

Publication Summary



Unintentional Injuries;

Hospital admissions: Year ending 31 March 2013

Deaths: Year ending 31 December 2012

Publication date – 25 February 2014



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 2012/13 and from death registrations sourced from National Records of Scotland, up to and including calendar year 2012.

Key Points

- Unintentional injuries accounted for approximately 1 in 8 emergency hospital admissions for children and 1 in 10 for adults in Scotland in 2012/2013.
- There were 53,371 emergency admissions to hospital in Scotland for unintentional injuries in 2012/13. This is a decrease of approximately 2% on the previous year.
- There were 1,629 deaths in Scotland in 2012 due to unintentional injury, 14 in children under the age of 15 and 1,615 in adults aged 15 years and over.
- There were 33,129 emergency admissions to hospital due to falls in Scotland in 2012/13. This represents 62% 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 children and adults in the least deprived areas to have an emergency admission to hospital for an unintentional injury.

Background

Information on unintentional injuries for children mainly focuses on three main age groups where the type of injury reflects the child's stage of development, changing perception of

danger, types of activity and levels of responsibility. Information for adults mainly focuses on five age groups with those aged 75+ being separated, as they are more susceptible to injury. Some of the main types of unintentional injuries are road traffic accidents (RTAs), poisoning, falls, striking injuries, crushing injuries, scald injuries and accidental exposure to other and unspecified causes. In this publication assaults are presented separately from data on unintentional injuries.

In the February 2013 publication separate categories for location of injury (home and other) were removed due to concerns over quality and completeness. Although there are still issues with the recording of this information, particularly the large numbers of 'unknown' or 'unspecified' cases, we have reintroduced additional categories for location of injury in this publication following additional consultation with users of the data. It should be noted that these categories are different to the categories used in the publications prior to 2013 and are considered to be more informative for users. See Appendix A1 in full publication report for more information.

It should also be noted that there has been an update to the way deaths from unintentional injury are coded. This affects the deaths data from 2011 onwards 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 1,247 to 1,629 in 2012. Care is required when comparing the statistics for 2011 onwards with the figures for earlier years, as previous years figures have not been revised.

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Further Information

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

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