Unintentional Injuries in Scotland

Hospital Admissions: Year ending 31 March 2019
Deaths: Year ending 31 December 2018

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 2018/19, there were just over 60,000 emergency admissions for unintentional injuries. This represents 1 in 10 of all emergency admissions in Scotland.

- Deaths, by unintentional injury, in children aged under 15 are at their lowest in 10 years with only 6 deaths in 2018. This corresponds with a decreasing trend in emergency admission rates for both males and females in this age group over the same time period.

- Falls were by far the most common cause of emergency admissions for unintentional injuries in children, for both males and females, accounting for almost half (46%) of the 7,205 emergency admissions in 2018/19.

- The rate of falls in those aged 65 and over has increased from 19.8 per 1,000 in 2009/10 to 22.5 in 2018/19. 85% of unintentional injuries in this age group were due to falls.

- Deaths from poisonings have more than doubled since 2011. There were 1,140 deaths due to poisoning in 2018, an increase from 461 in 2011. This is in line with National Records of Scotland statistics showing recent increases in drug related deaths.

Deaths due to poisoning year ending 31 December 2011-2018

![Graph showing deaths due to poisoning from 2011 to 2018]
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 2018/19 and from death registrations sourced from National Records of Scotland, up to and including calendar year 2018.

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 hospital care see the hospital care section of the ISD website.

The next release of this publication will be March 2021.

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.