



Home Safety Scotland

Learning report

On Thursday 5th May, SCSN hosted the online 'Home Safety Scotland' forum. The event was an opportunity to learn more about home safety issues in Scotland and for members across Scotland to share what is happening in their locality and provide valuable updates to other members.

The forum began with introductions from Lorraine Gilles, the Chief Officer at SCSN. Lorraine explained that Home Safety Scotland is a knowledge exchange network, promoting the sharing of best practice which offers regular opportunity to hear expert guest speakers, share problems collectively and look for solutions together. Lorraine then went on to share some statistics relating to home safety. These included:

- [Public Health Scotland](#) data shows that 1 in 9 emergency hospital admissions are as a direct result of unintentional injury, and there were 2,759 deaths in 2020. The young and elderly are most at risk, and 94% of deaths take place in our most deprived communities.
- [The World Health Organisation](#) informs us that "falls are the second leading cause of unintentional deaths worldwide". They stress that "prevention strategies should emphasise education, training, creating safer environments, prioritising fall-related research and establishing effective policies to reduce risk".
- [The Scottish Government](#) (SG) encourages us all to build resilience in communities, take early preventative action, collaborate to deliver evidence-based interventions, and work closely across the system to develop a joined-up approach.

Lorraine shared thoughts on how the recent pandemic has changed our relationship with our homes. More of us spend more time working from home. For some, it's a choice. For some, it's a necessity. It's clear that behaviours in communities have changed. But as our partners RoSPA note, "because the accidents happen behind closed doors in isolated incidents, they rarely attract media attention". We anticipate this will change and the importance of home safety will become more obvious.

Following Lorraine's introduction, Home Safety Scotland had presentations from the following speakers:

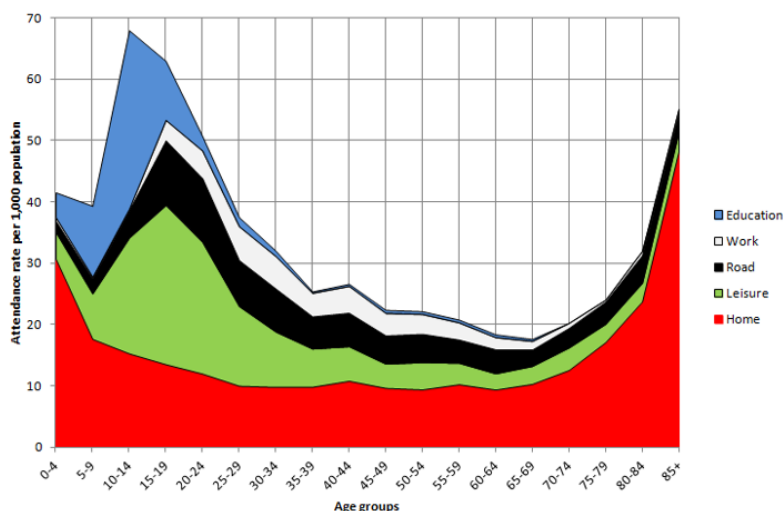
- Errol Taylor, CEO at RoSPA – Safety in the Built Environment from a RoSPA Perspective
- Dr Margaret Callaghan, Independent Researcher and Writer – New Home Safety Research and Illustrated Map
- Anna Pearce, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow – Social inequalities in Unintentional Injury in Young Children in Scotland (and how to tackle them)

All slides from the forum are have been provided to attendees at Home Safety Scotland and highlights from presentations are provided below.

Errol Taylor:

A&E attendance rates due to accidental injuries

Source: Kirkwood G, Hughes TC, Pollock AM, Unintentional injury in England: an analysis of the emergency care data set pilot in Oxfordshire from 2012 to 2014, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 2017, 71(3)



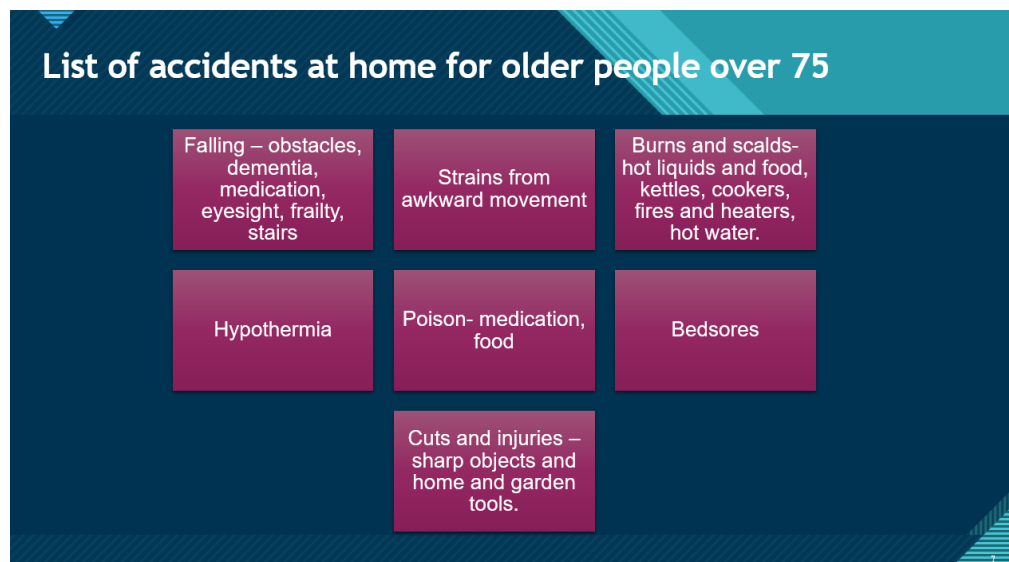
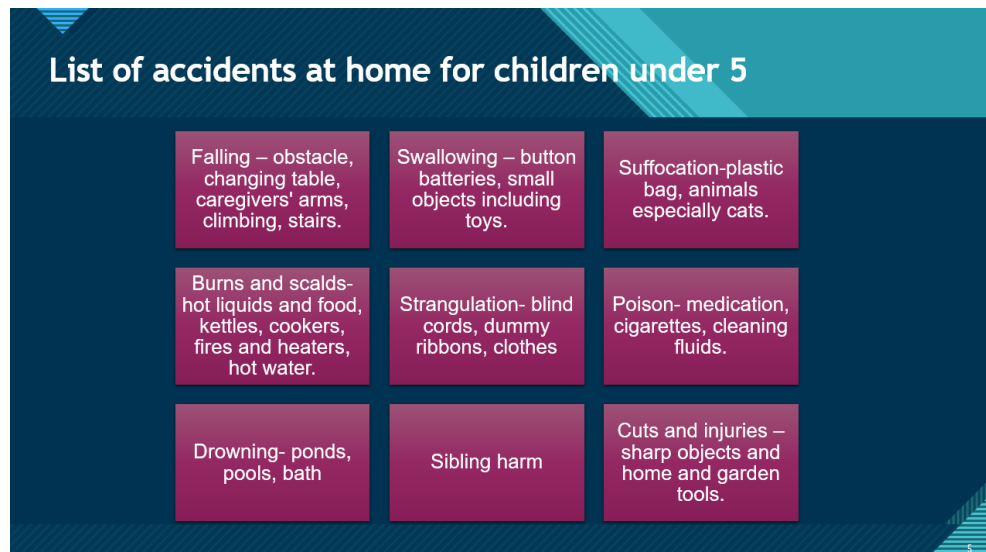
Safer Stairs campaign...

Stairs built to the British Standard BS5395-1 are safer and result in an estimated

60% fewer falls.

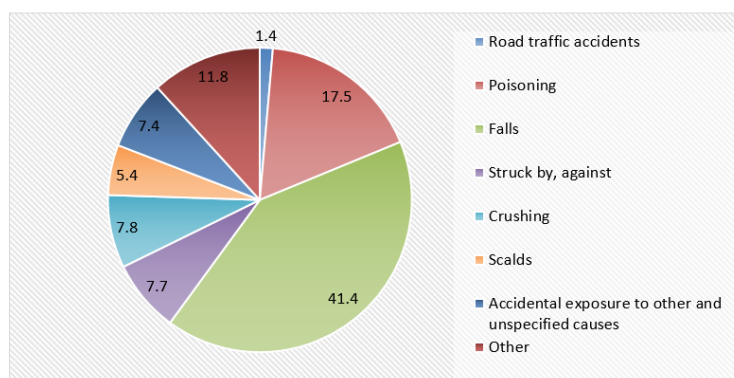


Margaret Callaghan:



Anna Pearce:

HAUI cause (under 5s), 2017

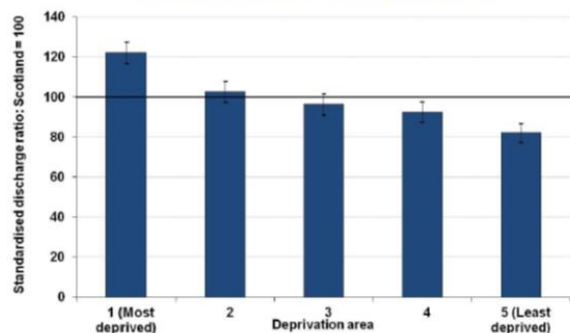


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Inequalities in HAUI by area deprivation (2017)

Chart 3 - Emergency hospital admissions as a result of an unintentional injury; children aged under 15, by deprivation area, standardised discharge ratio¹ with 95% confidence intervals, year ending 31 March 2017



¹ Data are standardised for age and sex.
The horizontal line shows the level for Scotland as a whole.
Source: ISD Scotland, SMR01 data, SIMD 2016

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Following the presentation, the group had updates from members. These included updates from Liz Lumsden (RoSPA), Kane Karter (Electrical Safety First), Bill Harley (Fife Safer Communities), and Alan Doyle (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

After member updates, Lorraine gave final remarks commenting on what was an interesting and powerful meeting. She reiterated that Home Safety is such a vital and important community safety issue but sometimes we feel it gets overlooked and that SCSN are committed to increasing the awareness and impact of Home Safety Scotland.

Lastly, Lorraine gave thanks to all the speakers on the quality of their presentations as well as thanks to everyone for attending.

The next Home Safety Scotland forum is expected to be held in early August, 2022 (Date and time TBC).