

The United States Fireworks Injury Problem in Perspective

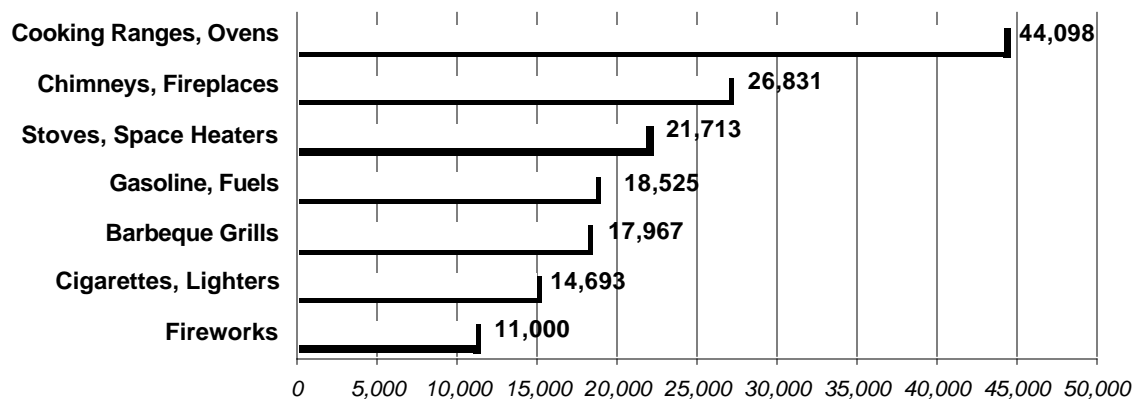
Approximately 70 million Americans sustain nonfatal injuries each year, according to data compiled by a special commission of the National Research Council. Motor vehicles, firearms, and falls account for over 60% of this total. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has estimated that approximately 10,000 Americans have been injured annually in fireworks-related incidents over the past decade, with serious misuse accounting for a large majority of the incidents.

Fireworks, therefore, are involved in only about 0.01 % of all injuries — 99.99 % of injuries in this country are associated with something other than fireworks.

There are an estimated 6,820 hospitals in the United States, according to the American Hospital Association. Each hospital, on the average, treats approximately one fireworks-related injury per year. In contrast, there are approximately 205 automobile related and 82 bicycle-related injuries treated per hospital per year.

If you listen to some anti-firework messages, you would be led to believe that fireworks are the leading cause of fire-related injuries in the United States. The 2000 CPSC report on product-related injuries lists numerous heat-producing products with greater injury estimates than fireworks.

2000 Product -related Injury Estimate



2000 Injury Estimates

References: "Injury In America," Committee on Trauma Research, National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1985

Source: American Pyrotechnics Association

National Electronic Surveillance System (NEISS), 2000 Report, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C.