
HAD A GUN. OK TO DISCHARGE WITH OUTPATIENT FOLLOW UP PLAN. DX: PENETRATING

56YOF, DOG STARTLED BY FIREWORKS AND GRAB HIM AND BIT FINGER, DX: FINGER BITE

OTHER

These are cases where it is clear that the device functioned properly and, for the most part, the consumer followed the warnings and instructions, but someone was injured requiring emergency department treatment. In 2025, an estimated 3,378 injuries fell into this category. In 59% of these cases, the device was not identified. In those cases where the device was identified, most were associated with thermal burns from sparklers and abrasions and contusions associated with the use of Firecrackers. In the majority of these cases, records indicate the victims were treated and released.

UNIDENTIFIED

AFSL was unable to identify a possible cause in 2,440 of the estimated injuries because the narrative was not clear as to the possible cause of the incident.

MISUSE

Excluding those incidents involving illegal explosive devices and drug or alcohol use, an estimated 4,199 of injuries were due to some form of misuse. Misuse includes lighting and holding in the hand devices that were not designed as a handheld device, launching devices off the body, and shooting or throwing fireworks at others. Some examples of the narrative associated with this category are as follows:

11YOM PRESENTS FOR FIREWORKS ACCIDENT AFTER THE FIREWORK EXPLODED IN RIGHT HAND PARTIAL. DX: FIREWORKS ACCIDENT, PARTIAL TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION OF RIGHT HAND AT WRIST LEVEL, BLAST INJURY, RIGHT PULMONARY CONTUSION, HYPOXIA, PENETRATING CHEST WOUND, PUNCTURE WOUND TO MULTIPLE SITES

24 YOM LIT OFF A MORTAR FIREWORK IN HIS CAR. MULTIPLE FINGERS MISSING FROM RIGHT HAND. DX: BLAST INJURY OF LEFT HAND, OPEN FRACTURE OF FACIAL BONE

14 YOM WAS HOLDING A MORTAR FIREWORK WHEN IT EXPLODED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING LIT AT A PARK. DX: PARTIAL TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION OF LEFT HAND THROUGH METACARPAL BONE, COMPLICATED RING AVULSION INJURY OF FINGER OF RIGHT HAND

46YOM PRESENTS AFTER A FIREWORK WITH A SHORT FUSE BLEW UP IN HIS LEFT HAND. DX: OPEN FRACTURE OF HAND; PARTIAL TRAUMATIC AMPUTATION OF LEFT MIDDLE FINGER THROUGH METACARPOPHALANGEAL JOINT

INJURY ANALYSIS AND OBSERVATIONS

The following observations were made from a review of NEISS data describing the age and gender of the victims, type of injuries, severity (disposition), and where available, the type of fireworks device associated with the injury. The dataset includes all 13,004 estimated injuries, unless otherwise noted.

ESTIMATED INJURIES BY GENDER

Of the 13,004 estimated fireworks-related injuries sustained in 2025, about 68% involved males. As noted in Table 5.1, this is consistent with the distribution seen in prior years. Male victims have represented from 64% to 74% of the injured population since 2016, averaging 70% over the period.

Table 5.1
NEISS Estimated Injury Distribution by Gender

Year	Male	Female	% Male
2016	7,582	3,551	68%
2017	9,551	3,334	74%
2018	6,373	2,708	70%
2019	6,606	3,387	66%
2020	11,384	4,262	73%
2021	7,329	4,158	64%
2022	6,742	3,421	66%
2023	6,754	2,994	69%
2024	10,701	3,983	73%
2025	8,819	4,184	68%

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ESTIMATED INJURIES BY AGE

Table 5.2 contains the estimated number of injuries by age⁴ and disposition. The table contains data showing the number of estimated fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries by age group and disposition. AFSL considers the injuries classified as requiring treatment and hospitalization, or resulted in a fatality, when calculating the hospitalization rate found in Table 5.3.

Table 5.2
NEISS Estimated Injuries by Age Group and Disposition
2025

Age Group	Treated and Released	Treated and Hospitalized	Left Without Being Seen	Fatality, Incl. DOA, Died in ER	Grand Total
Infant	368	7			376
Preschool	774	14			788
Child	1338	158	7		1504
Teen	2419	702		7	3129
Young Adult	1616	782	182		2580
Adult	3022	1529	77		4628
Grand Total	9538	3193	266	7	13004

Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Table 5.3
NEISS Estimated Fireworks-Related Injury and Hospitalization Rate per 100,000 Age Group Population
2025

Age Group	Injury Rate	Hospitalization Rate
Infant	5.2	0.1
Preschool	5.2	0.1
Child	5.3	0.6
Teen	10.3	2.3
Young Adult	5.6	1.7
Adult	2.2	0.7
Grand Total	3.8	0.9

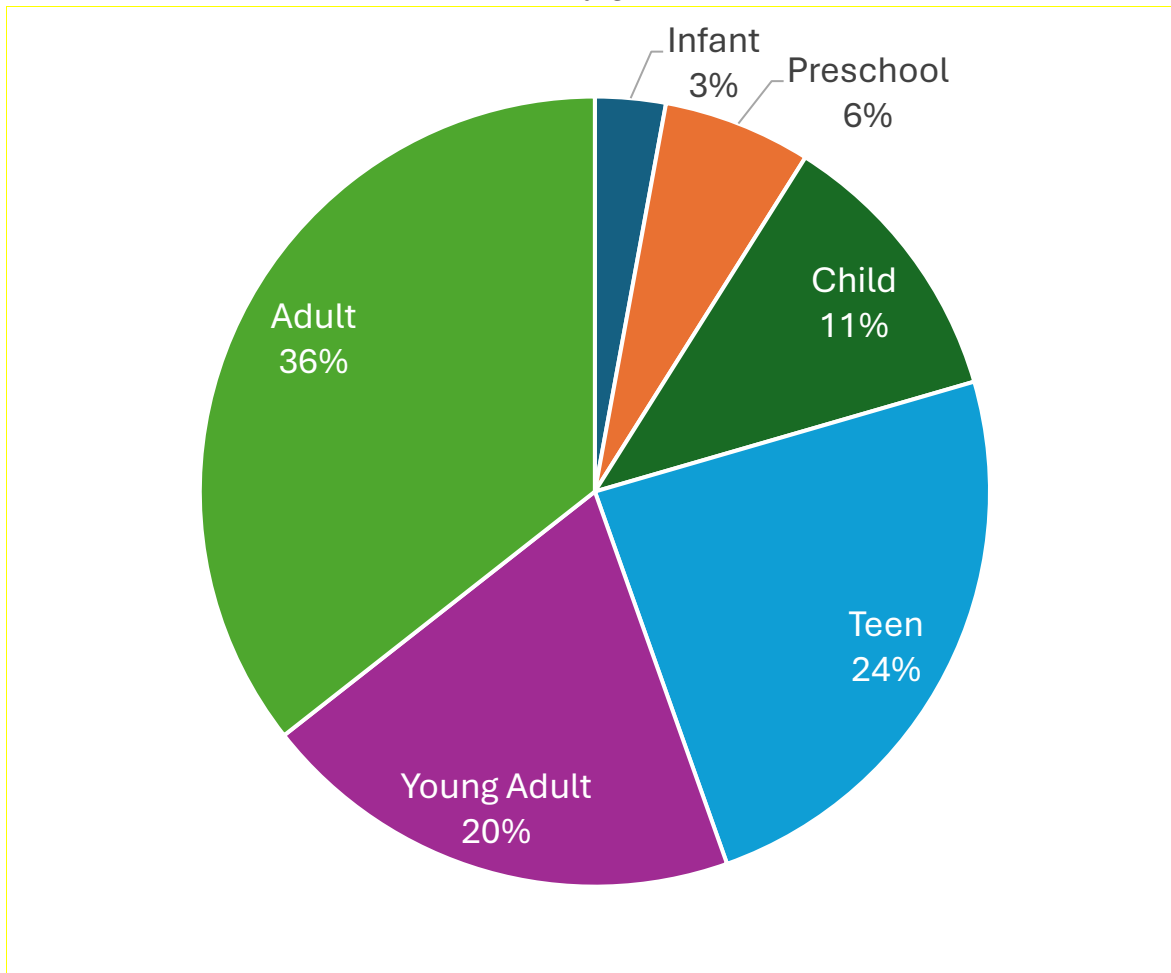
Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Teens experienced the highest injury and hospitalization rates, with 23% of the teen injuries resulting in hospitalization. Young adults suffered the next highest injury rate, with data indicating 30% of Young Adults

⁴ For the purposes of this analysis, AFSL sorted the data into the following age groups: Infant – under 2 years of age, Preschool – 2 to 5 years of age, Child – 6 to 12 years of age, Teen – 13 to 19 years of age, Young adult – 20 to 29 years of age, and Adult – 30 years of age and older.

who sought emergency department treatment for a fireworks-related injury were hospitalized. Adults had the lowest injury rates, but 26% of those adults injured required hospitalization.

Figure 5.2
Distribution of Estimated Fireworks-Related Injuries by Age Group
2025

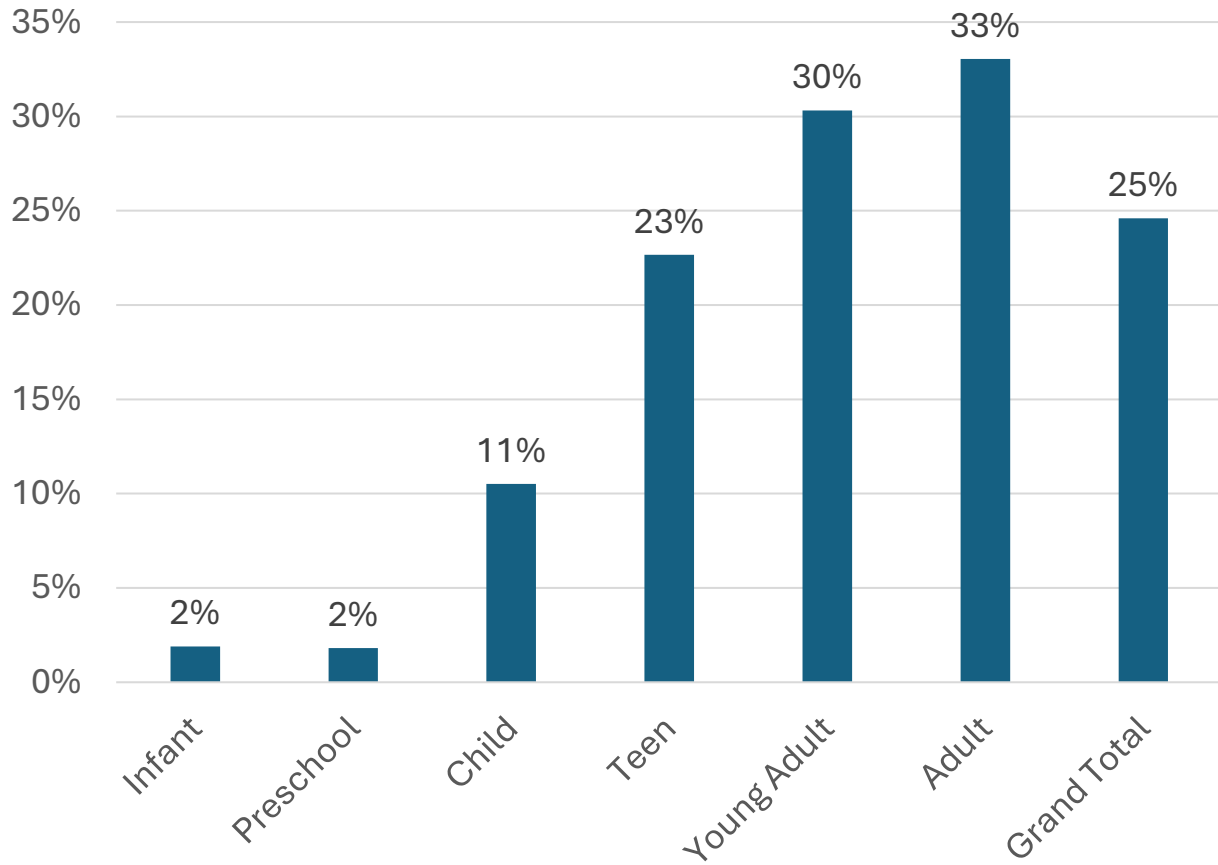


Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As illustrated in Figure 5.2, Adults (30 and older) experienced about 36% of the 2025 estimated fireworks-related emergency department-treated injuries, despite this age group comprising 63% of the total population. This is 25% lower than the prior year estimate (4,628 vs. 6,204). Young adults (20 to 29), who comprised 14% of the total population, were involved in 2,580 estimated injuries (20% of total), a 19% decrease (2,580 vs. 3,183) year over year. Teenagers experienced about 24% of the estimated injuries but make up only 9% of the 2025 population. The number of estimated injuries involving Teens increased by 32% over 2024 levels, continuing a series of year over year increases in estimated fireworks-related injuries since 2022. The remaining age groups (Child, Preschool, Infant) were responsible for 11%, 6%, and 3% of the total estimated injuries, respectively.

As Figure 5.3 illustrates, 33% of fireworks-associated injuries to Adults resulted in the victim being treated and transferred/admitted to the hospital as a result of their injury, followed by Young Adults at 30%, Teen at 23%, Child at 11%, Preschool at 2%, and Infant at 2%.

Figure 5.3
Percentage of Estimated Fireworks-Related Injuries Requiring Hospitalization
By Age Group
2025

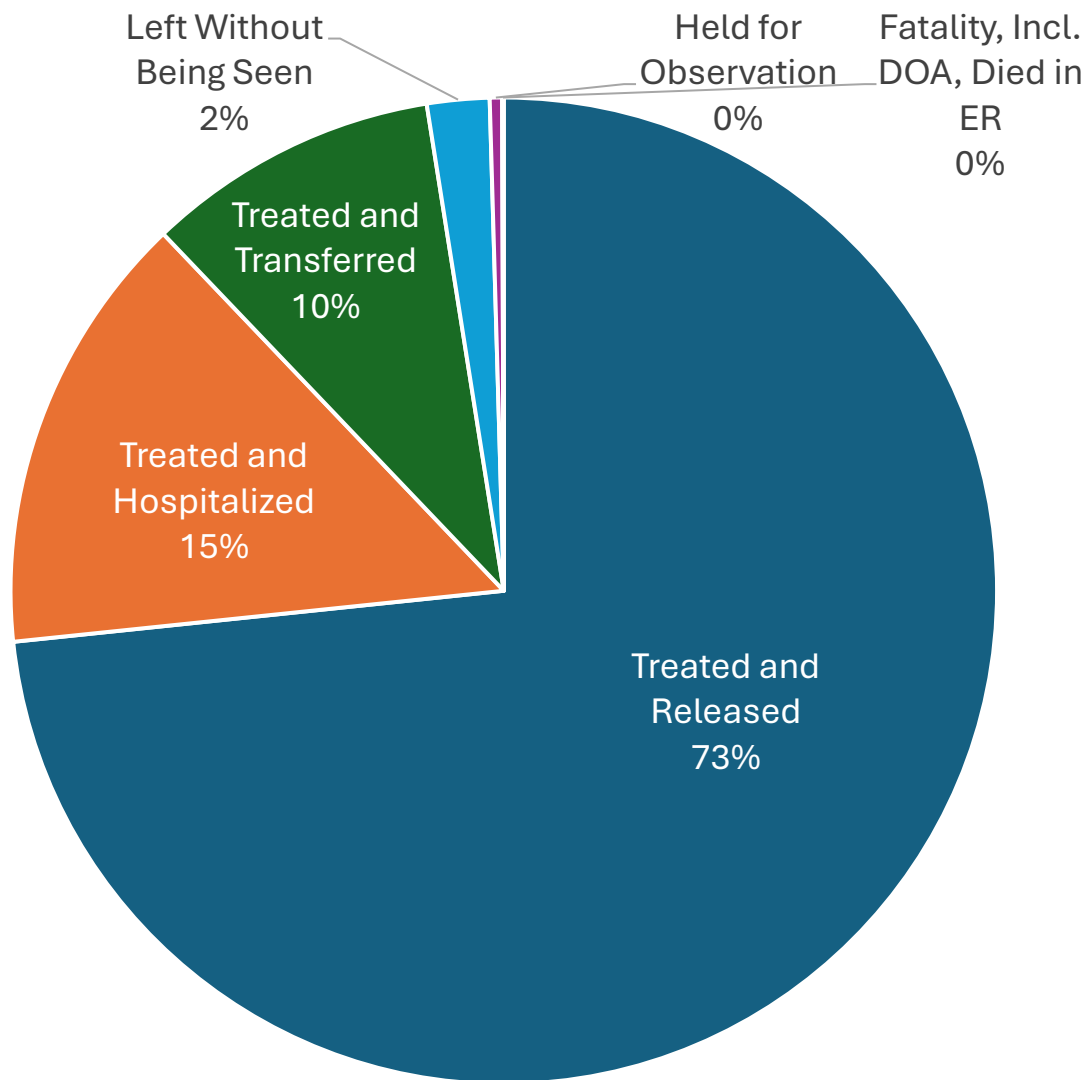


Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CASE DISPOSITION

An estimated 9,538, or 73%, of the estimated injuries were treated and released from the emergency department, as illustrated in Figure 5.4. Another 266, or about 2%, of the victims left the emergency department without being seen by emergency department personnel. The remaining 3,200 (25%) of the injuries required hospitalization.

Figure 5.4
NEISS Disposition
Estimated Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries
2025

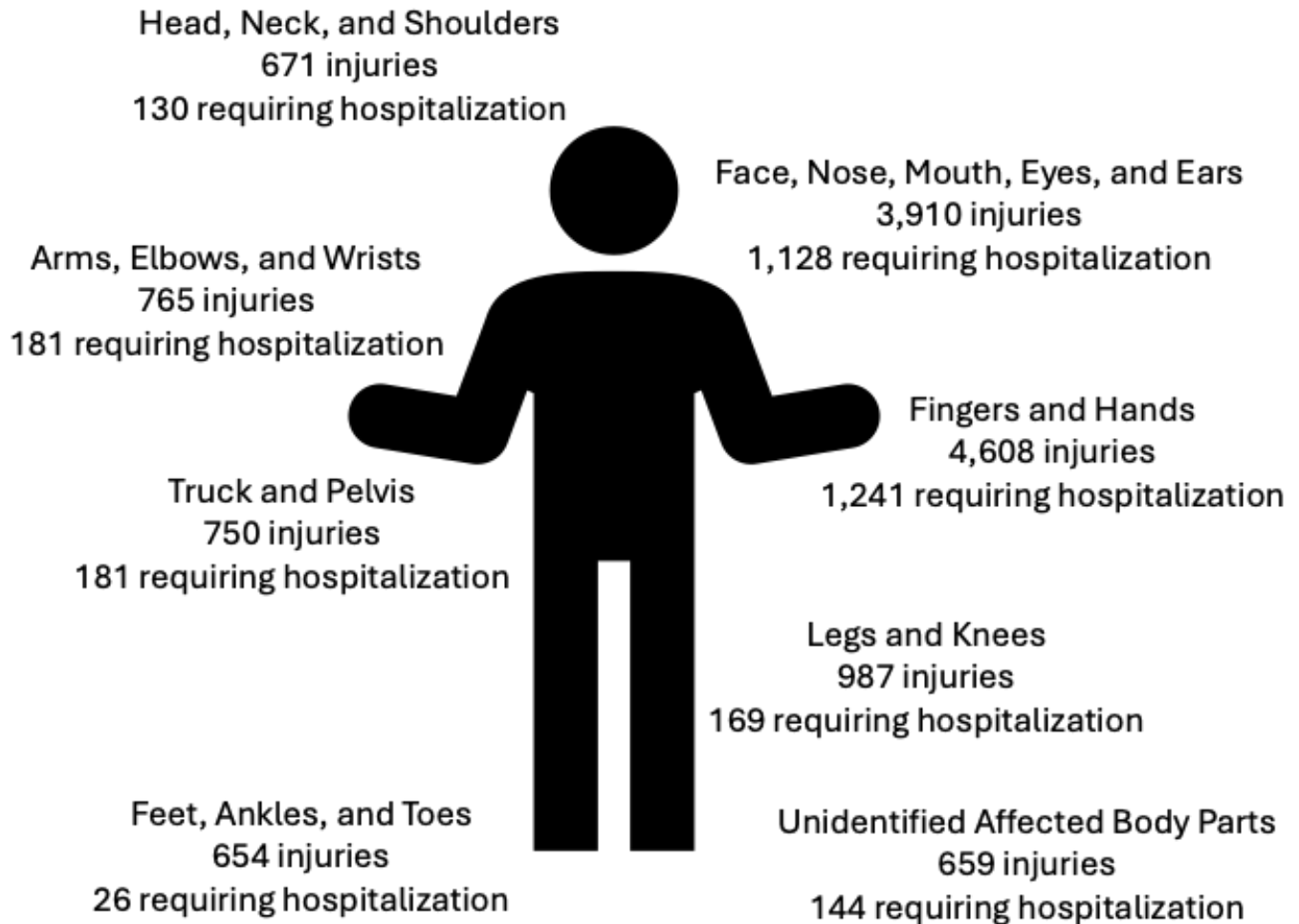


Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

DIAGNOSES

This section of our NEISS data review concerns itself with discussion of injury by body part. Figure 5.5 illustrates the general anatomical injury pattern indicated by the NEISS records. Note the ratio of those injuries requiring hospitalization to the total injuries.

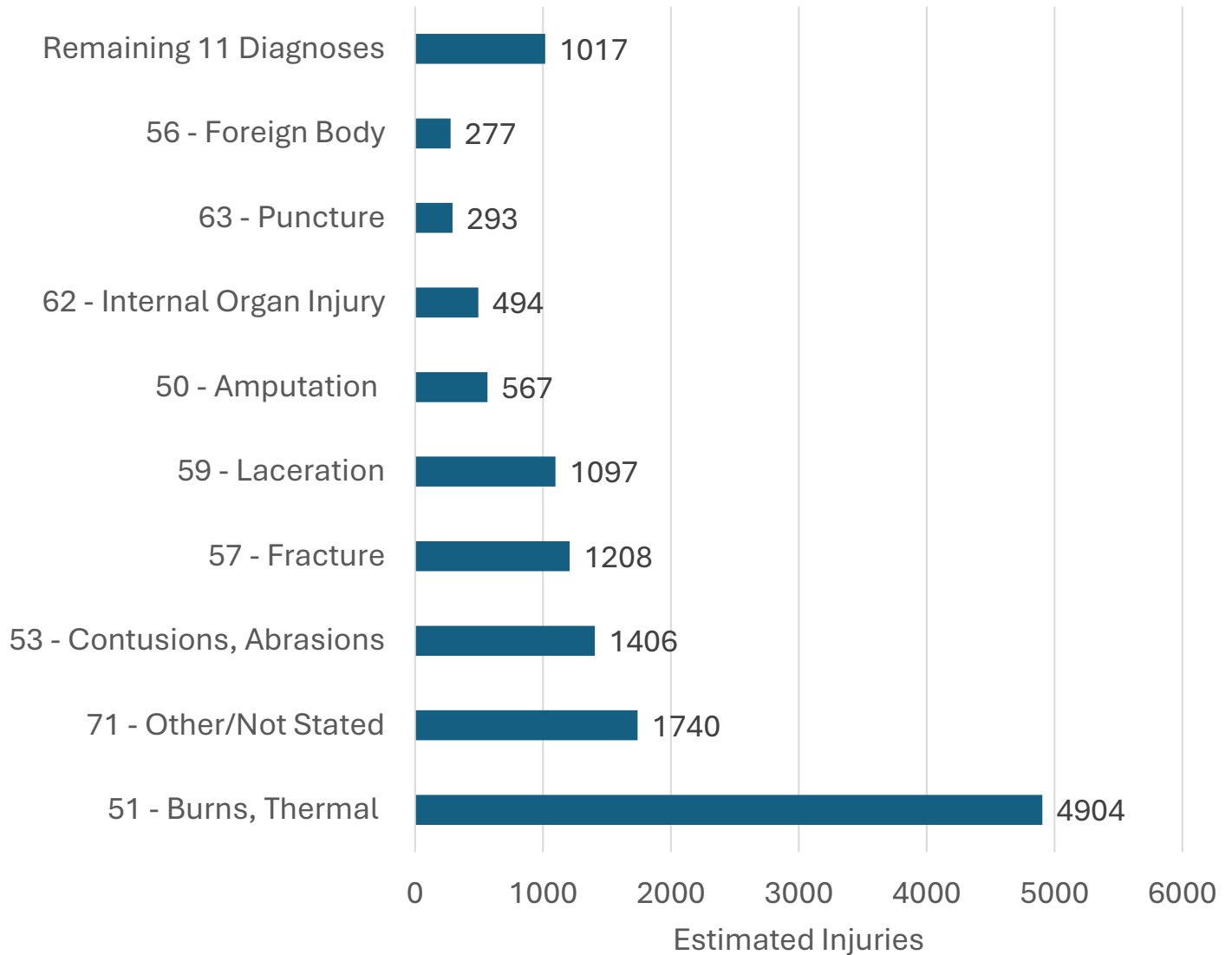
Figure 5.5
NEISS Fireworks-Related Anatomical Injury Pattern
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The leading diagnosis of a fireworks-related injury, responsible for over a third of the estimated 13,004 injuries, was thermal burns, as shown in Figure 5.6. Of those cases involving thermal burns, about 46% of the identified devices were Sparklers, followed by Firecrackers and Roman Candles at 19% and 11% respectively. Hospitalization was the disposition noted in 9% of the thermal burn cases.

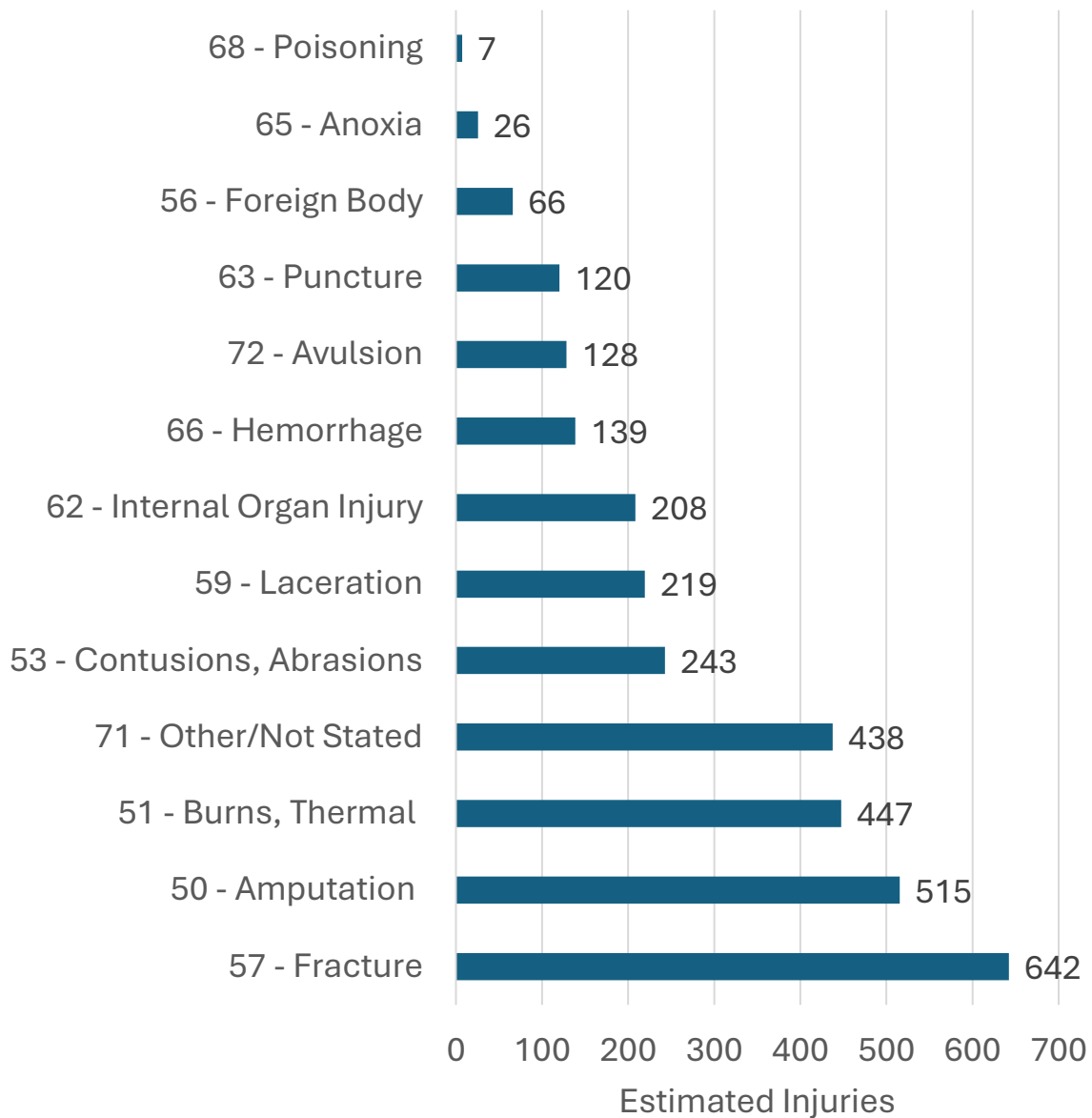
Figure 5.6
NEISS Estimated Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries by Diagnosis Code
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Figure 5.7, below, illustrates the ranking of those diagnoses resulting in hospitalization of the victim. The data reveals that amputations and fractures displace thermal burns as the leading outcome of a fireworks-related incident when considering only those cases resulting in hospitalization. The lack of meaningful device identification in the data makes it difficult to determine the type of fireworks devices associated with these injuries, but misuse is associated with 87% of the estimated injuries. In the majority of reported incidents, the victims were holding fireworks devices that were not designed or intended to be held and, if a legitimate consumer fireworks device, were labeled with instructions that included “Do not hold in hand” and “Light fuse and get away.”

Figure 5.7
NEISS Estimated Fireworks-Related Emergency Department-Treated Injuries with Hospitalization
Disposition by Diagnosis Code
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

6. SUMMARY

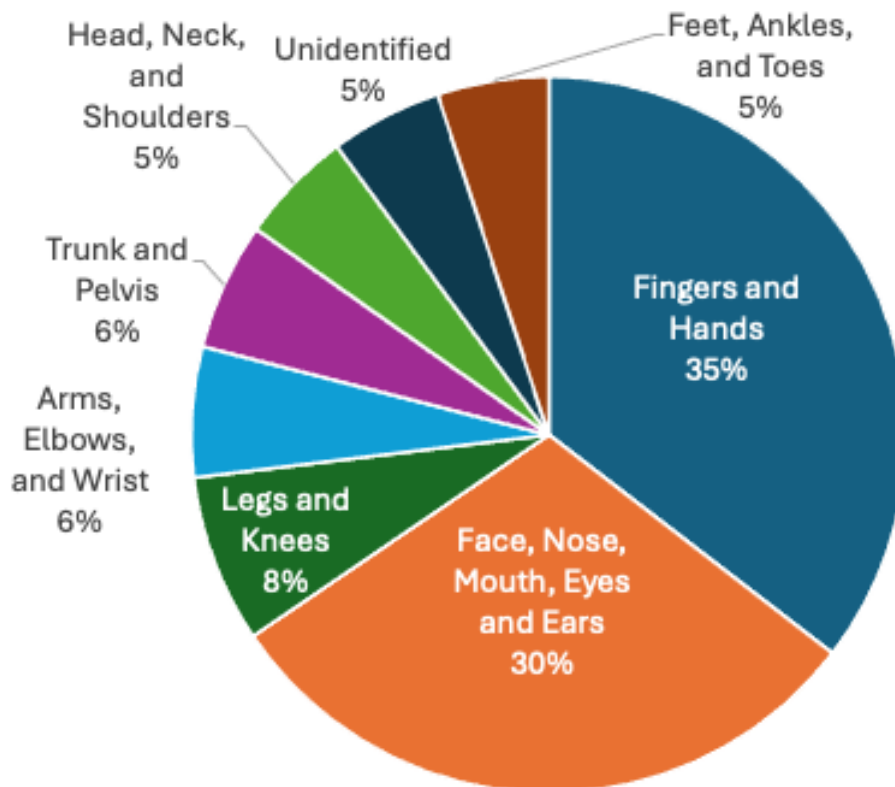
In the calendar year 2025, there were 24 reported non-occupational fireworks-related fatalities. However, reporting for 2025 may not be complete at this time due to delays in the receipt of death certificates by the CPSC. Most of the information provided on the fireworks-related fatalities, contained in the narrative found in CPSC’s Clearinghouse database, lacks sufficient detail to determine the type of device or the hazard scenario that led to these tragic outcomes.

There were 13,004 estimated fireworks associated injuries treated in emergency departments from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. An estimated 9,209 fireworks-related injuries (or 71% of the total estimated fireworks-related injuries in 2025) were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during the period June 15, 2025, through July 15, 2025.

INJURY DISTRIBUTION BY BODY PART

Thirty five percent (35%) of the estimated 13,004 fireworks-related injuries involved the fingers and hands, as shown in Figure 6.1. An additional 30% of the estimated injuries involved the face, nose, mouth, eyes, and ears, with 1,774 (14%) of these involving the eye. Most of the estimated injuries (9,805) were either treated and released or left without being seen.

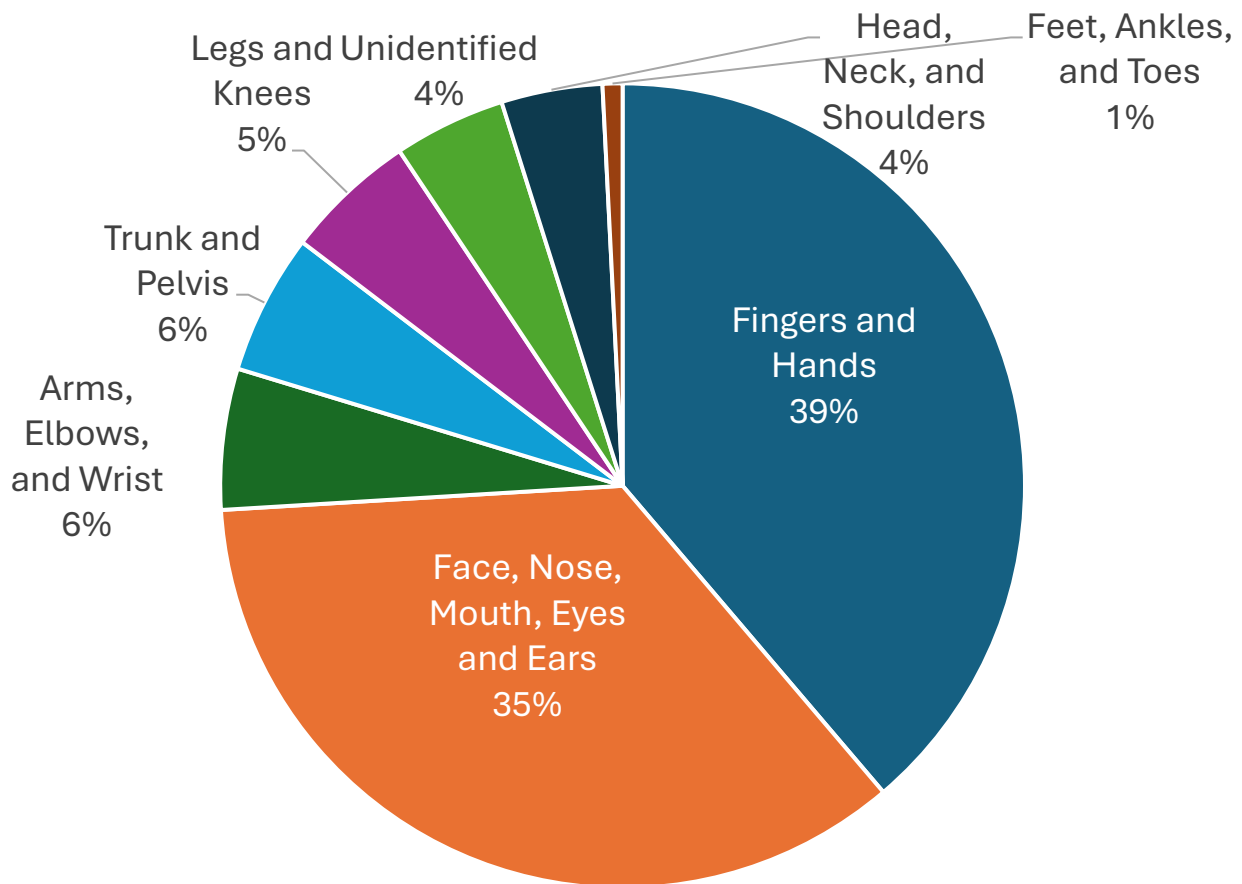
Figure 6.1
Estimated Injuries by Area of the Body
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Of the 3,199 estimated injuries considered most severe, injuries involving the hands and fingers were responsible for 39% of the injuries requiring hospitalization of the victim, as illustrated in Figure 6.2.

Figure 6.2
Estimated Injuries Requiring Hospitalization by Area of the Body
2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

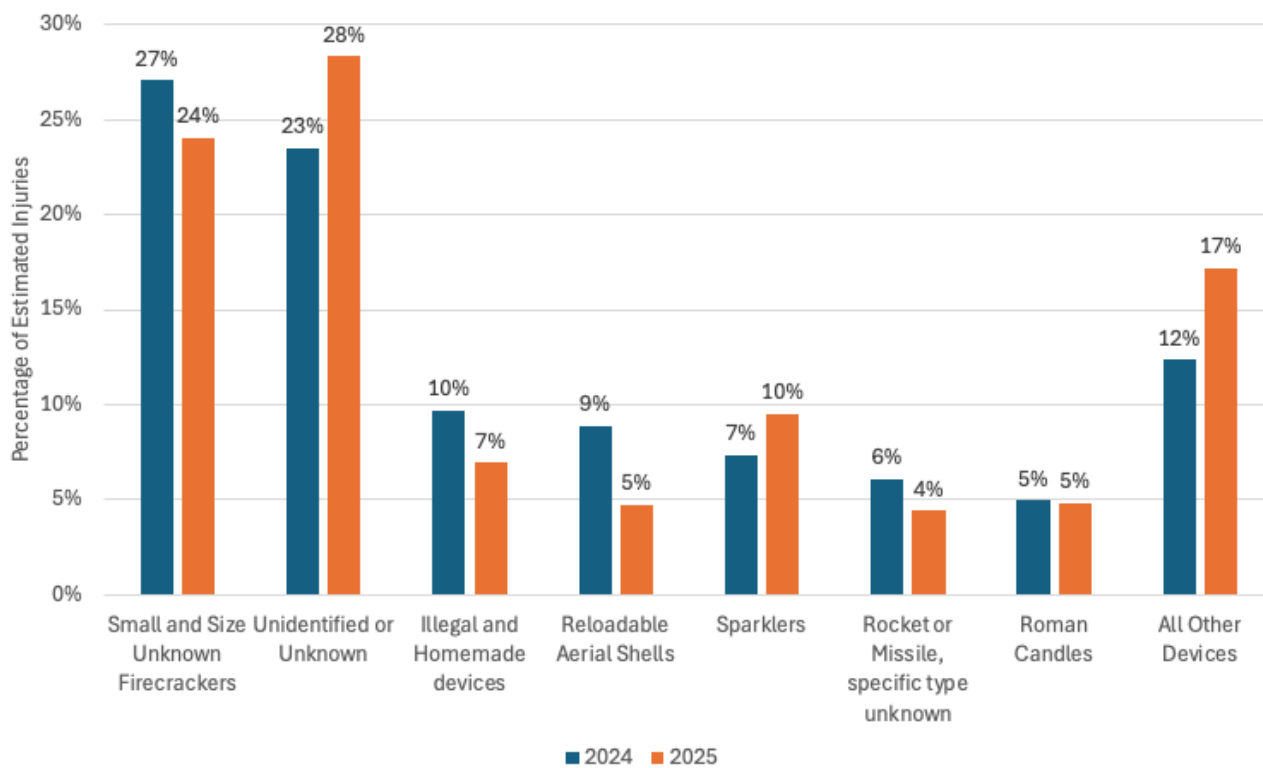
DEVICE INVOLVEMENT

As noted earlier, AFSL staff used NEISS data collected from 2021 through 2023, where the NEISS data reflects a greater percentage of identified explosive devices (knowns) than was reported in 2024 and 2025, as a basis upon which to infer the distribution of estimated injuries across the various explosive devices, as shown in Table 4.2 and Figure 5.3. The data was stratified by age group to better reflect the types of devices and injuries experienced by each group. This methodology creates additional uncertainty regarding the estimates of injuries per type of consumer fireworks/explosive devices but provides some important directionally relevant insights on the relationship between device type and estimated fireworks-related injuries.

Among the various types of fireworks identified, Small and Size Unknown Firecrackers were associated with 24% of the inferred estimated injuries in 2025, down from the prior year. The largest number of the estimated firecracker-related injuries, representing about 40% of the device total, were diagnosed with thermal burns, none of which resulted in hospitalization.

Illegal and Homemade devices accounted for 7% of the inferred estimated fireworks-related injuries, with 33% of the injuries associated with these devices requiring hospitalization for hemorrhaging and lacerations. Amputations accounted for 16% of the inferred estimated injuries associated with illegal and homemade devices. Injury severity as a percentage of total fireworks-related injuries is worsening according to the data.

Figure 6.3
Change in Percentage of Estimated Injuries Associated with an Identified Device
2024 and 2025



Source: NEISS, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

AFSL has seen, and continues to see, evidence of illegal fireworks devices, falsely packaged and marketed as legitimate consumer fireworks, being sold across the country in increasing volumes. Items such as Reloadable Aerial Shells, Multiple-tube devices, Rockets, Missiles, and large Firecrackers that contain illegal amounts and types of pyrotechnic materials are being openly displayed and sold to consumers. These devices typically do not list the name of the manufacturer or retailer and may not have all the required warnings and instructions. These illegal devices have not been tested and certified as compliant with all federal requirements, as required by CPSC regulations, and present an unreasonable risk of injury to the American consumer. Enforcement at the federal level has not been effective at deterring the distribution and sales of these illegal and dangerous fireworks devices.

However, Section 24 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) authorizes the attorney general of any state, without CPSC agreement or permission, to bring suit in federal court to seek injunctive relief against any company or person that transacts business in that state for a violation of any of several “prohibited acts” under Section 19 of the CPSA, including selling, offering for sale, manufacturing, distributing, or importing consumer products, including consumer fireworks, that violate CPSC mandatory safety standards. Notice to the CPSC is required and no such state action can proceed if the CPSC or other federal agency has previously initiated its own action against the company.

AFSL conducts Fireworks Regulatory Compliance Training for local and state fire services and law enforcement personnel to facilitate more aggressive enforcement at the state and local level. This growing network of fire services and law enforcement personnel is committed to enforcing the applicable laws in their jurisdictions and sharing information on illegal products and operators.

When taken together, Section 29 (Cooperation with States and Other Federal Agencies) and Section 24 of the CPSA make clear that state fire marshals, working both in cooperation with the CPSC (regarding investigations and information sharing) and with their state attorneys general (regarding direct enforcement lawsuits) are empowered to take a much more active role in enforcing CPSC’s mandatory fireworks standards to keep their citizens safe, in the absence of federal enforcement.

USING CONSUMER FIREWORKS SAFELY

Millions celebrate safely with consumer fireworks every year by following these tips!

- Only buy legal consumer fireworks (those with brightly colored labeling containing the manufacturer’s name along with warnings and instructions for safe use) from a reputable, licensed retailer.
- Always have a sober adult in charge of the fireworks. If you wouldn’t let them drive, why would you give them explosives and a match?
- Read and follow the instructions on the labels. They are there to keep you safe.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from buildings and trees.
- Fireworks should be shot from a hard, flat, level debris-free surface.
- Keep spectators at a safe distance.
- Never give fireworks to young children. This includes Sparklers.
- Never carry fireworks in your pockets.
- Always wear safety glasses when lighting fireworks.
- Do not throw, aim, or shoot fireworks in the direction of others.
- If the label says “Do Not Hold In Hand” place the device on the ground before igniting the fuse and immediately retreating to a safe distance.
- Do not shoot fireworks from glass, plastic, or metal containers. They are not designed to withstand the forces generated by the fireworks.
- Never shoot a fireworks device off your body. It is also not designed to withstand the forces generated by the fireworks.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device.
- Light one fireworks device at a time.
- Wait before approaching a fireworks device that doesn’t appear to have ignited. Never reignite a device that doesn’t light the first time.
- When the show is finished, allow the used fireworks to cool before submerging them in water to ensure they will not reignite in your trash receptacle. Drain and place the cold, wet fireworks devices in a garbage bag and dispose outside in a covered trash receptacle.

Appendix A - Types of Consumer Fireworks

The following definitions of the various types of consumer fireworks, with the exception of the definition of illegal explosives and homemade devices, can be found in the 2018 APA STANDARD 87-1A, STANDARD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, CLASSIFICATION, APPROVAL, AND TRANSPORTATION OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS. (American Pyrotechnics Association, 2018).

Consumer Firework - a finished firework device, including a reloadable kit, that requires no assembly and is in a form intended for use by the public that complies with the limits and requirements of this standard, and the construction, performance, chemical composition, and labeling requirements codified by the CPSC in Title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Novelty Items

Booby Trap – a device that is actuated by means of friction that when pulled apart, activates the device producing a noise effect.

Novelty Flitter Sparkler – a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire that produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame and/or a crackling effect.

Party Popper – a device that is actuated by means of friction. Pulling the string or trigger activates the device producing a noise effect and releasing paper streamers or confetti. Common examples resemble champagne bottles and toy pistols.

Novelty Snake – a device in the form of a pressed pellet of chemical composition that upon burning produces a snake-like ash that expands in length as the pellet burns.

Snapper – a paper or plastic wrapped device that contains silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel. When dropped the device activates, producing a noise effect.

Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick – a device that consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition that produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame and/or a crackling effect.

Novelty Smoke – a device that produces only smoke.

Ground Devices

Chaser – a device consists of a paper or cardboard tube venting out the fuse end of the tube.

Crackling Ball - a device that consists of a spherical ball that contains small granules (micro-stars) of chemical composition that produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.

Crackling Strip - a device that consists of small granules (micro-stars) of chemical composition adhered to and encased in a paper or cardboard wrapping that produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.

Crackling Tube - a device that consists of a tube that contains small granules (micro-stars) of chemical composition that produce sparks and/or a crackling effect.

Firecracker – a device that consists of a paper-wrapped or cardboard tube that produces a single report.

Flasher - a device containing a chemical composition that produces a crackling/flushing/strobing light effect.

Flitter Sparkler – a paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire that produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame and/or a crackling effect.

Fountain, Cone or Cylindrical – a device that produces a shower of any combination of colored sparks, color flame, crackle, smoke, whistle and/or micro star effects.

Fountain, Nitrocellulose – a device that produces a shower of sparks, color and/or flame as its primary effect using nitrocellulose as the major chemical component.

Ground Spinner - a device that contains chemical composition that emits a shower of colored sparks that vent out of an orifice causing the device to spin rapidly on the ground.

Illuminating Torch - a device that emits a colored flame with or without crackles or sparks.

Smoke – a device that produces smoke as the primary effect.

Snake – a device in the form of a pressed pellet of chemical composition that upon ignition produces a snake-like ash that expands in length as the pellet burns.

Specialty Device – a device in the shape of an animal or a small vehicle, etc. that produces multiple effects.

Wheel – a multi-tube device intended to be attached to a support so it can rotate and produce a shower of sparks, whistle and/or other effects.

Wire Sparkler or Dipped Stick – a device that consists of a metal wire or wood dowel coated with a chemical composition that produces a shower of sparks, a colored flame and/or a crackling effect.

Aerial Devices

Aerial Spinner - a device that spins and rises into the air without a blade or propeller and may produce a secondary effect while in flight.

Girandola - a device that spins and rises into the air and may produce secondary effects while in flight.

Helicopter - a device containing an attached propeller or blade that spins and rises into the air and may produce a secondary effect while in flight.

Mine, Preloaded – a device that ignites and projects its effect directly out of the launch tube. Effects may be pyrotechnic and/or non-pyrotechnic.

Mine and Shell, Preloaded – a device that ignites and projects its effect and shell directly out of the launch tube. Effects may be pyrotechnic and/or non-pyrotechnic.

Missile, Fin Stabilized - a device that contains a driver attached to a set of fins (primary stabilizer) which may produce a secondary effect after launching.

Missile, Spin Stabilized – a device that contains a driver that sits on a launch spike attached to a base block. The driver spins (primary stabilizer) as it travels upward and may produce a secondary effect after launching.

Rockets– a device that contains a driver attached to a stick for guidance and stability. Rockets may produce a secondary effect.

Roman Candle - a device that expels a series of stars, shells, or other effects from a tube into the air.

Shell, Preloaded - a device that launches and ignites a preloaded shell into the air that bursts open and produces an effect. Effects may be pyrotechnic and/or non-pyrotechnic.

Cake and Combination Devices

Cake, 200 gram and 500 gram - a device that consists of multiple tubes fused together to form one device.

Combination, 200 gram and 500 gram –multiple devices that are fused and assembled together to form one device (e.g., a fountain combined with a helicopter).

Reloadable Kits

Reloadable Aerial Shell – a finished device that consists of a non-preloaded launch tube with base, with no more than 12 shell components. The shells are individually placed in the launch tube and launched into the air to produce an effect.

Reloadable Fountain - a finished device that consists of a non-preloaded support tube with base, with no more than 12 fountain components. The fountains are individually placed in the tube and ignited to produce an effect.

Reloadable Mine - a finished device that consists of a non-preloaded launch tube with base, with no more than 12 individual mine components. The mines are individually placed in the tube and ignited, and the effects are launched into the air.

Illegal Explosives and Homemade Devices

ATF considers any explosive devices, including fireworks, that have not been tested and approved for transportation by DOT/PHMSA or devices that contain amounts of pyrotechnic material that exceed CPSC's explosive weight limits as illegal explosives (Illegal Explosives | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, n.d.)

Some of the more common illegal explosive devices, often sold as consumer fireworks, include the M-Series devices (e.g., M-80, M-100/Silver Salute, M-250, M-1000/Quarter Stick) and Cherry Bombs. Other illegal explosives are frequently packaged to resemble legal consumer fireworks, such as large Rockets, Missiles, Reloadable Aerial Shell Kits, Multiple-tube devices, and Firecrackers. These devices have not been tested, as required by federal law, and contain illegal amounts of highly energetic pyrotechnic materials that present a substantial product hazard and an unreasonable risk of severe injury to the consumer.

Homemade Improvised Explosive Devices, which include homemade fireworks, are extremely dangerous and prohibited under federal law. The internet has made it easy to find the various formulations and chemicals needed to construct these explosive devices, but most of the information sources fail to educate the reader of the

extreme danger associated with the manufacture and handling of these very sensitive and highly energetic materials.

Appendix B – NEISS Product Ranking, Highest to Lowest Injury Estimate for 2025, Top 174 Product Codes

NEISS Product Code	Consumer Product	NEISS Estimated Injuries 2025
1807	Floors or flooring materials	2,199,379
1842	Stairs or steps	1,228,377
4076	Beds or bedframes, other or not specified	999,656
4074	Chairs, other or not specified	433,183
5040	Bicycles or accessories (excluding mountain or all-terrain bicycles)	412,756
611	Bathtubs or showers	369,916
3299	Exercise (activity or apparel without equipment)	361,889
1205	Basketball (activity, apparel or equipment)	358,220
464	Knives, not elsewhere classified	342,503
1211	Football (activity, apparel or equipment)	307,911
1884	Ceilings and walls (interior part of completed structure)	305,552
4057	Tables, not elsewhere classified	262,746
1893	Doors, other or not specified	262,290
1267	Soccer (activity, apparel or equipment)	260,373
679	Sofas, couches, davenports, divans or studio couches	227,475
649	Toilets	209,401
1615	Footwear	195,692
5022	Scooters, powered	162,706
4078	Ladders, other or not specified	160,883
4056	Cabinets, racks, room dividers and shelves, not elsewhere classified	130,971
3265	Weightlifting (activity, apparel or equipment)	127,188

1616	Jewelry (excluding watches)	125,375
1141	Containers, not specified	124,683
676	Rugs or carpets, not specified	118,515
1817	Porches, balconies, open-side floors or floor openings	118,094
1233	Trampolines	114,824
1715	Pet supplies (excluding foods and medicines)	107,569
5045	e-Bicycles	100,567
5024	Scooters, unspecified (not known if powered or not)	100,336
604	Desks, dressers, chests, bureaus, or buffets	98,862
1645	Day wear	98,242
3274	Swimming (activity, apparel or equipment; excluding flotation devices)	96,993
1871	Fences or fence posts	94,492
5041	Baseball (activity, apparel or equipment; excluding softball)	93,385
1819	Nails, screws, carpet tacks or thumbtacks -> Nails, screws, tacks or bolts	82,712
3277	Exercise equipment (excluding weightlifting or gymnastic equipment)	77,070
1894	Windows and window glass, other than storm windows	72,753
4014	Furniture, not specified	70,032
1878	Doorsills or frames	68,494
1266	Volleyball (activity, apparel or equipment)	67,809
1864	Counters or countertops (excluding bars)	65,915
3223	Fishing (activity, apparel or equipment; excluding fishing knives)	65,421
478	Drinking glasses, cups, and mugs	64,313
1244	Monkey bars, playground gyms or other playground climbing apparatus	62,050
1200	Sports and recreational activity, not elsewhere classified	61,988
5036	Two-wheeled, powered, off-road vehicles	61,219

5034	Softball (activity, apparel or equipment)	60,827
1333	Skateboards, unpowered or unspecified (title updated 2020)	60,064
670	Chair, recliner	58,465
3278	Dancing (activity, apparel or equipment)	58,060
3235	Other ball sports (activity, apparel or equipment)	57,371
1270	Wrestling (activity, apparel or equipment)	56,136
413	Waste containers, trash baskets or refuse bins	55,501
3283	Snow skiing (activity, apparel or equipment)	53,295
474	Tableware and accessories (excluding drinking glasses, cups, and mugs)	52,173
1144	Bags, not elsewhere classified	51,171
1439	Lawn mowers, not specified	51,097
3246	Swings or swing sets (excluding portable baby swings)	50,511
3286	All-terrain vehicles (four wheels, excluding dune buggies; exclusively off-road)	49,845
1284	Swimming pools, not specified	49,103
1112	Metal containers (excluding aerosols, trash and gasoline cans)	47,813
1395	Toys, not specified	47,458
687	Benches (excluding work benches)	47,261
1212	Golf (activity, apparel or equipment)	46,132
1865	Poles (excluding fence posts, fishing, pole vaults and play-ground equipment)	44,047
836	Knives with replaceable blades	43,234
3273	Playground equipment, not specified	42,850
1242	Slides or sliding boards (excluding swimming pool slides)	42,804
1934	Hot water	42,109
661	Bunk beds	41,518
1239	Horseback riding (activity, apparel or equipment)	40,433

276	Refrigerators	37,969
893	Tools, not specified	37,431
1659	Manicure, pedicure, and make-up brushes and tools	37,252
469	Slicers and choppers	36,932
3257	Martial arts (activity, apparel or equipment)	35,917
4080	Stools, other or not specified	35,453
3287	All-terrain vehicles (number of wheels not specified)	34,578
1272	Gymnastics (activity, apparel or equipment; excluding trampolines)	33,793
5031	Snowboarding (activity, apparel or equipment)	33,361
557	Computers (equipment and electronic games)	32,786
1686	Coins	32,736
1679	Grocery or shopping carts, unpowered	32,444
5030	Track and field (activity, apparel or equipment)	31,587
550	Telephones or telephone accessories	31,498
841	Bench or table saws	30,973
5046	Mopeds or power-assisted cycles	30,884
281	Ranges or ovens, not specified	30,072
1661	Nonelectric razors or shavers	29,874
3216	Roller skating (activity, apparel or equipment)	29,852
3254	Cheerleading (activity, apparel or equipment; excluding batons)	29,793
1829	Handrails, railings or banisters	29,332
1415	Manual snow or ice removal tools	28,560
648	Sinks (excluding faucets)	28,541
480	Manual cleaning equipment (excluding buckets or pails)	28,335
1411	Chain saws	28,320

1658	Clothing, not specified	27,401
466	Cookware, not specified	26,618
1137	Paper products	26,546
1876	House repair or construction materials, not elsewhere classified	25,832
374	Pipes (excluding smoking pipes)	25,761
1403	Other unpowered garden tools	25,682
1293	Amusement attractions (including rides)	25,648
1213	Golf carts, motorized vehicle	24,881
3255	Ice skating (activity, apparel or equipment)	24,500
1843	Ramps or landings	23,776
5016	Balls, other or not specified	23,559
1931	Tablet or capsule drugs	23,487
827	Hammers	22,862
1820	Cabinet or door hardware	22,568
1866	General home or room involvement in fires	22,019
1135	Bottles or jars, not specified	21,967
1207	Boxing (activity, apparel or equipment)	21,917
1279	Ice hockey (activity, apparel or equipment)	21,408
1667	Razors or shavers, not specified	20,833
4025	Barstools or kitchen stools	20,786
983	Soaps (excluding laundry soaps or detergents)	20,720
884	Batteries	20,681
1892	Glass doors or doors with glass panels	20,580
428	Kitchen gadgets, not elsewhere classified	20,503
3219	Other playground equipment	20,414

1623	Luggage (excluding foot lockers)	20,225
899	Workshop grinders, buffers, or polishers, not specified	20,130
1140	Glass bottles or jars, not specified	20,079
1414	Garden hoses, nozzles or sprinklers	20,017
1413	Greenhouse supplies or gardening supplies	19,786
1685	Pens and pencils	19,586
1744	Motorized vehicles, not elsewhere classified (three or more wheels)	19,310
3284	Tennis (activity, apparel or equipment)	19,202
620	Step stools	19,115
612	Runners, throw rugs or doormats (excluding bathtub mats)	19,018
1447	Pruning or trimming equipment, not specified	18,999
1114	Cardboard products	18,821
4004	Mirrors or mirror glass (excluding lighted make-up mirrors)	18,672
3272	Hockey (activity, apparel or equipment), not specified	18,477
5033	Mountain or all-terrain bicycles or accessories	18,469
115	Vacuum cleaners	18,013
897	Power workshop grinders, buffers or polishers	18,009
956	Bleaches (non-cosmetic)	17,883
845	Saws, not specified	17,684
572	Televisions	17,379
949	Laundry soaps or detergents	16,921
450	Scissors, not specified	16,662
4010	Mattresses, not specified	16,581
546	Stereo or hi-fi components or accessories	16,350
1217	Sleds	16,142

1889	Elevators or other lifts	16,042
689	Blankets, not specified	15,679
380	Fans	15,525
1215	Lacrosse (activity, apparel or equipment)	15,454
1555	Highchairs	15,291
1422	Riding power lawn mowers	15,268
1294	Bleachers	15,242
1464	Lawn trimmers or edgers, powered (excluding brush cutters)	15,065
4081	Cords, electrical, other or not specified	14,886
1647	Clothing accessories	14,725
1522	Baby strollers	14,671
1886	Garage doors (excluding automatic garage doors or door openers)	14,573
1143	Buckets or pails	14,412
895	Power saws, other or not specified	14,172
1870	Windowsills or frames	14,158
618	Stepladders (excluding step stools)	14,089
5044	Utility vehicles	13,981
896	Welding equipment	13,936
1890	Escalators	13,639
1206	Bowling (activity, apparel or equipment)	13,609
381	Air conditioners	13,518
5011	Book bags or back carriers	13,516
3251	Built-in swimming pools	13,408
1465	Decorative yard equipment, excluding water features	13,320
1552	Cribs, nonportable or not specified	12,990

1381	Toys, not elsewhere classified	12,927
1062	Tractors, other or not specified	12,864
1313	Fireworks	12,668