Unintentional Injuries - Falls
Hospital Admissions: year ending March 2019

A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release

This release by Information Services Division provides yearly and quarterly information on the number and rate of emergency hospital admissions resulting from a fall. Falls are a common reason for admission, particularly amongst the older population. Information is provided by age group, gender, NHS Board and council area. Data for the financial year 2018/19 are provisional.

Unintentional injuries among older people, particularly those aged 65 and over, are a major and growing health concern. Falls are of particular interest as they are the cause of such a high proportion of hospital admissions, especially in the older age groups.

Main Points

• In 2018/19, there were 37,585 emergency admissions to hospital as a result of a fall, which accounts for around 6% of all emergency admissions.

• Around 6 out of every 10 fall related admissions occurred in the 65 and over age group. This is the highest proportion in the ten year reported period.

• There is a strong relationship between a person’s age and the likelihood of being admitted to hospital as a result of a fall. Those aged 65 and over are almost 7 times more likely to have an emergency admission compared to those aged under 65.

Emergency hospital admissions resulting from a fall, by age group, Year ending March 2019

![Graph showing hospital admissions by age group](image)
There is a seasonal aspect to the number of falls, particularly amongst the youngest and oldest age groups. There are more admissions for falls occurring in the winter months in older people and, in contrast, more admissions in the summer months in the younger age groups.

**Background**

The information comes from hospital administrative systems across Scotland, up to and including the financial year 2018/19. This release is an update of falls data which was previously published in June 2019. This has been done in order to provide data on the financial year of 2018/19, which was considered incomplete in June.

Quarterly data has been provided in order to assess data completeness for 2018/19. Data were extracted in August 2019 and the number of emergency hospital admissions for falls for the quarter ending March 2019 was approximately 98% complete when compared to the same quarter for the previous year. Data for the financial year 2018/19 and the quarter ending March 2019 should be considered provisional, and care should be taken when interpreting results.

Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

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**Further Information**

Information Services Division publishes a range of emergency care information. You can find all our information on the [emergency care section of the ISD website](#).

Further information can be found in the full [Unintentional Injuries Report](#) and the [Unintentional Injuries Dashboard](#).

The next release of this publication (Unintentional Injuries – Falls, year ending March 2020) is scheduled for Spring/Summer 2020.