

Publication Summary



Unintentional Injuries

Hospital admissions: Year ending 31 March 2014

Deaths: Year ending 31 December 2013

Publication date – 3 March 2015



About this Release

Unintentional injuries can occur in any age group, but children and the elderly are more vulnerable. The term 'unintentional injury' is used rather than 'accidents' as 'accident' implies that events are unavoidable when actually a high proportion of these incidents are preventable.

This publication summarises information on hospital admissions and deaths related to unintentional injuries and assaults.

Key Points

- Unintentional injuries accounted for approximately 1 in 8 emergency hospital admissions for children and 1 in 11 for adults in Scotland in 2013/2014.
- There were 54,673 emergency admissions to hospital in Scotland for unintentional injuries in 2013/2014. This is approximately an increase of 2% on the previous year.
- There were 1,664 deaths in Scotland in 2013 due to unintentional injury, 13 in children under the age of 15 and 1,651 in adults aged 15 years and over.
- There were 33,390 emergency admissions to hospital due to falls in Scotland in 2013/14. This represents 61% 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.

The information comes from hospital administrative systems across Scotland, up to and including the financial year 2013/14 and from death registrations sourced from National Records of Scotland, up to and including calendar year 2013.

Changes since previous publication

- The latest European Standard Population (ESP2013) has been used to calculate European Age Standardised Rates (EASRs).
- EASRs have been presented separately for males, females and both sexes.
- Crude rates are now provided in the tables showing data on assaults.
- Numbers of admissions and deaths for 'gun assaults' are now presented in the category 'other assaults'.

More information on these changes is provided in the full publication report.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#).

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