

Publication Summary



Unintentional Injuries;

Hospital admissions: Year ending 31 March 2012

Deaths: Year ending 31 December 2011

Publication date – 26 February 2013



About this Release

Unintentional injuries can occur in any age group, but children and the elderly are more vulnerable. The term “unintentional injury” is preferred to “accidents” as “accident” implies that events are inevitable and unavoidable whereas a high proportion of these incidents are in fact preventable.

This publication summarises information on hospital admissions and deaths related to unintentional injuries and assaults. The information comes from hospital administrative systems across Scotland, up to and including the financial year 2011/12 and from death registrations sourced from National Records of Scotland, up to and including calendar year 2011.

The format of this publication has been revised since the previous publication on unintentional injuries in order to improve the overall quality and achieve greater consistency with international standards - in particular the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) matrix on injury statistics. This has resulted in some changes to the grouping of cause of injury categories, in particular the ‘other’ category.

Previous publications on unintentional Injuries have included information on assaults. However, in line with the categorisation of types of injury by ICE and by the National Records for Scotland, data on assaults are now presented *separately* from data on unintentional injuries. Trend data in this publication have been updated to reflect this change.

Key Points

- Unintentional injuries accounted for approximately 1 in 7 emergency hospital admissions for children and 1 in 10 for adults in Scotland in 2011/2012.
- There were 54,427 emergency admissions to hospital in Scotland for unintentional injuries in 2011/12. This is a slight decrease of approximately 1% on the previous year.
- There were 1,657 deaths in Scotland in 2011 due to unintentional injury, 16 in children under the age of 15 and 1,641 in adults aged 15 years of age and over.

- There were over 32,000 emergency admissions to hospital due to falls in Scotland in 2011/12. This represents approximately 60% of the total number of emergency admissions to hospital due to unintentional injuries.
- Children and adults in the most deprived areas are more likely than those in the least deprived areas to have an emergency admission to hospital for an unintentional injury.

Background

For data quality reasons, information on where the injury occurred no longer includes a category for “injuries in the home”.

The changes to the classification of ‘unintentional injuries’ has resulted in a reduction of approximately 6,500 emergency hospital admissions compared to totals reported in previous publications.

It should also be noted that there has been an update to the way deaths from unintentional injury are coded since the previous publication. This affects deaths in 2011 and means that deaths previously classified as ‘mental and behavioural disorders’ are now counted under ‘accidental poisoning’ where appropriate. National Records of Scotland (NRS) estimated this increased the total number of deaths as a result of an unintentional injury from 1,295 to 1,657 in 2011. (See table 2 [Unintentional Injury Deaths](#) on the NRS website for more information). Care is required when comparing the statistics for 2011 with the figures for earlier years, as previous years figures have not been revised.

See Appendix A1 – Background Information or full report for more information.

Contact

Celina Davis

Principal Information Analyst
celina.davis@nhs.net
0131 275 6199

Jodie Hope

Information Analyst
jodie.hope@nhs.net
0131 275 7495

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of ‘Official Statistics’. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/