

# Home Safe Home

## Report on Home Accidents in Scotland



**December 2017**

# Home Safe Home

## Forward

This document has been produced to help support the Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities Phase 2 programme which was launched earlier this year. Its principle aim is to draw attention to the scale of the unintentional injury problem and in particular to highlight that the principle unintentional injury problem in Scotland are home accidents, which cause more deaths and injuries than any other cause.

Building Safer Communities works collaboratively with local and national partners to help communities make best use of their existing strengths and uses the latest improvement methodologies to drive change.

The aims are to reduce the number of victims of crime (Phase 1) and to reduce the number of victims of unintentional harm [\(Phase 2\) which has been defined as "Predictable and Preventable Unintentional Physical and Psychological Harm"](#).

**"Prevention is better than cure"**. Preventing unintentional injuries and death is our moral obligation and it is far more cost effective than dealing with the medical and care costs of treating people who have suffered the trauma of injury.

For a largely preventable issue, unintentional harm in Scotland is a large burden on the population in terms of death and serious injury but also the number of years lost to disability, time off work, not to mention the emotional impact on those injured and their family and friends.

The following is taken from Building Safer Communities Phase 2 programme raises a compelling narrative for action to tackle the scale unintentional harm in Scotland:

"The sheer numbers compared to other community safety themes: deaths per year (16 to 18 times the number of homicide victims annually) and one of the leading causes of death for children; 55,547 emergency hospital admissions annually (1 in 10 adult emergency hospital admissions and 1 in 8 child emergency hospital admissions are due to unintentional harm) and at least half a million incidents per year".

"There is a potential for unintentional harm to be an increasing burden in Scotland – older people are over-represented in deaths and injuries from unintentional causes and the projected rise in this population bracket – 80% increase in the over 75s between 2012 and 2037 - in the coming years means demographics are not favourable for physical unintentional harm rates, falls in particular" ..

“Notwithstanding the sometimes devastating impact on people’s lives – social, emotional and physical – unintentional harm can be extremely costly:

- A single fatality can cost from £1.4m (fire fatality) to £1.6m (fatality within the home) to £1.9m (fatality on the road).
- A serious injury can cost anywhere from £45.5k (incidents within the home) to £214k (incident on the road).
- Even a minor injury can cost anywhere from £200 treated at a GP up to £8k treated at a hospital. A minor injury Sustained in a road transport collision can cost anything up to £21.5k”.

“With a few exceptions (deaths from road traffic collisions and to a lesser extent fire/flame), there has been little improvement in death or physical harm rates over time – from 1995 to 2014 deaths have all been between roughly 1,250 and 1,400; in 2006/07 there were 54,393 emergency hospital admissions and 55,547 in 2015-16”.

Most unintentional harm is preventable, this is particular so with unintentional injuries involving the most vulnerable age groups in society, such as the under fives and older people. Therefore there is much scope for improvement both nationally and locally.

Accidents in the home in Scotland have generally not been seen as a priority for action, even though more people than ever before, in Scotland die or are injured as result of an accident within the home.

The age groups most at risk are the most vulnerable in society, the very young (under five) and the old.

Home Safety Scotland hopes that local community partnerships will find the information in this document useful and will assist local partnerships to develop appropriate prevention strategies to reduce unintentional harm in the home and help save lives.

Paul Richardson  
Chair of Home Safety Scotland

Note\* All the data used in this document is publically available from the ISD Scotland website  
<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/data-tables2017.asp?id=1868#1868>

# Home Safe Home

## Report on Home Accidents in Scotland

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Key Facts</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Introduction to unintentional Injuries in the home in Scotland</b>	<b>7</b>
• Definitions, Source of Data	
<b>4. Unintentional Injuries Scotland</b>	<b>8</b>
4a. Background	
4b. Deaths from unintentional injury	9
4c. Emergency admissions to hospital as result of an unintentional injury	11
<b>5. Home Safe Home - Home Accident Report</b>	<b>18</b>
5a. Home accidents - What do we know?	19
5b. Trends	20
5c. Under 5's	21
5d. Over 65's	27
<b>6 Summary and Recommendations</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Home Safety Scotland</b>	<b>34</b>

# 1. Introduction

*“Every year in the UK almost 4,000 people die in accidents in the home and 2.7 million turn up at accident and emergency departments seeking treatment. But, because the accidents happen behind closed doors in isolated incidents they rarely attract public and media attention”. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA )*

This report has been produced by Home Safety Scotland to provide statistics on unintentional injuries and in particular to highlight the scale of home accidents in Scotland and the key issues.

**There is currently no national system (UK or Scotland ) for the collation of data on all home accidents that covers all injuries.**

The only source of valid data in Scotland on unintentional injuries and in particular those that occur within the home environment, is the hospital admission data relating to emergency admissions which clearly only deals with only the most acute injuries. There is no data available on the many tens of thousands of minor injuries resulting from home accidents treated in A & E, local medical clinics, GP surgeries or at home.

In 2002, the former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) stopped the collection of injury data for its Home Accident Surveillance System (HASS) and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (LASS). The database was accessible through RoSPA's website until 2012 and was used by 70,000 visitors per year and now the printed reports including statistics from 1999 to 2002 can be viewed via the links below.

[HASS/LASS \(Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System\)](#)

[Injury Causation Database](#)

[Mortality/Morbidity Data](#)

[Other Injury Causation Databases](#)

[Re-valuation of Home Accidents](#) (PDF 370kb)

Accidents do not just cause immediate pain and suffering to the victim. Grief can last a lifetime and divorce and family breakdown are recognised as potential consequences of serious accidents. Families can suffer extreme financial hardship and the stress and strain of caring for an injured loved one should not be underestimated.

At a time when resources and services are under pressure it makes sense to focus on areas that can have the most effect and can be tackled successfully at the least cost. Prevention is obviously better than cure; it is also much cheaper.

*“The cost savings that come from accident prevention can be almost immediate, coming in the same year that a project takes place”. Royal society for the Prevention of Accidents*

## 2. Key Facts

- Unintentional injuries in 2015/16 accounted for approximately
  - 1 in 10 emergency hospital admissions for adults and
  - 1 in 8 for children.
- Those from the most deprived areas were more likely than those from the least deprived areas to have an unintentional injury.
- 84% of unintentional injuries in those aged 65 and over were due to falls.
- Emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injuries have risen by 2% over the past ten years: in 2015/16 there were 55,547 compared to 54,393 in 2006/07.
- In 2015 there were 1,892 deaths in Scotland due to unintentional injury; 18 in children under the age of 15 and 1,874 in those aged 15 and over.
- Compared to the previous 5 year average (2010-2014 there has been
  - 18% increase in overall unintentional injury deaths from all causes
  - 41% increase in unintentional injury deaths from home accidents
  - 13% decrease in unintentional injury deaths from all Land Transport (includes road accidents).
- Falls are the most common cause of injury resulting in emergency admission.
- Home accidents are the biggest
  - Cause of death
  - Emergency admission to hospital
- Those most at risk of unintentional injury from accidents in the home are;
  - Over 65's
  - Under fives

Source: Unintentional Injuries Hospital Admissions: year ending 31 March 2016. Deaths: year ending 31 December 2015  
Publication date – 7 March 2017 - ISD Scotland <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/2017-03-07/2017-03-07-UI-Report.pdf>

### 3. Introduction to unintentional Injuries in Scotland

#### Definitions

Some useful definitions to items within this report.

- **"Unintentional injury"** - The term "unintentional injury" is generally preferred to "accidents" as the latter implies events are inevitable and unavoidable whereas a high proportion of these incidents are now regarded as being preventable. Unintentional injuries can occur in any age group, but children and the elderly are more vulnerable.
- **Home Accident** - " any accident, injury or poisoning that takes place in the patient's own home or in the garden or grounds of that home, provided that there was no intention (determined by medical staff) on the part of the patient.
- **'Other'** – refers to injuries that do not occur in the home or on the road and covers a wide range of causes. It involves injuries that occur in the workplace, sport, leisure, play, in other buildings that are not home such shops and schools and non RTA transport accidents.
- **'Exposure with inanimate mechanical forces'** – this refers to injuries usually in homes resulting from people colliding with fixed fixtures and furniture.

#### Source of data: ISD Scotland.

ISD Information Services Division is part of ISD Scotland.

ISD provide a data base of hospital admissions as result of an unintentional injury. This is the only database which provides a comprehensive comparison of unintentional injuries. Whilst the Police collect data on road accidents there are no comparative collections of data for unintentional injuries in the home.

The ISD data only covers unintentional injuries that result in a hospital admission in other words the most acute or serious injuries.

There is no comparable data base that measures the numbers of slight injuries as a result of an unintentional injury. Such injuries are treated as out patients or at local surgeries or at home.

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Emergency-Care/Publications/data-tables2017.asp?id>

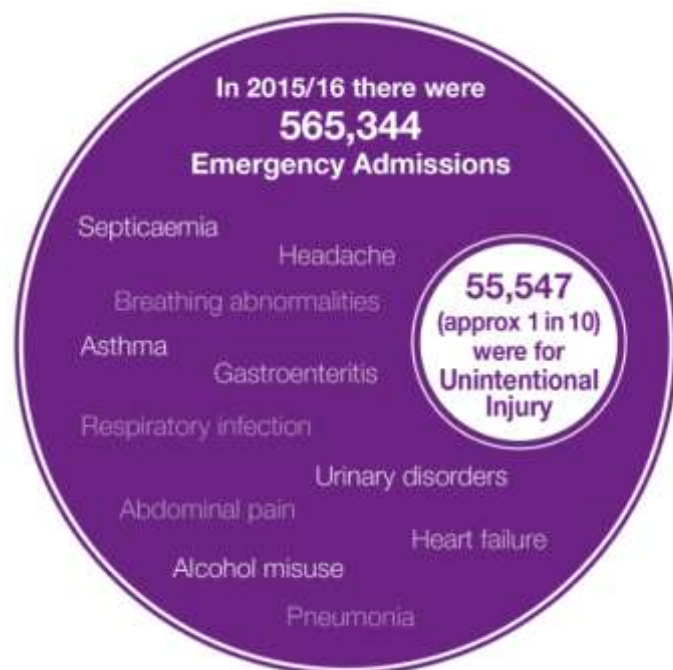
## 4. Unintentional injuries in Scotland

### 4a. Background

Across Scotland unintentional injury is one of the main causes of death and emergency hospital admissions (Source ISD Scotland Website <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/4465.html>)

Unintentional injury is one of the main causes of death and is one of the more common causes of emergency hospital admissions in children.

Unintentional injuries are also a common cause for emergency hospital admissions and deaths among adults.



Unintentional injuries may occur

- at home,
- on the roads
- and in other activities, such as work, sport, recreation activities.

Unintentional injuries in 2015/16 accounted for approximately  
**1 in 10 emergency hospital admissions for adults,**  
**1 in 8 for children.**

Source ISD Website



## 4b. Deaths from unintentional injury

Figures reported in this publication are for Scottish residents who died as a result of an unintentional injury in the calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

- In Scotland, for children under the age of 15, there were 18 deaths as a result of unintentional injury
- In Scotland, for those aged 15 and over, there were 1,874 deaths as a result of unintentional injury.
- There was an increase of almost 9% in the number of deaths in Scotland as a result of unintentional injury in 2015 (1,874) compared with 2014 (1,727) and an increase of 18% over the previous 5 year average (1,892 compared with 1,599).
- **Biggest cause of unintentional deaths are from home accidents (766, 40% of all deaths)**, over 4 times the deaths from road accidents
- Compared to the previous 5 year average (2010-2014) there has been;
  - 18% increase in overall unintentional injury deaths from all causes ( the effect of the increase deaths from home accidents)
  - 41% increase in unintentional injury deaths from home accidents
  - 13% decrease in unintentional injury deaths from all Land Transport (includes road accidents).

**Table 1a. Summary of Deaths as a result of an unintentional injury, 2015 all ages (see table on next page)**

	Child (under 15)	Adult (over 15)	Total all ages
Land Transport accidents	5	176	181
Home accidents	9	757	766
Other	1	181	182
Unknown	3	729	732
Not applicable	0	31	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1874</b>	<b>1892</b>

**Table 1b. Deaths from an unintentional injury Scotland 2010 to 2015**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 year average 2010-2014	2015	% change 2015 over 5 year average
All ages	1295	1657	1629	1664	1750	1599	1892	<b>18.3</b>
Land transport	228	204	198	189	218	207.4	181	<b>-12.7</b>
Home	281	568	603	604	661	543.4	766	<b>41.0</b>

**Table 2 Deaths as a result of an unintentional injury, 2015 by cause of Injury and by age**

	Age Group											All ages
	0-4	5-9	10-14	Under 15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+	15+		
<b>Total</b>	11	4	3	18	70	451	418	154	781	1,874		1,892
<b>Land transport accidents</b>	-	3	2	5	23	45	62	23	23	176		181
<b>Poisoning</b>	-	-	-	-	33	356	228	24	22	663		663
Home	-	-	-	-	25	305	205	16	7	558		558
Other	-	-	-	-	1	16	10	1	2	30		30
Unknown	-	-	-	-	7	35	13	7	13	75		75
<b>Falls</b>	-	-	-	-	4	9	56	55	663	787		787
Home	-	-	-	-	1	3	24	14	75	117		117
Other	-	-	-	-	1	5	8	11	79	104		104
Unknown	-	-	-	-	2	1	24	30	509	566		566
<b>Struck by, against</b>	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	4		5
Home	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Other	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	4		5
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
<b>Crushing</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		1
Home	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
<b>Scalds</b>	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
Home	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Unknown	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		1
<b>Accidental exposure to other and unspecified causes</b>	1	-	-	1	1	8	30	21	21	81		82
Home	1	-	-	1	-	4	12	3	-	19		20
Other	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	-	7		7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	16	21	55		55
<b>Other</b>	9	-	1	10	9	33	41	27	52	162		172
Home	7	-	1	8	2	14	18	13	15	62		70
Other	-	-	-	-	7	9	9	4	7	36		36
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	3	15	31		31
Unknown	2	-	-	2	-	1	10	7	15	33		35

## 4c. Emergency admissions to hospital as result of an unintentional injury

The majority of unintentional injuries result neither in death nor in hospital admission but are treated by GPs, Accident & Emergency departments or by the child's parent or carer.

- Emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injuries have risen by 2% over the past ten years: in 2015/16 there were 55,547 compared to 54,393 in 2006/07.
- There were also 7,418 emergency admissions to hospital for children in the financial year ending 31 March 2016.
- There were also 48,129 emergency admissions to hospital for adults in the financial year ending 31 March 2016.

### Injuries by cause of injury

Falls were by far the most common cause of emergency admissions due to unintentional injury in both children and adults. For Scotland in 2015/16,

- **Children** - Nearly half (47.8%) of the 7,418 emergency admissions to hospital for children aged under 15 due to an unintentional injury were the result of a fall.
- **Adults** - 64% of unintentional injury admissions to hospitals. This varied across age groups, although each older age group had a higher percentage of admissions caused by a fall. This increased from 26% of emergency admissions by those aged 15-24 to 91% of emergency admissions by those aged 85 and over.

**Table 3. Summary of emergency admission as a result of an unintentional injury, 2015 all ages (see table on next page)**

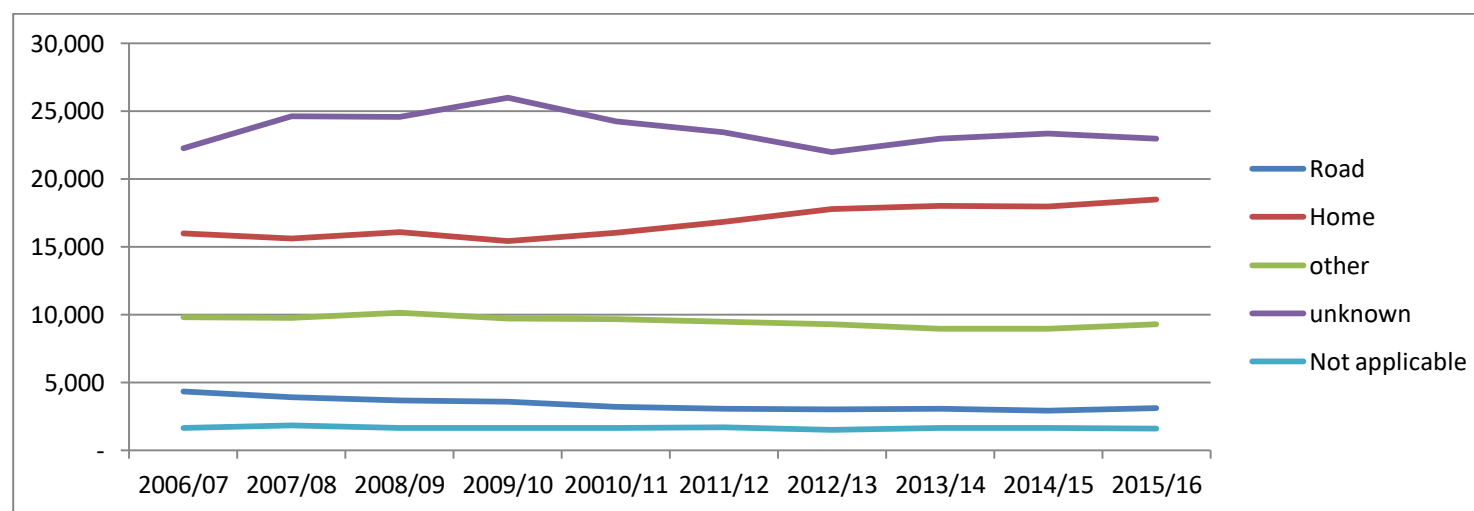
	Child (under 15)	Adult (over 15)	Total all ages
Road Traffic	282	2,808	3,090
Home	2,545	15,923	18,468
other	1,461	8,059	9,520
Not applicable	359	1,225	1,584
Unknown	2,780	20,200	22,887

**Table 4. Emergency Admissions as a result of an unintentional injury, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, by cause and by age.**

Cause of Injury <sup>1</sup>	Age Group											All ages
	0-4	5-9	10-14	Under 15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+	15+		
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>7,418</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>8,222</b>	<b>11,264</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>17,672</b>	<b>48,129</b>		<b>55,547</b>
<b>Road traffic accidents</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>2,808</b>		<b>3,090</b>
<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>2,487</b>		<b>3,108</b>
Home	380	32	20	432	104	227	215	77	171	794		1,226
Other	7	3	3	13	10	41	24	3	7	85		98
Unknown	141	16	19	176	307	685	419	80	117	1,608		1,784
<b>Falls</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>3,545</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>6,371</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>15,482</b>	<b>30,784</b>		<b>34,329</b>
Home	688	265	130	1,083	110	471	1,842	2,219	8,471	13,113		14,196
Other	222	396	395	1,013	390	715	1,239	892	3,032	6,268		7,281
Unknown	363	618	468	1,449	590	1,508	3,290	2,036	3,979	11,403		12,852
<b>Struck by, against</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>1,612</b>		<b>2,396</b>
Home	160	49	34	243	37	55	67	43	123	325		568
Other	39	77	159	275	196	179	92	21	50	538		813
Unknown	50	90	126	266	258	264	137	37	53	749		1,015
<b>Crushing</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>706</b>		<b>1,129</b>
Home	155	52	18	225	12	19	22	11	23	87		312
Other	12	22	18	52	26	80	48	3	10	167		219
Unknown	68	51	27	146	86	151	164	35	16	452		598
<b>Scalds</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>207</b>		<b>446</b>
Home	183	16	7	206	12	26	41	23	21	123		329
Other	4	1	1	6	3	9	5	1	-	18		24
Unknown	19	5	3	27	14	21	22	5	4	66		93
<b>Accidental exposure to other and unspecified causes</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>3,267</b>		<b>3,683</b>
Home	43	13	7	63	10	38	71	28	104	251		314
Other	5	4	12	21	42	71	67	27	45	252		273
Unknown	112	115	105	332	355	717	817	374	501	2,764		3,096
<b>Other<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>343</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>6,344</b>		<b>7,461</b>
Home	152	77	64	293	171	355	352	177	175	1,230		1,523
Other	11	28	42	81	155	251	207	51	67	731		812
Not applicable	46	145	168	359	257	375	386	101	106	1,225		1,584
Unknown	134	132	118	384	502	1,180	975	280	221	3,158		3,542

**Table 5. Trends in Emergency admissions to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury over a 10 year period by principle cause. Source: ISD Scotland**

Cause	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	20010/11	5 year average 2006/07 – 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	5 year average 2011/12- 2015/16	%change between 5 year averages
Road	4,308	3,909	3,679	3,550	3,177	<b>3725</b>	3061	3008	3070	2933	3090	<b>3032</b>	-19%
Home	15,973	15,609	16,065	15,420	16,012	<b>15816</b>	16825	17790	17992	17963	18468	<b>17808</b>	+13%
other	9,811	9,756	10,128	9689	9679	<b>9813</b>	9484	9287	8968	8948	9275	<b>9192</b>	-6%
unknown	22,243	24,597	24,544	25970	24249	<b>24321</b>	23416	21967	22981	23333	22980	<b>22935</b>	-6%
Not applicable	1,653	1,847	1,661	1637	1632	<b>1686</b>	1708	1504	1615	1644	1584	<b>1611</b>	-4%



Whilst the trend over the last 10 years has been generally downwards in all causes of unintentional injuries that result in emergency admission to hospital the exception is the rise of 13% in the numbers resulting from accidents in the home.

A key weakness in the Emergency admission data is the high numbers admitted as a result of an unintentional injury from an unknown cause. (see below)

**(41% of all ages, 32% of over 65's and 29% of under fives admitted to hospital following an unintentional injury)**

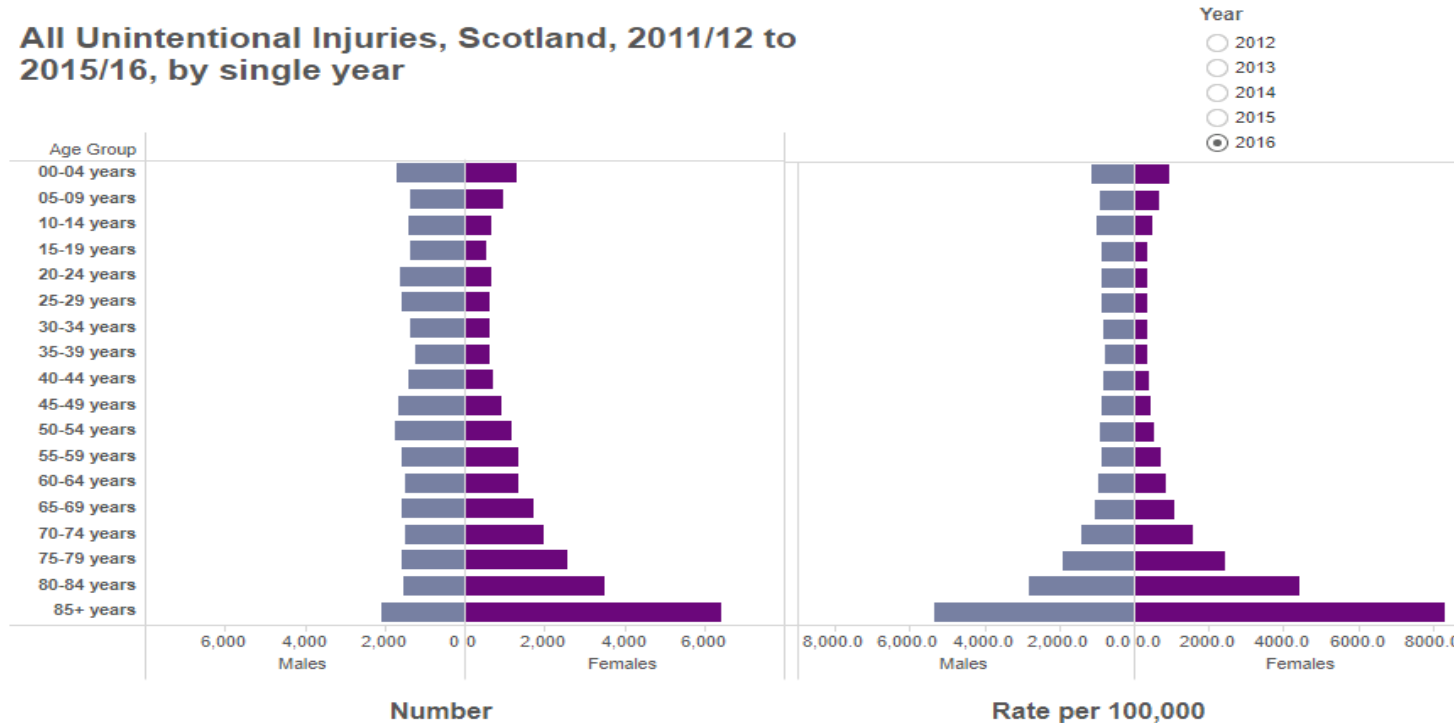
The proportions are very high and weaken the data. The question is how much information on causation are we missing?

## Injuries by Age

The age groups most at risk are

- older people 65 year plus (and in particular over 85s)
  - In 2015/16, 44% (24,438) of all emergency admission as result of an unintentional injury involved over 65s
  - 84% (20,629) of these were as result of Fall
  - 52% (10,690) of these were as a result of a fall in the home
  
- under fives
  - In 2015/16, 41% (3,023) of all child emergency admission as result of an unintentional injury involved under fives.
  - Falls accounted for 42% of these (1,273) of which 688 occurred in the home
  - 24% (1,761) of all under fives admitted as result of an unintentional injury occurred in the home

**All Unintentional Injuries, Scotland, 2011/12 to 2015/16, by single year**



Source ISD

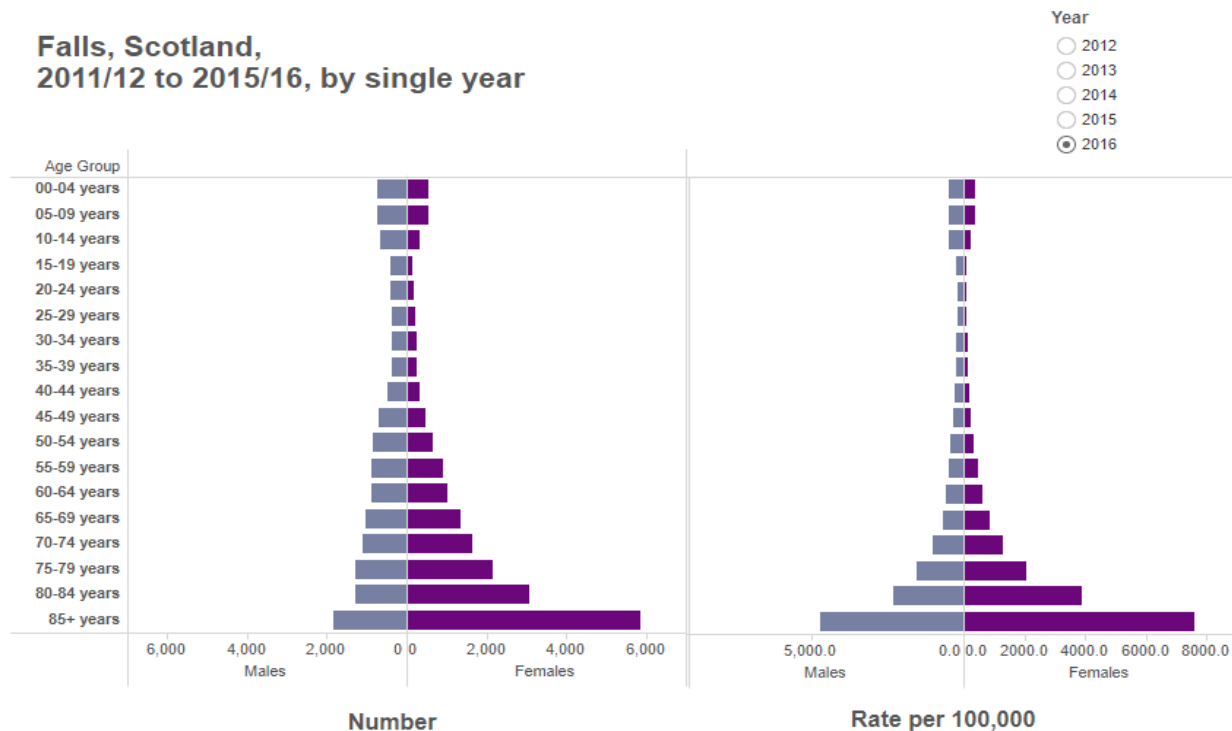
## Injuries by cause of injury

### Falls

Falls were by far the most common cause of emergency admissions due to unintentional injury in both children and adults. For Scotland in 2015/16,

- **Children** - Nearly half (47.8%) of the 7,418 emergency admissions to hospital for children aged under 15 due to an unintentional injury were the result of a fall.
- **Adults** - 64% of unintentional injury admissions to hospitals. This varied across age groups, although each older age group had a higher percentage of admissions caused by a fall. This increased from 26% of emergency admissions by those aged 15-24 to 91% of emergency admissions by those aged 85 and over.

**Falls, Scotland,  
2011/12 to 2015/16, by single year**

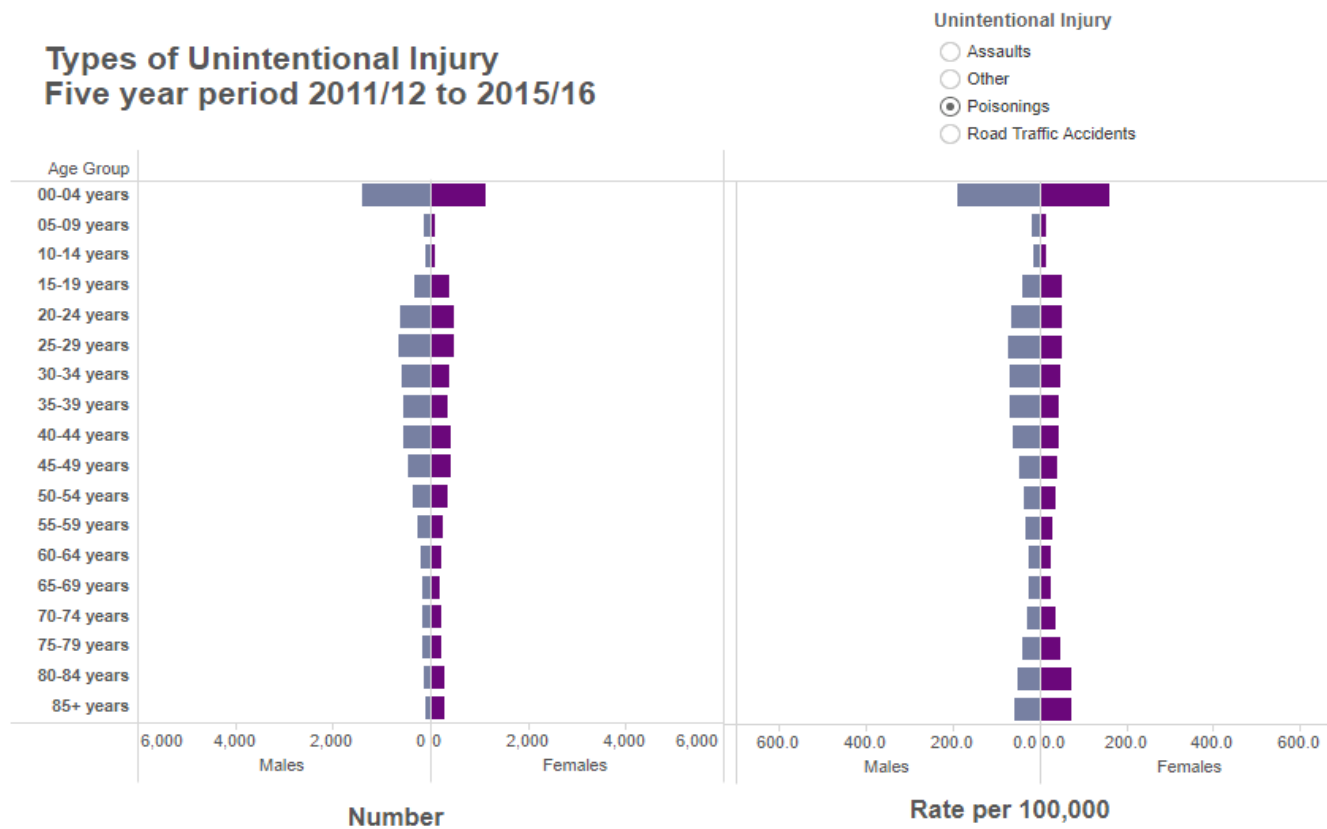


Source ISD

## Poisonings

Under fives are most at risk of accidental poisoning.

- In 2015/16 there were 528 children under the age of five emergency admissions to hospital as result of accidental poisoning
- These represent 7% of all children under 15 admitted to hospital from all causes, but 17% of all under fives admitted.
- Almost 3 in 4 of these accidental poisonings (380) to under fives occurs in the home



Source ISD website



## 5. Home accidents

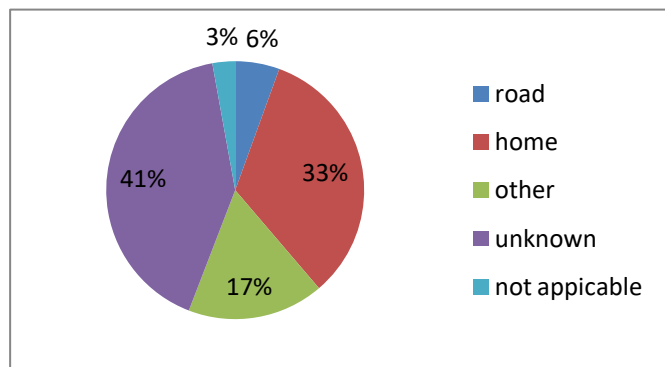
5a. Here you will find information on deaths and injuries requiring at least one overnight stay in hospital. The data contained in this report is based on this information which is dealing with only the most acute injuries. At present there is no collated data available on minor injuries as result of a home accident. This however is only the tip of the iceberg though, as many, many more people will visit their local GP or Accident & Emergency Department.



The benefits of taking preventative measures are clear and quantifiable in terms of both health and economic costs, resulting in:

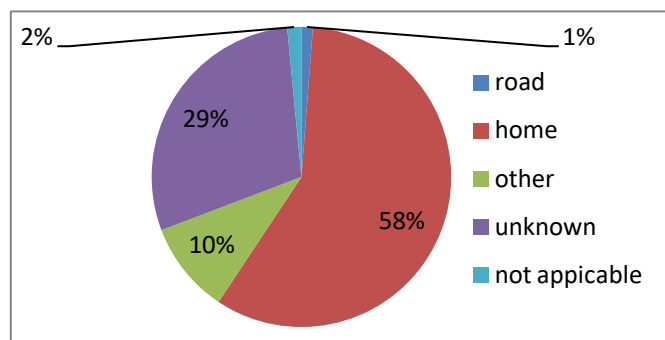
- The potential to save lives
- Improved quality of life for all
- Reductions in the cost of acute care
- Reductions in the cost of continued community support required after hospital discharge.

## Home accidents in Scotland what do we know?



### All ages

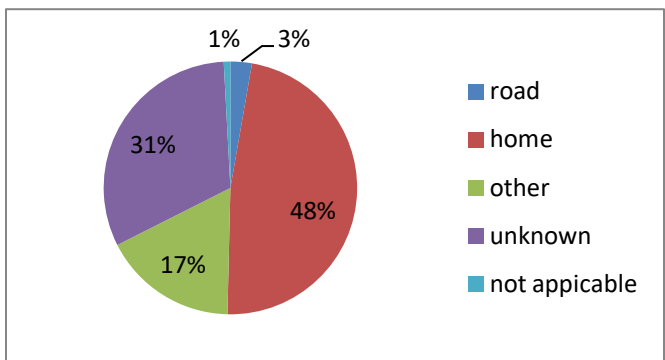
Home accidents (18,648) account for one in three of all emergency admissions to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury



### Under 5's

58% of all emergency admissions to hospital to under fives (1,761), as a result of an unintentional injury come from accidents within the home

Main causes in the home Falls (39%), Poisoning (22%), Scalds (10%), Crushing (9%), Stuck against/by (9%). (See next page)

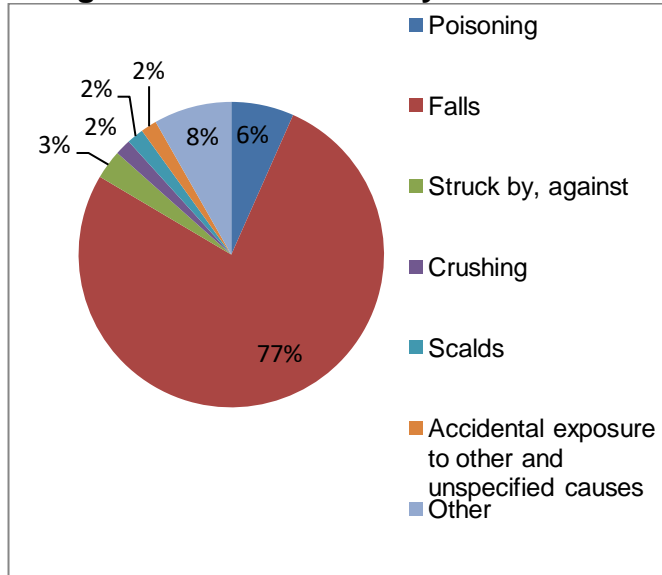


### Over 65's

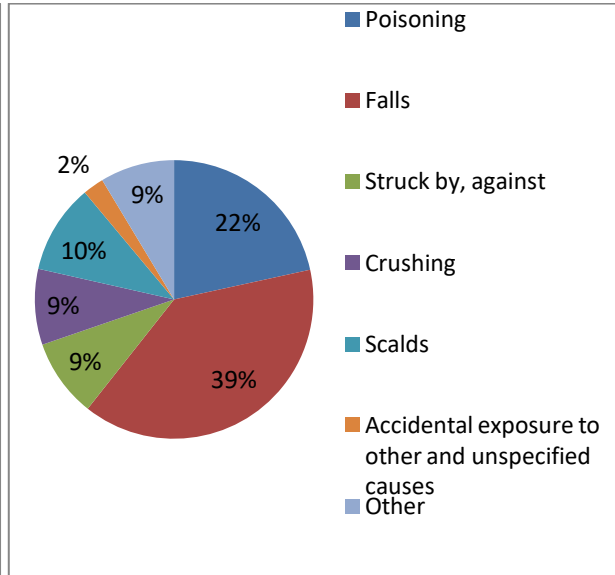
48% (11,666) of all emergency admissions to hospital to over 65's as a result of an unintentional injury come from accidents within the home

Falls (20,629) account for 84% of all unintentional injuries to this age group (of which 52% occur within the home (10,690)). (See next page)

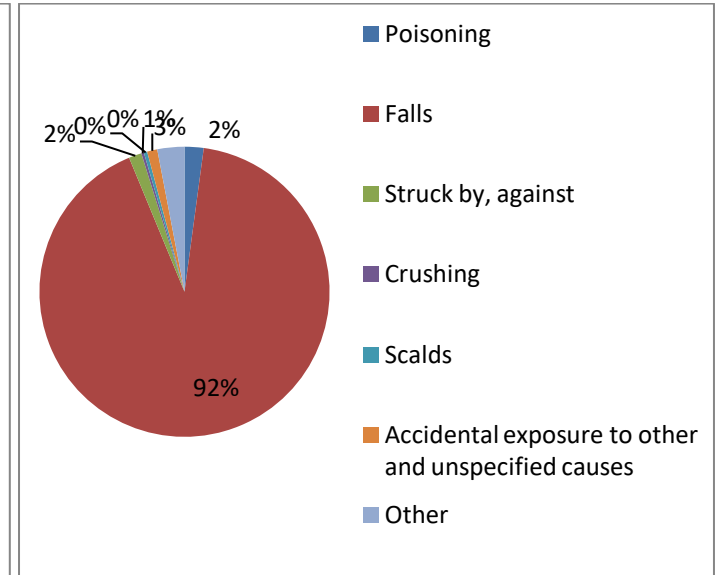
**All Ages Home Accidents by cause**



**Under 5's home accidents**



**Over 65's home accidents**



**Table 6. Emergency hospital admissions as result on an unintentional injury from home accidents by age and cause 2015/16.**

Cause of Injury	Age Group											All ages
	0-4	5-9	10-14	Under 15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+	15+		
Poisoning	380	32	20	432	104	227	215	77	171	794		1,226
Falls	688	265	130	1,083	110	471	1,842	2,219	8,471	13,113		14,196
Struck by, against	160	49	34	243	37	55	67	43	123	325		568
Crushing	155	52	18	225	12	19	22	11	23	87		312
Scalds	183	16	7	206	12	26	41	23	21	123		329
Accidental exposure to other and unspecified causes	43	13	7	63	10	38	71	28	104	251		314
Other	152	77	64	293	171	355	352	177	175	1,230		1,523
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,761	504	280	2,545	456	1,191	2,610	2,578	9,088	15,923		18,468

## 5b. Trends over 10 years 2006/07 to 2015/16

The following data focus on statistics over the last 10 years for the two key at risk age groups from home accidents;

- **the under fives** and
- **over 65's.**

A [set of tables has also been produced by the ISD](#) for RoSPA in Scotland which shows the number of children under the age of five and the number of people aged 65 and over who have been admitted to hospital over the last ten years recorded by local authority area.

This information is supported by a further table which gives similar information but includes rates per hundred thousand population.

Thank you to Mike Grimmer, Information Services, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, for preparing this data.

- The 10 years of data allows us to view trends rather than using the limitations of comparing just one year's data to the previous year.
- The data also includes rates per hundred thousand population, which allows comparisons of both national and local trends as well as taking into account changes in the demographic numbers over time in each of the two age groups. This is particularly important with data on the over 65 population age group which is increasing year on year.

## 5C. UNDER FIVES - TRENDS - home accidents trends over the last 10 years

**Table 7a. Number of emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for children under 5 years old**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<i>5 year average 2006/07 to 2010/11</i>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	<i>5 year average 2011/12 to 2015/16</i>	<i>% change in five year averages</i>
Scotland	3,595	3,419	3,386	3,390	3,178	<b>3,394</b>	3,282	2,971	3,267	3,396	3,023	<b>3188</b>	<b>-6%</b>

**Table 7b. Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for children under 5 years old**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<i>5 year average 2006/07 to 2010/11</i>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	<i>5 year average 2011/12 to 2015/16</i>	<i>% change in five year averages</i>
Scotland	868	763	750	700	651	<b>747</b>	679	664	724	716	605	<b>678</b>	<b>-9%</b>

Over the last 10 years it is possible to look at medium term trends by comparing the most recent 5 year average data with that of the previous 5 year average.

The two tables above show

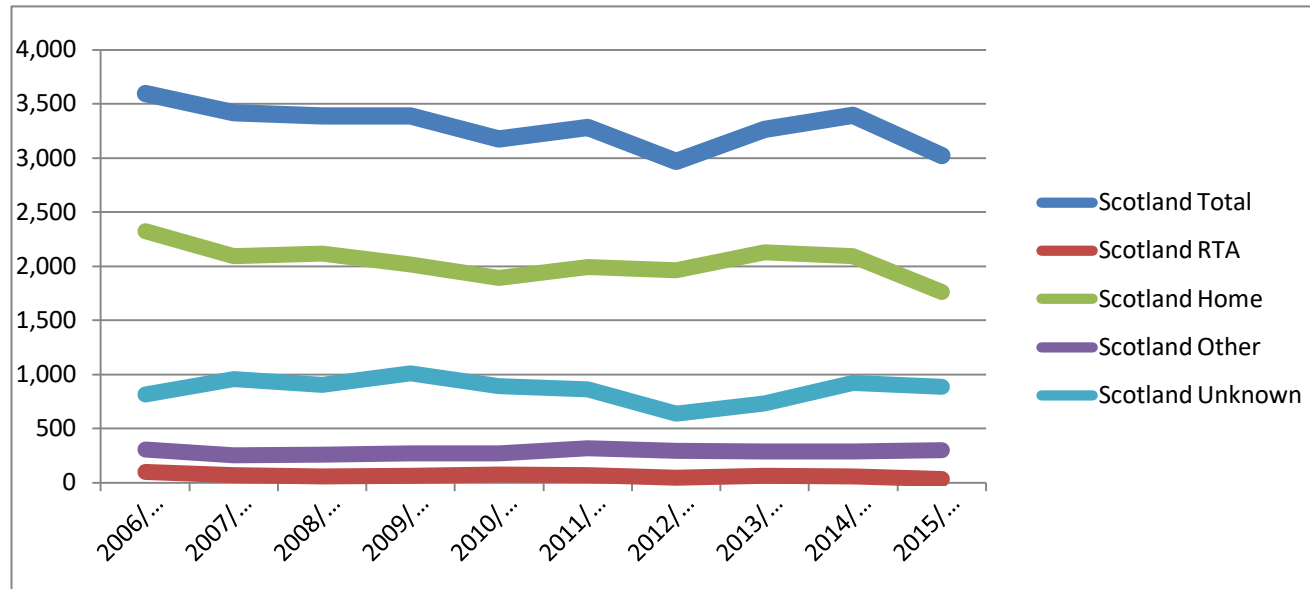
- the actual number of under fives emergency admissions to hospital as result of an unintentional injury

Showing there has been 6% reduction in actual numbers of under fives admitted to hospital over this period.

- the rate per 100,000 population which provides a useful means of comparing the data across Scotland and comparing data over time as the population in the age group changes

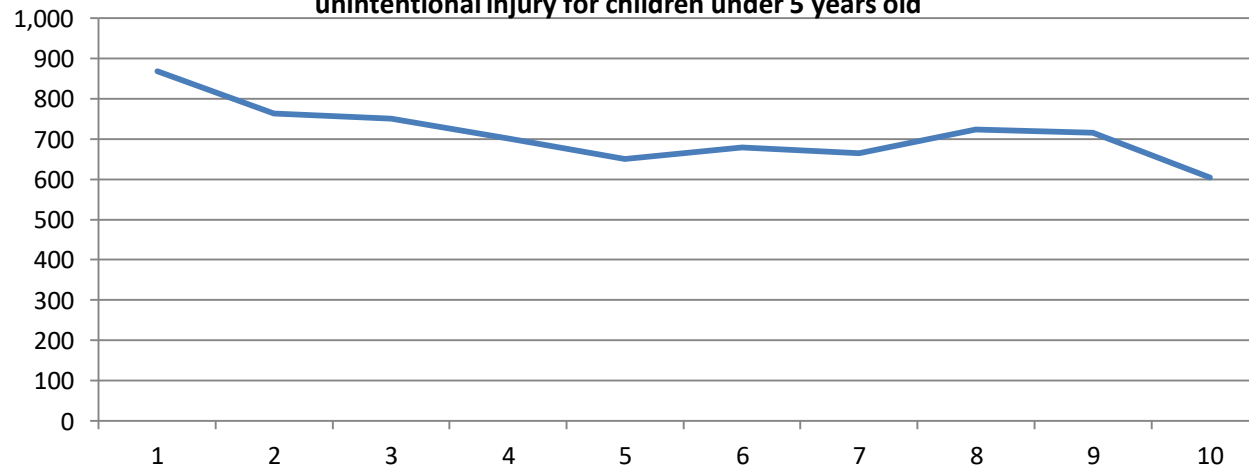
Showing there has been a 9% fall in the rate per population

## Under 5's unintentional injuries - Emergency admissions 2006 to 2016



## Scotland - Home Accidents

Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for children under 5 years old

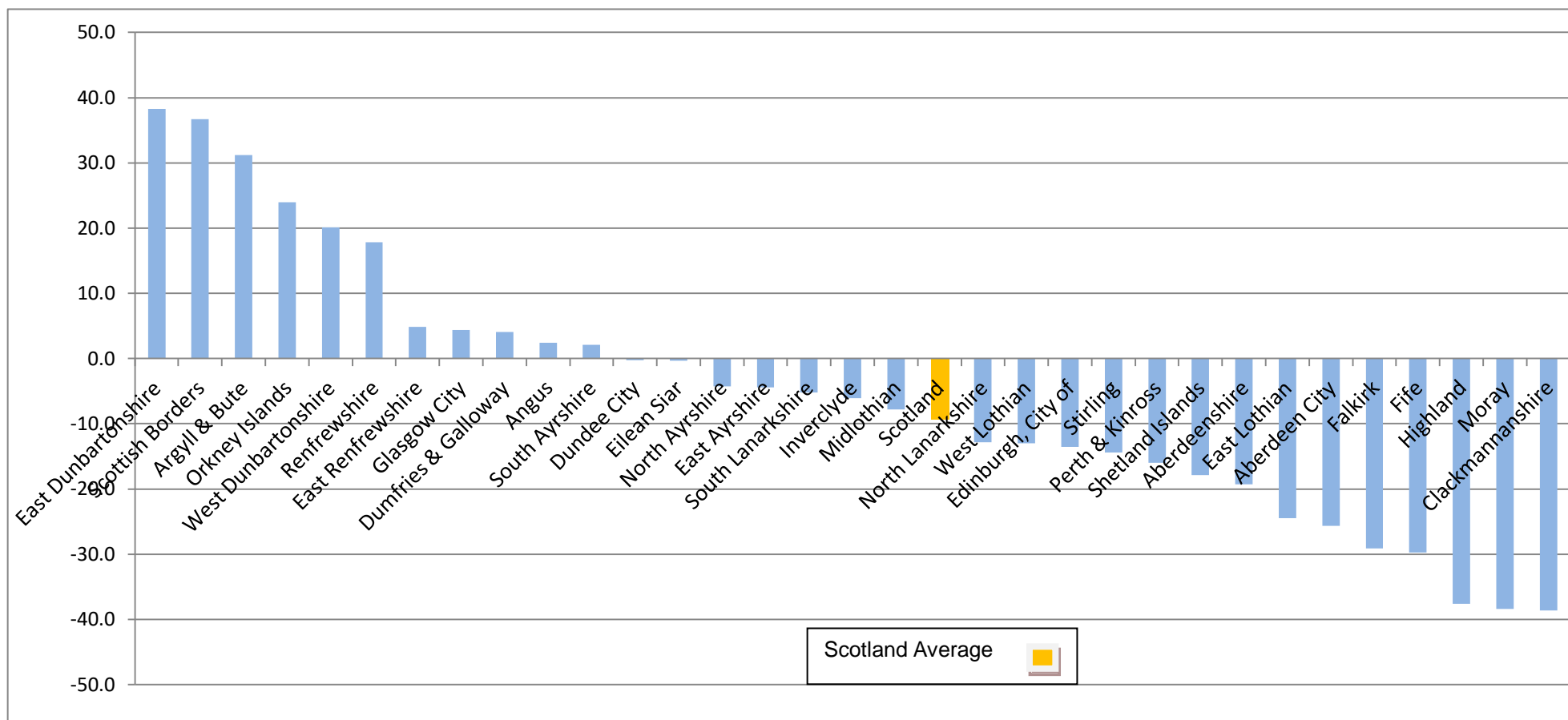


**Table 8. Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for children under 5 years old, by council area.**

Council	Ages 0-4											5 year average	% difference
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<i>5 year average</i>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		
East Dunbartonshire	669	479	631	670	356	<b>561</b>	720	728	857	891	680	<b>775</b>	<b>38.2</b>
Scottish Borders	694	734	546	893	1,022	<b>778</b>	1,171	980	1,111	1,101	952	<b>1063</b>	<b>36.7</b>
Argyll & Bute	450	370	468	520	516	<b>465</b>	583	510	734	757	464	<b>610</b>	<b>31.2</b>
Orkney Islands	426	723	695	474	276	<b>519</b>	452	636	280	1,067	780	<b>643</b>	<b>24.0</b>
West Dunbartonshire	835	644	815	1,029	704	<b>806</b>	852	983	1,153	1,058	793	<b>968</b>	<b>20.1</b>
Renfrewshire	404	590	617	598	809	<b>604</b>	721	604	932	710	589	<b>711</b>	<b>17.8</b>
East Renfrewshire	799	535	791	639	477	<b>648</b>	761	564	668	628	779	<b>680</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Glasgow City	1,045	785	969	938	698	<b>887</b>	829	878	1,091	997	835	<b>926</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	634	737	738	699	670	<b>696</b>	781	776	740	589	734	<b>724</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Angus	713	566	692	760	402	<b>626</b>	554	676	544	760	674	<b>642</b>	<b>2.4</b>
South Ayrshire	816	687	571	606	628	<b>661</b>	560	803	518	728	769	<b>675</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Dundee City	767	761	1,000	637	879	<b>809</b>	991	970	764	673	638	<b>807</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Eilean Siar	616	447	446	296	749	<b>511</b>	977	694	79	552	243	<b>509</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
North Ayrshire	824	973	999	814	847	<b>891</b>	672	853	1,097	896	747	<b>853</b>	<b>-4.3</b>
East Ayrshire	858	903	887	754	877	<b>856</b>	827	885	892	879	606	<b>818</b>	<b>-4.4</b>
South Lanarkshire	726	639	553	571	473	<b>592</b>	483	567	717	543	497	<b>561</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
Inverclyde	484	734	825	711	626	<b>676</b>	525	875	741	471	562	<b>635</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Midlothian	768	695	411	297	370	<b>508</b>	629	331	498	523	362	<b>469</b>	<b>-7.8</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>-9.2</b>
North Lanarkshire	822	741	809	734	602	<b>742</b>	615	566	761	713	577	<b>647</b>	<b>-12.8</b>
West Lothian	1,257	939	721	651	614	<b>837</b>	797	884	615	757	585	<b>728</b>	<b>-13.0</b>
Edinburgh, City of	812	556	356	311	372	<b>481</b>	440	407	409	462	363	<b>416</b>	<b>-13.5</b>
Stirling	1,072	916	669	667	619	<b>789</b>	435	637	731	782	792	<b>675</b>	<b>-14.4</b>
Perth & Kinross	866	868	670	630	511	<b>709</b>	705	570	525	615	564	<b>596</b>	<b>-16.0</b>
Shetland Islands	1,292	472	394	534	291	<b>597</b>	217	591	217	816	607	<b>490</b>	<b>-17.9</b>
Aberdeenshire	958	924	945	770	964	<b>912</b>	752	633	709	857	731	<b>736</b>	<b>-19.3</b>
East Lothian	660	600	404	243	463	<b>474</b>	471	315	321	428	257	<b>358</b>	<b>-24.4</b>

Council	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	5 year average	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	5 year average	% difference
Aberdeen City	1,679	1,436	1,496	1,535	957	<b>1,420</b>	1,195	971	979	1,163	970	<b>1056</b>	-25.7
Falkirk	1,256	971	722	587	620	<b>831</b>	533	621	623	715	455	<b>589</b>	-29.1
Fife	854	662	706	708	632	<b>712</b>	484	519	592	479	429	<b>500</b>	-29.7
Highland	661	682	779	695	731	<b>709</b>	721	447	386	303	355	<b>442</b>	-37.6
Moray	743	1,161	616	426	825	<b>754</b>	516	353	479	646	328	<b>464</b>	-38.4
Clackmannanshire	1,077	1,203	1,059	944	906	<b>1,038</b>	581	684	762	595	562	<b>637</b>	-38.6

### Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions under 5's home accidents





The data comparing the trends in the rates of under fives admitted to hospital shows that in the majority of areas across Scotland there has been a general reduction.

The Scottish average of 9% reduction is marked in yellow.

The changes over the last 10 years show

- The largest reduction was in Clackmannanshire (-39%), Moray(-38%) and Highland (- 38%)
- The largest increase was in East Dumbartonshire (+38%), Scottish Borders (+37%), and Argyll and Bute (+31%).

The data raises the question why are some areas of Scotland are showing a steady decrease in under fives admitted to hospital from unintentional injuries whilst other areas are showing steady increase.

As with all data analysis the available data often raises more questions than it answers. For example

- Are the variations around Scotland a reflection of increasing or decreasing unintentional injuries in the home to under fives.
- Are the variations affected by changes in the population of under fives
- Are the variations a result of differing clinical admission criteria operated in each health board or general hospital

## 5d. OVER 65's -TRENDS - home accidents trends over the last 10 years

**Table 9a. Number of emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for over 65's**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<i>5 year average 2006/07 to 2010/11</i>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	<i>5 year average 2011/12 to 2015/16</i>	<i>% change in five year averages</i>
Scotland	19,307	20,136	20,623	21,037	21,136	20,448	21,480	22,744	23,274	23,811	24,453	23152	+13%

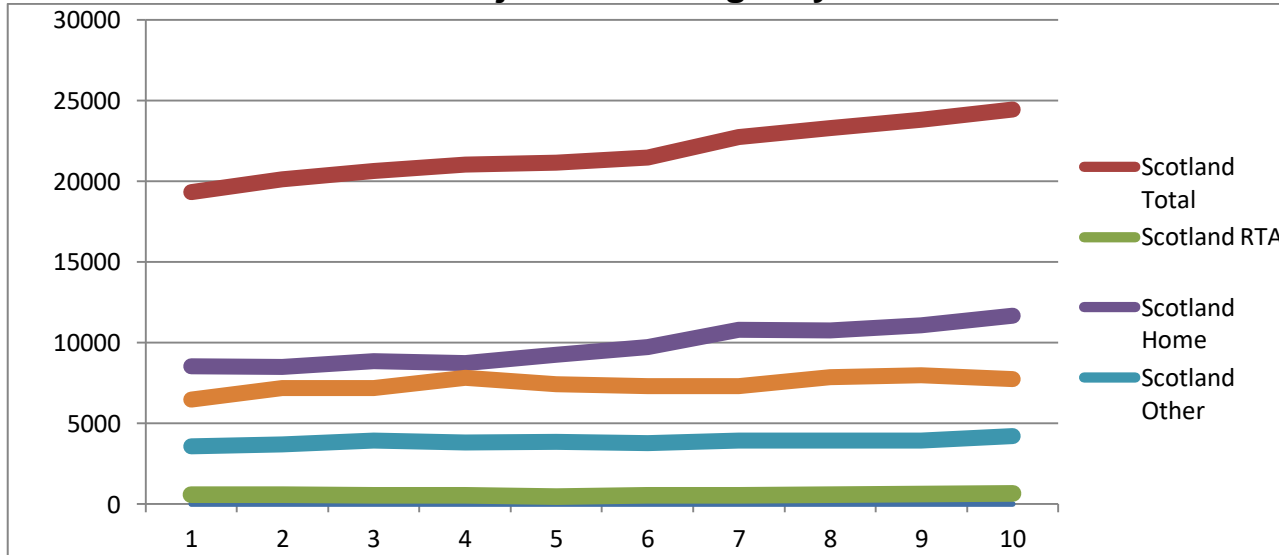
**Table 9b. Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for over 65's**

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<i>5 year average 2006/07 to 2010/11</i>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	<i>5 year average 2011/12 to 2015/16</i>	<i>% change in five year averages</i>
Scotland	1,018	1,006	1,033	1,003	1,049	1,022	1,085	1,167	1,136	1,143	1,187	1144	+12%

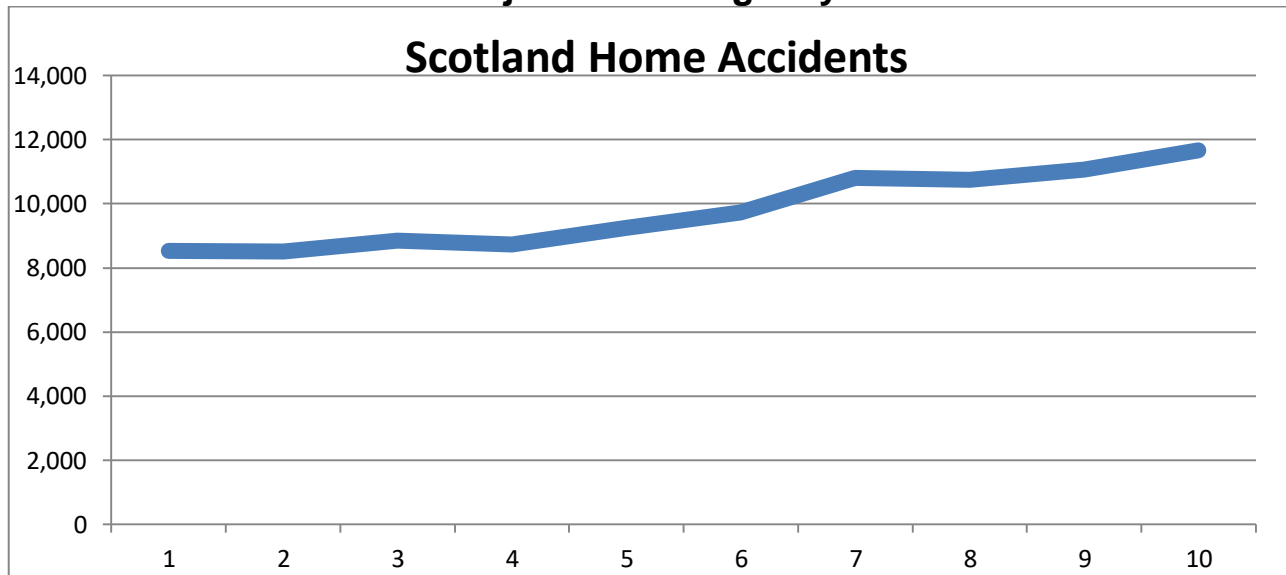
The general trend across Scotland for the last 10 years is an increasing number and rate of over 65's of emergency admissions to hospital as result of an unintentional injury.

Comparison of five year averages shows a 13% rise in actual numbers and a 12% rise in the rate per 100,000 head of population.

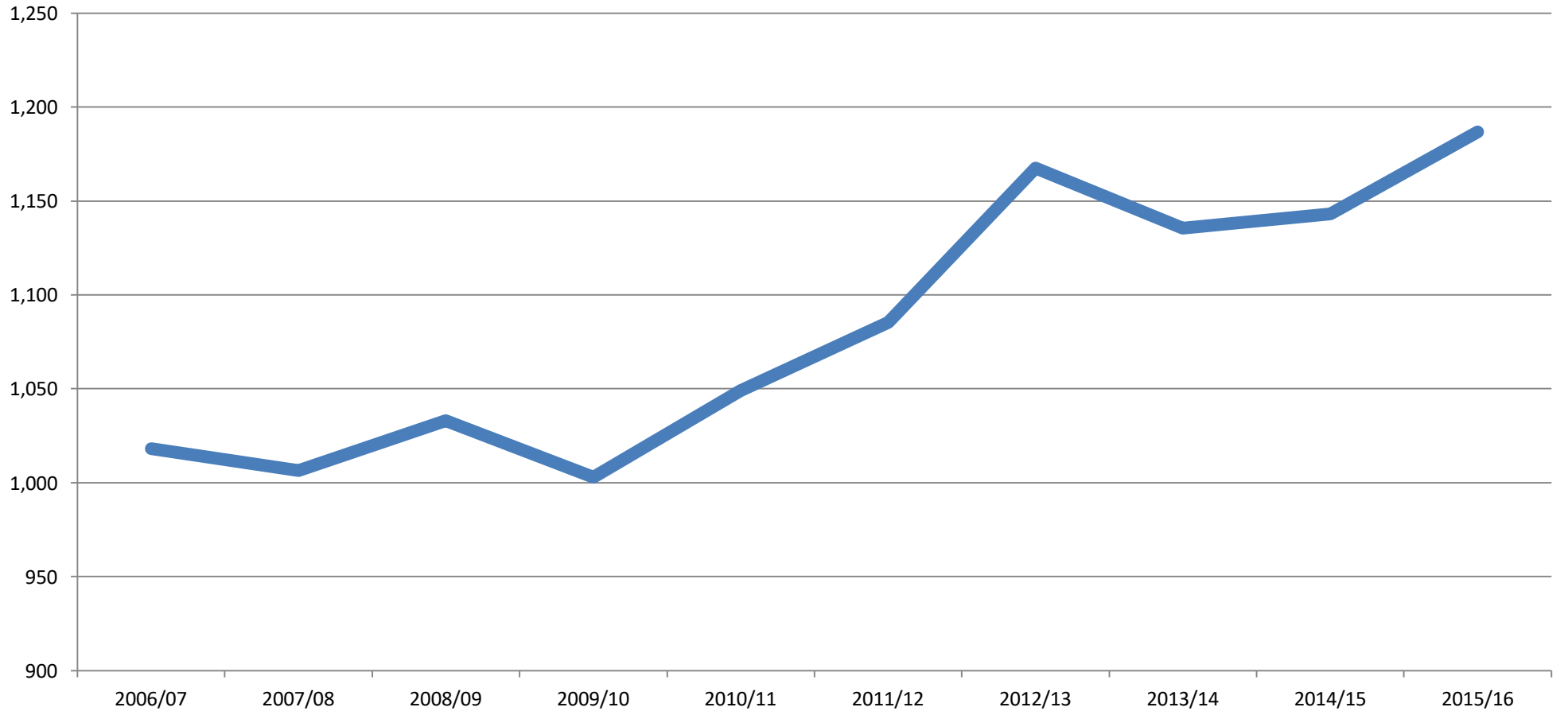
**Under 65's unintentional injuries - Emergency admissions 2006 to 2016**



**Under 65's unintentional injuries - Emergency admissions 2006 to 2016**



**Scotland Home Accidents Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions  
unintentional injury for adults aged 65 and over**

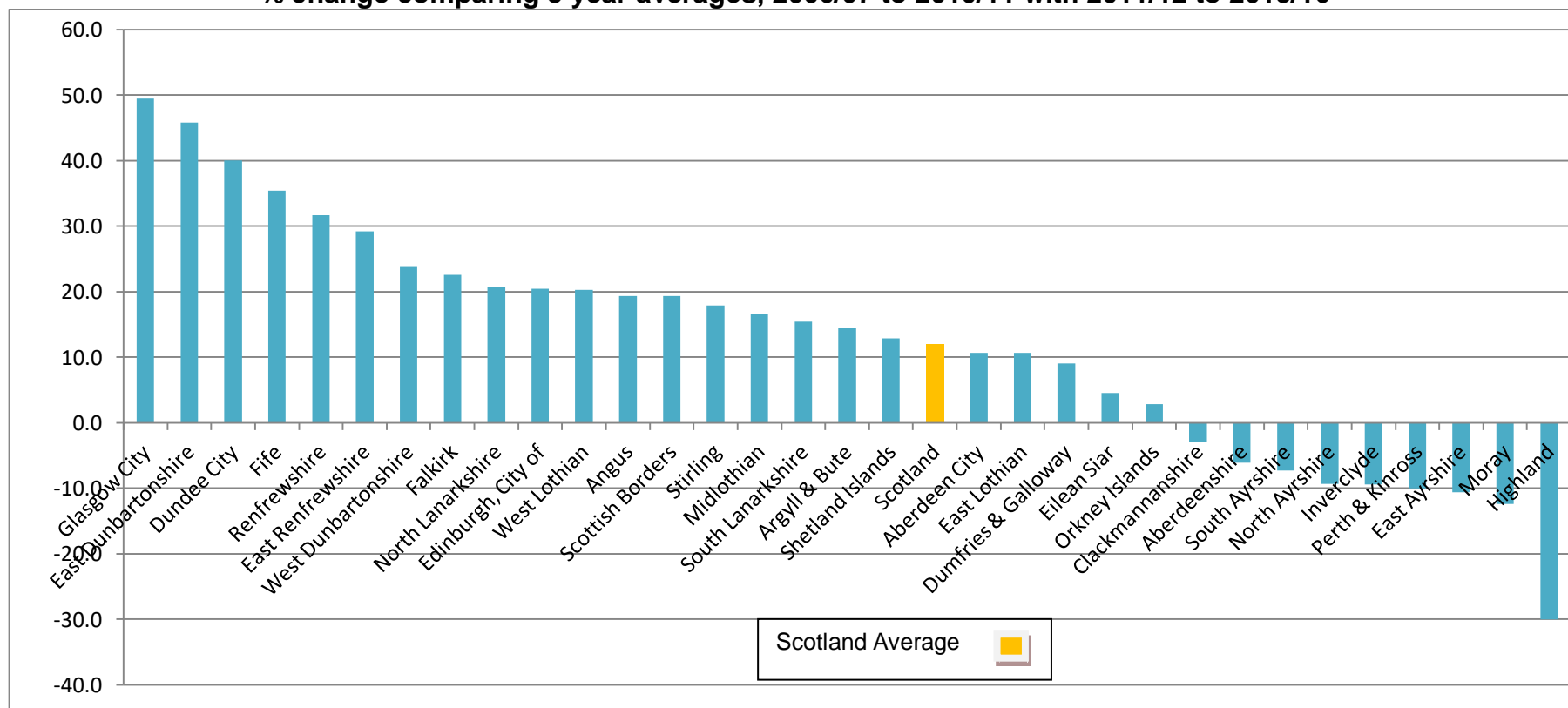


**Table 10. Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury for adults aged 65 and over, for financial year of discharge 2006/2007 - 2015/2016**

Council	Ages 65 and over											5 year average	% difference
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	5 year average	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		
Glasgow City	598	514	687	635	917	<b>670</b>	878	931	992	980	1,229	<b>1002</b>	<b>49.5</b>
East Dunbartonshire	333	404	463	507	570	<b>456</b>	548	709	655	597	813	<b>664</b>	<b>45.8</b>
Dundee City	1,279	1,232	1,132	1,144	1,294	<b>1,216</b>	1,464	1,754	1,784	1,683	1,833	<b>1704</b>	<b>40.1</b>
Fife	999	964	1,001	991	1,125	<b>1,016</b>	1,299	1,339	1,420	1,442	1,381	<b>1376</b>	<b>35.5</b>
Renfrewshire	464	477	488	445	426	<b>460</b>	432	648	550	693	707	<b>606</b>	<b>31.7</b>
East Renfrewshire	807	722	641	641	878	<b>738</b>	874	940	875	1,046	1,031	<b>953</b>	<b>29.2</b>
West Dunbartonshire	369	526	525	549	437	<b>481</b>	400	622	580	508	868	<b>596</b>	<b>23.8</b>
Falkirk	1,128	762	865	681	589	<b>805</b>	726	1,078	1,008	1,056	1,068	<b>987</b>	<b>22.6</b>
North Lanarkshire	730	626	737	626	546	<b>653</b>	613	732	879	776	943	<b>788</b>	<b>20.7</b>
Edinburgh, City of	1,038	1,286	1,182	1,236	1,271	<b>1,202</b>	1,271	1,449	1,498	1,514	1,509	<b>1448</b>	<b>20.4</b>
West Lothian	1,203	1,252	1,138	996	1,219	<b>1,161</b>	1,512	1,471	1,296	1,473	1,231	<b>1397</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Angus	936	1,272	1,178	978	1,211	<b>1,115</b>	1,218	1,382	1,277	1,384	1,392	<b>1331</b>	<b>19.4</b>
Scottish Borders	1,358	1,523	1,465	1,385	1,295	<b>1,405</b>	1,774	1,704	1,653	1,633	1,619	<b>1677</b>	<b>19.3</b>
Stirling	972	745	844	773	587	<b>784</b>	683	977	971	935	1,056	<b>924</b>	<b>17.9</b>
Midlothian	1,129	1,299	1,121	1,222	1,168	<b>1,188</b>	1,158	1,373	1,539	1,404	1,450	<b>1385</b>	<b>16.6</b>
South Lanarkshire	632	580	603	541	575	<b>586</b>	511	694	686	740	752	<b>677</b>	<b>15.4</b>
Argyll & Bute	1,006	1,319	1,069	1,229	1,345	<b>1,193</b>	1,432	1,408	1,299	1,364	1,327	<b>1366</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Shetland Islands	1,422	1,216	1,116	1,440	1,016	<b>1,242</b>	1,317	1,531	1,339	1,369	1,456	<b>1402</b>	<b>12.9</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Aberdeen City	1,263	1,181	1,050	1,010	1,179	<b>1,137</b>	1,318	1,318	1,252	1,205	1,197	<b>1258</b>	<b>10.7</b>
East Lothian	1,088	1,050	1,241	1,168	1,044	<b>1,118</b>	1,128	1,378	1,141	1,231	1,309	<b>1237</b>	<b>10.6</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	967	1,009	1,080	1,118	1,159	<b>1,067</b>	1,192	1,083	1,196	986	1,357	<b>1163</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Eilean Siar	1,092	1,496	2,115	2,055	2,158	<b>1,783</b>	2,641	2,267	1,738	1,457	1,219	<b>1864</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Orkney Islands	1,867	2,085	1,921	1,935	1,636	<b>1,889</b>	1,921	1,753	2,193	2,121	1,724	<b>1942</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,238	836	1,003	995	470	<b>909</b>	674	950	842	1,093	848	<b>882</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
Council	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	<b>5 year</b>	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	<b>5 year</b>	<b>%</b>

						average						average	difference
Aberdeenshire	1,148	994	1,076	1,020	998	<b>1,047</b>	977	1,016	998	904	1,021	<b>983</b>	-6.1
South Ayrshire	1,659	1,664	1,591	1,654	1,425	<b>1,599</b>	1,240	1,445	1,421	1,691	1,613	<b>1482</b>	-7.3
North Ayrshire	1,355	1,391	1,496	1,526	1,523	<b>1,458</b>	1,405	1,440	1,258	1,284	1,225	<b>1322</b>	-9.3
Inverclyde	1,218	1,108	1,224	1,291	1,159	<b>1,200</b>	1,456	1,013	999	848	1,120	<b>1087</b>	-9.4
Perth & Kinross	1,635	1,449	1,448	1,536	1,548	<b>1,523</b>	1,518	1,485	1,324	1,270	1,254	<b>1370</b>	-10.0
East Ayrshire	1,494	1,570	1,623	1,399	1,547	<b>1,526</b>	1,311	1,515	1,373	1,405	1,221	<b>1365</b>	-10.6
Moray	1,072	921	871	994	917	<b>955</b>	806	729	741	915	990	<b>836</b>	-12.4
Highland	1,509	1,365	1,507	1,339	1,451	<b>1,435</b>	1,301	1,196	851	891	782	<b>1004</b>	-30.0

**Rates per 100,000 population for emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury adults aged 65  
% change comparing 5 year averages, 2006/07 to 2010/11 with 2011/12 to 2015/16**



The data comparing the trends in the rates of over 65's admitted to hospital shows that in the majority of areas across Scotland there has been a general increase

The Scottish average of 12% increase is marked in yellow.

The changes over the last 10 years show s

- The largest reduction was in Highland (- 30%), Moray(-12%%), East Ayrshire (-11%) and Perth and Kinross (-10%)
- The largest increase was in Glasgow City (+50%), East Dumbartonshire (+46%), Dundee City (+40%) and Fife (+36%)

The data raises the question why are some areas of Scotland showing a steady decrease in over 65's admitted to hospital from unintentional injuries whilst most areas of Scotland are showing a steady rise in numbers and rates

The data raises the question why are some areas of Scotland are showing a steady decrease in over 65's admitted to hospital from unintentional injuries whilst other areas are showing steady increase.

As with all data analysis the available data often raises more questions than it answers. For example

- Are the variations around Scotland a reflection of increasing or decreasing unintentional injuries in the home to under fives.
- Are the variations a affected by changes in the population of under fives
- Are the variations a result of differing clinical admission criteria operated in each health board or general hospital

## 6. Summary

Unintentional injuries in 2015/16 accounted for approximately

- 1 in 10 emergency hospital admissions for adults and
- 1 in 8 for children.

Home accidents are the principle cause of accidental death and injury in Scotland

- 766 home accident deaths in 2015, representing 40% of all unintentional deaths, over 4 times the deaths from road accidents.
- 18,468 emergency hospital admissions in 2015/16 as result of an unintentional injury in the home (33% of all).

The age ranges most at risk are the very young (under fives) and older people.

The general trend across Scotland for the last 10 years has been 6% reduction in actual numbers of under fives admitted to hospital over this period.

- 58% of all emergency admissions to hospital to under fives (1,761), as a result of an unintentional injury come from accidents within the home. Main causes in the home Falls (39%), Poisoning (22%), Scalds (10%), Crushing (9%), Stuck against/by (9%).

The general trend across Scotland for the last 10 years is an increasing number and rate of over 65's of emergency admissions to hospital as result of an unintentional injury.

- Comparison of five year averages shows a 13% rise in actual numbers and a 12% rise in the rate per 100,000 head of population.

Among the causes of accidental death that have been increasing in recent years are falls, particularly among older people. In 2015/16, 44% (24,438) of all emergency admission as result of an unintentional injury involved over 65s. 84% (20,629) of these were as result of Fall

Accidents are financially costly to Government and society.



## Recommendations

**Accident prevention is, compared to other potential public health interventions, easy to implement and inexpensive to deliver.**

- Building safer Communities Programme Phase 2 (Preventing unintentional harm) provides the focus by which local and national strategies can be developed to reduce the numbers of unintentional injuries from home accidents.
- There is a need for more detailed analysis of the data of Emergency Admission from unintentional injuries to clearly identify national and local priorities.
- A key weakness in the Emergency admission data is the high numbers admitted as a result of an unintentional injury from an unknown cause (**41% of all ages, 32% of over 65's and 29% of under fives admitted to hospital following an unintentional injury**). The proportions are very high and weaken the data. The question is how much information on causation are we missing?
- The data raises the question why are some areas of Scotland are showing a steady decrease in under fives admitted to hospital from unintentional injuries whilst other areas are showing steady increase. As with all data analysis the available data often raises more questions than it answers. For example
  - Are the variations around Scotland a reflection of increasing or decreasing unintentional injuries in the home to under fives.
  - Are the variations affected by changes in the population of under fives
  - Are the variations a result of differing clinical admission criteria operated in each health board or general hospital.
- Given future demographic trends in the Scottish population, with the baby boomer generation moving into the 75 plus age range from about 2025 onwards with a predicted large increase on the older population numbers. A clear national priority for action over the next few decades has to be to tackle unintentional injuries to older people and in particularly falls prevention. There is a need for better coordination and partnership working amongst all parties to achieve this end.
  - There are one some good practice examples of this sharing and coordination of resources between the public and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector for example in the City of Dundee, Fife and in parts of the Scottish Borders but however there needs to be a clear expansion of this across Scotland as whole.
- **Action on Accidents:** RoSPA and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) are calling for a £2million-per-year nationwide programme in Scotland that would relieve some of the huge pressure on Scottish A&E departments by preventing accidental injuries to under-5s. Click here [Find Out More](#).
- Home Safety Scotland hopes that local community partnerships will find the information in this document useful and will assist local partnerships to develop appropriate prevention strategies to reduce unintentional harm in the home.



Home Safety Scotland provides a forum for professionals working in the field of home safety in Scotland, and undertakes specific campaigns and projects to raise public awareness.

Membership of Home Safety Scotland consists of home safety officers, community safety officers, health promotion officers and others from various local authorities and health boards, representatives from national organisations and private companies.

The group meets regularly to;

- Develop a home safety action plan  
Exchange of information
- Organisation of home safety campaigns,
- Organising seminars,
- Organising home safety training

More information is available through the Home Safety Scotland Website [www.homesafetyscotland.org.uk](http://www.homesafetyscotland.org.uk)

