Unintentional Injuries in Scotland

Hospital Admissions: Year ending 31 March 2018
Deaths: Year ending 31 December 2017

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division reports on emergency hospital admissions and deaths as a result of unintentional injury.

Main Points

- In 2017/18 there were 58,533 emergency admissions for unintentional injuries, representing 1 in 10 of all emergency admissions in Scotland.

- Those from the most deprived areas were around twice as likely as those from the least deprived areas to have an unintentional injury.

- 86% of unintentional injuries among those aged 65 and over were due to falls.

- The rate of falls in those aged 65 and over has increased from 19.6 per 1,000 in 2008/09 to 22.2 in 2017/18.

- Following a period of sharp decline between 2008/09 and 2014/15 the numbers of emergency admissions for assault have stabilised. In 2017/18 there were 2,383 emergency admissions for assault.

![Emergency hospital admissions as a result of assault and assault by sharp object, year ending 31 March 2009-2018](chart)
• Deaths from poisonings have doubled since 2011. There were 923 deaths due to poisoning in 2017, an increase from 461 in 2011. This is in line with National Records of Scotland statistics showing recent increases in drug related deaths.

Background

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.

The information comes from hospital administrative systems across Scotland, up to and including the financial year 2017/18 and from death registrations sourced from National Records of Scotland, up to and including calendar year 2017.

Please see News and Updates section of our website for more details.

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Further Information

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication are available to download from our web page.

Interactive visual content is presented in the Unintentional Injuries Dashboard. Information is presented over time, age group and gender.

For more information on emergency care see the emergency care section of the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be March 2020.

ISD and 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. Further information about our statistics.