

Bridging the gap: injury surveillance 2021



An analysis of currently available
data focussing on home injuries
in Scotland

Version: 1

Date: April 2021

Introduction

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) has a proud history dating back to 1917. Our mission is to exchange life-enhancing skills and knowledge to reduce serious accidental injuries. From awareness campaigns, education and training to calling for legislative change, RoSPA is committed to standing up for safety at home, at work, on the road, at leisure and through safety education.

Too many people are killed and seriously injured in preventable accidents. At RoSPA, we remember that every accident statistic represents a real person, a life lost or affected, often severely - and a family left enduring the consequences.

This paper considers recently-released statistics around unintentional injury and specifically within the home environment and includes:

- 2019/20 – a snapshot
- 2019/20 comparisons to the five year average
- 2019/20 comparisons to the five year average – under fives
- 2019/20 comparisons to the five year average – over 65s.

Note: The data found in this report comes from data collected on discharges from non-obstetric and non-psychiatric acute hospitals (SMR01) in Scotland and published by ISD Scotland. Data included in this report are provisional and may be incomplete. Care should therefore be taken when interpreting these figures.



Key points

Overall

- In 2019/20, there were 2,726 fatalities due to an unintentional injury in Scotland – 47 per cent of these occurred in the home
- Fatalities caused by an unintentional injury in the home were up by 30 per cent compared to the five-year average
- There were 20,529 hospital admissions as a result of an unintentional injury in the home; an eight per cent increase on the five-year average

Under fives

- There were eight fatalities due to unintentional injuries – two of which occurred in the home
- 2,971 under-fives were admitted to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury
- Hospital admissions for injuries occurring in the home decreased by four per cent in comparison with the five-year average, with 1,656 under-fives admitted following an unintentional injury sustained in the home

Over 65s

- There were 181 fatalities among the over-65s due to unintentional injuries occurring in the home. This is an eighteen per cent increase on the five-year average
- 27,804 over-65s were admitted to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury; a 10 per cent increase on the five-year average
- 13,332 of the admissions were as a result of an intentional injury that occurred in the home; an 11 per cent increase on the five-year average



2019/20 – a snapshot

Overall fatalities

In 2019/20, there were 2,726 fatalities in Scotland due to an unintentional injury. Those over the age of 65 made up 44 per cent of this figure (see figure 1).

Overall UI fatalities by age

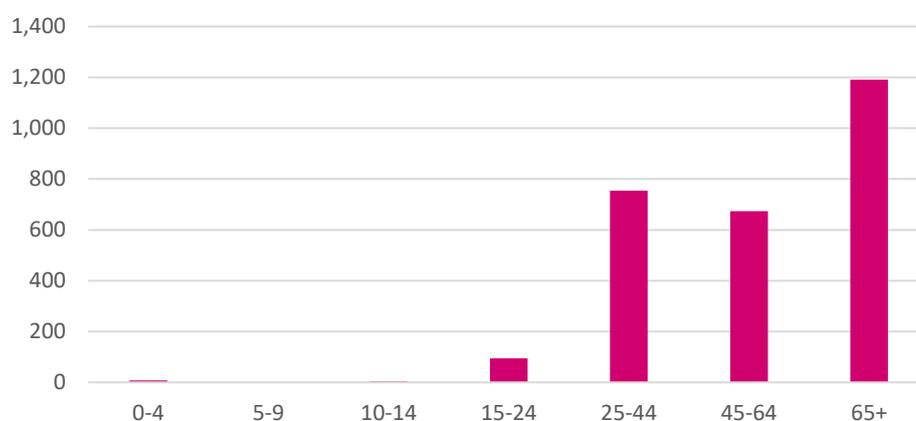


Figure 1: All unintentional injury fatalities by age, 2019/20

Causes

In terms of cause, 46 per cent of the fatalities were the result of a poisoning followed by falls at 38 per cent (see figure 2). This is very similar to the previous year's data, which showed that 38 per cent of the fatalities were the result of a fall, with accidental poisoning at 45 per cent.



Causes of fatalities

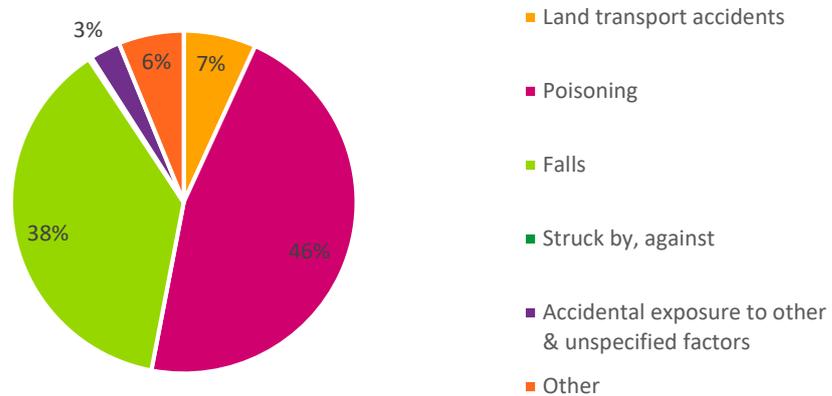


Figure 2: All unintentional injury fatalities, all ages by cause, 2019/20

Location

The majority (47 per cent) of fatalities happened in the home, closely followed by locations 'unknown' (see figure 3). This is similar to the previous year's data.

Fatalities by location

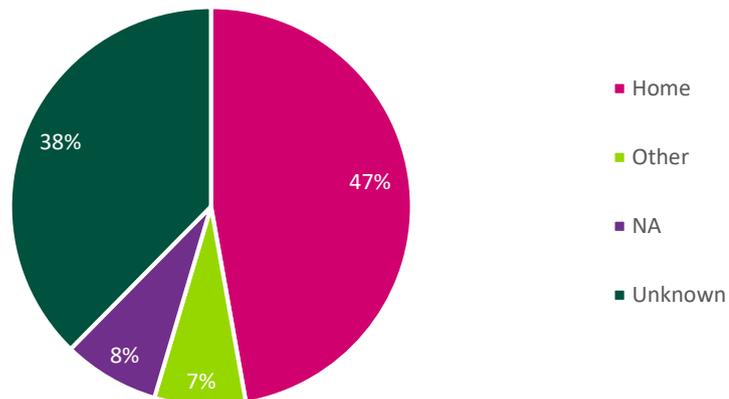


Figure 3: All unintentional injury fatalities, all ages by location, 2019/20

Hospital admissions



In 2019/20, there were 60,892 hospital admissions in Scotland due to unintentional injuries. Those over the age of 65 made up 46 per cent of this figure (see figure 4).

Overall UI hospital admissions by age

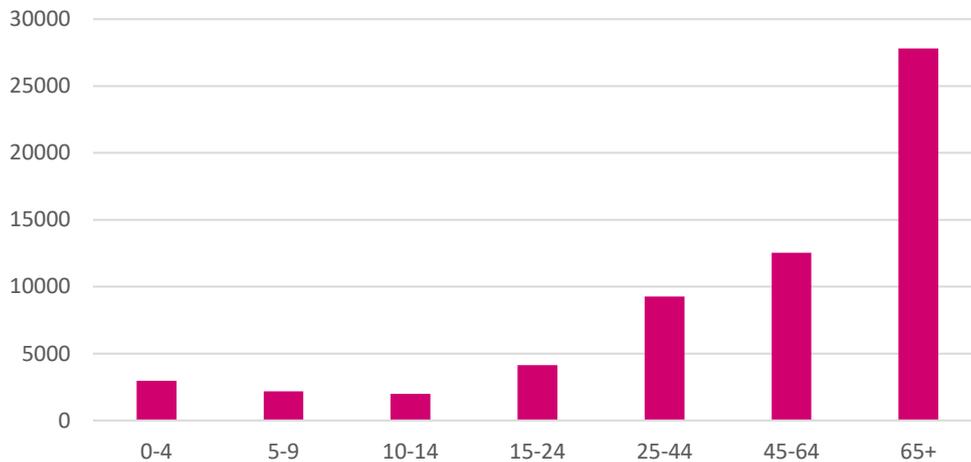


Figure 4: All unintentional injury hospital admissions by age, 2019/20

Causes

In terms of cause, 62 per cent of hospital admissions were the result of a fall followed by ‘other’ at 15 per cent (see figure 5). This is a very similar pattern to the previous year’s data.

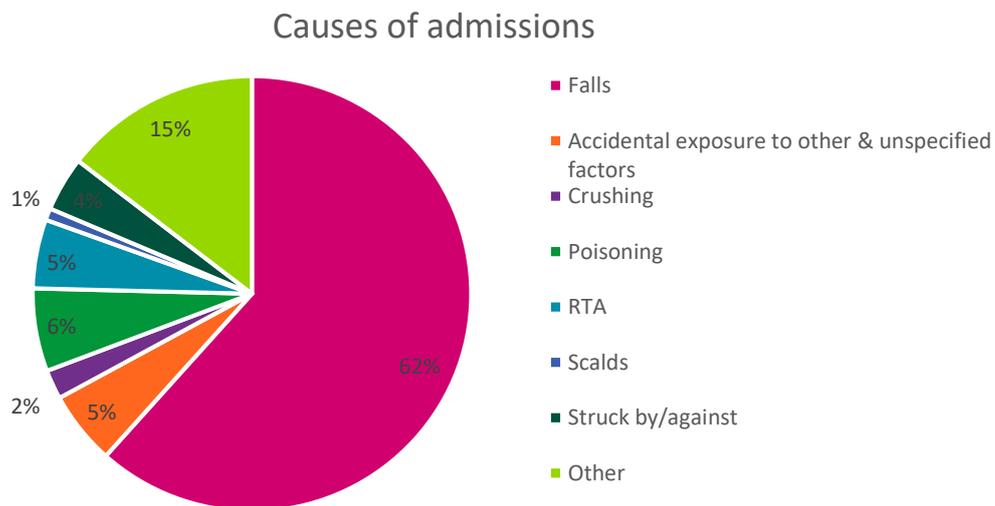


Figure 5: All unintentional injury hospital admissions, all ages by cause, 2019/20

Location



The majority (42 per cent) of admissions due to unintentional injury happened in locations 'unknown' closely followed by the home (see figure 6).

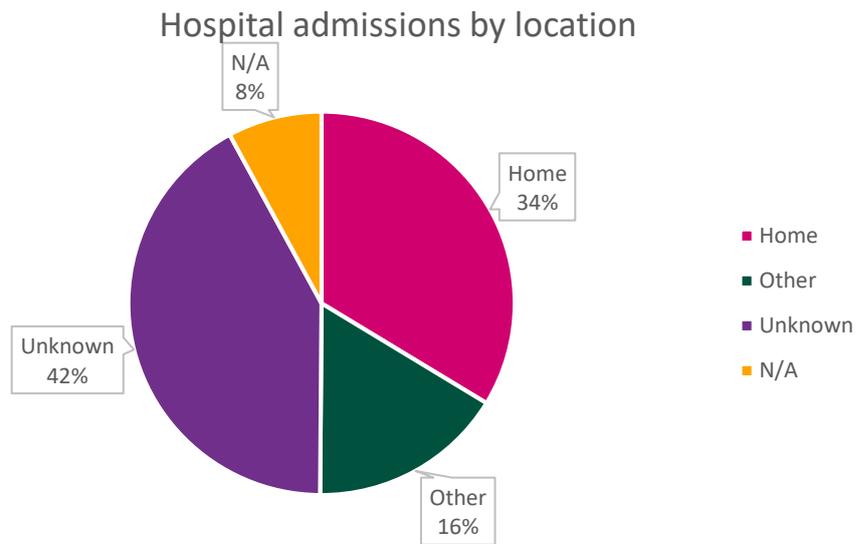


Figure 6: All unintentional injury hospital admissions, all ages by location, 2019/20



Data comparisons to five year average

The following data concentrates on last year's data in comparison to the five-year data from years 2014/15 – 2018/19 calculated in RoSPA's previous report: <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/home-safety/injury-surveillance-report-2020.pdf>

Fatalities

Over the five year period 2014/15 – 2018/19, Scotland had an average of 2,144 fatalities due to unintentional injuries. In 2019/20, there were 2,726 fatalities. This is 27 per cent above the five-year average (see figure 7).

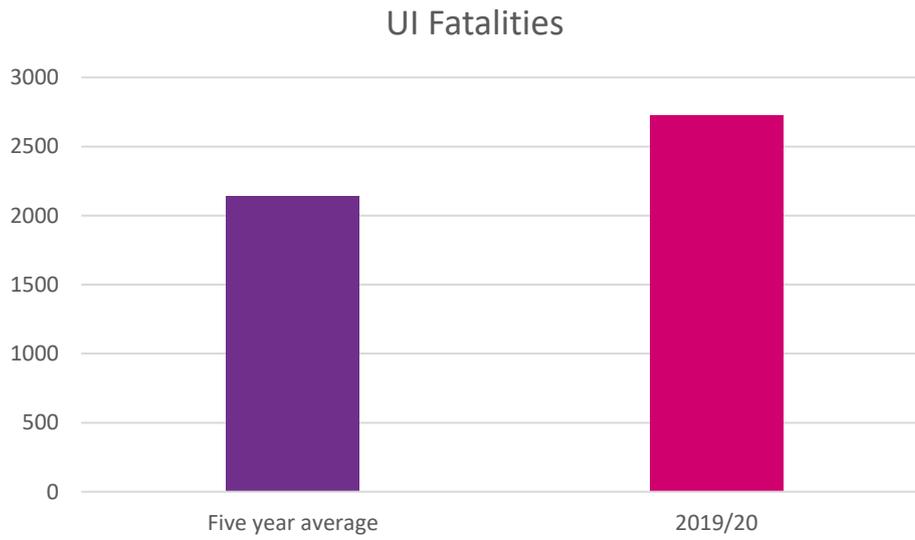


Figure 7: All unintentional injury fatalities, all ages, five-year average vs 2019/20

Fatalities in the home

Specifically in the home over the five-year period, Scotland had an average of 905 fatalities due to unintentional injuries. This figure has also risen in 2019/20: there were 1,286 fatalities - 30 per cent above the five-year average (see figure 8).



UI fatalities in the home

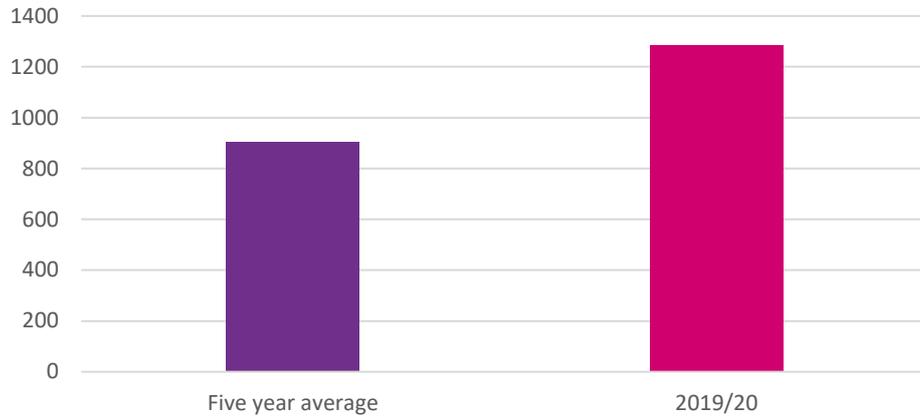


Figure 8: Unintentional injury fatalities in the home, all ages, five-year average vs 2019/20

Hospital Admissions

Over the five-year period, there was an average of 57,472 hospital admissions each year in Scotland due to unintentional injuries. This figure has steadily increased by around six per cent: in 2019/20 were 60,892 hospital admissions (see figure 9). This figure has increased slightly since the previous year's figure of 60,358.

UI Hospital admissions

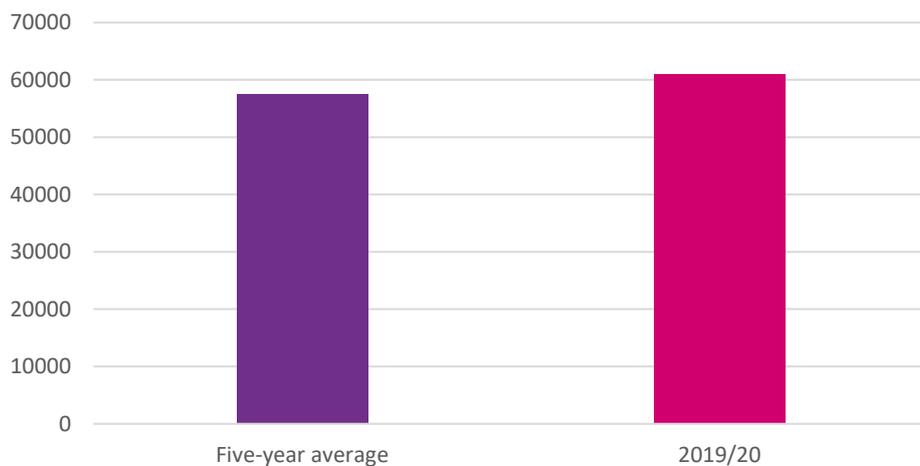


Figure 9: All unintentional injury hospital admissions, all ages, five-year average vs 2019/20

Hospital admissions due to home injuries

During the same period, there was an average of 18,913 hospital admissions each year in Scotland due to unintentional injuries in the home. 2019/20 recorded 20,529 – an increase of around eight per cent on the five-year average (see figure 10) and up from last year which recorded 19,750 hospital admissions.

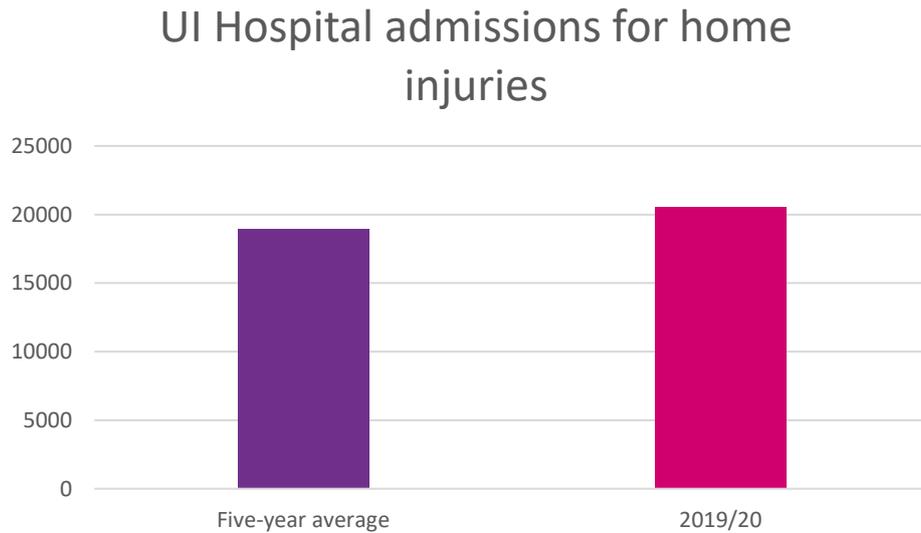


Figure 10: Unintentional injury hospital admissions for home injuries, all ages, five-year average vs 2019/20

Under fives

Fatalities

During the five year period, Scotland had an average of eight fatalities in the under-fives due to unintentional injuries. Last year, there were eight fatalities, in line with the five-year average (See figure 11).



UI Fatalities - Under fives

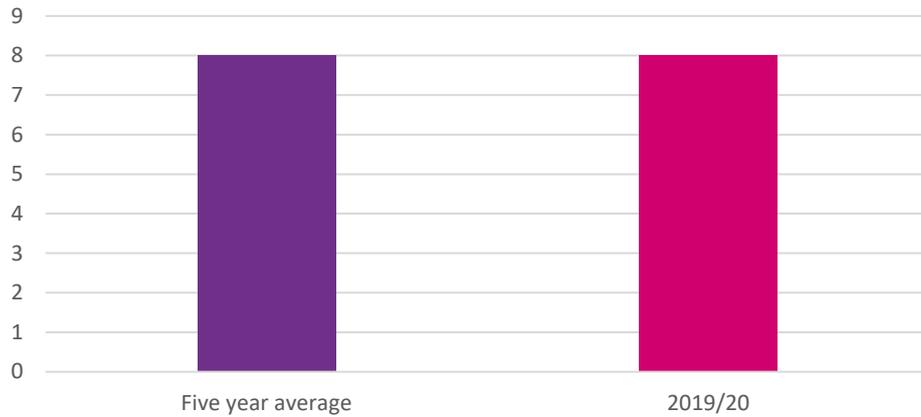


Figure 11: Unintentional injury fatalities, 0 - 4, five-year average vs 2019/20

Hospital admissions

Over the five-year period, there was an average of 3,129 admissions each year in Scotland in the under-five age category due to unintentional injuries. The most recent figures for 2019/20 showed 2,971 admissions which is approximately a five per cent decrease from the five-year average (see figure 12).

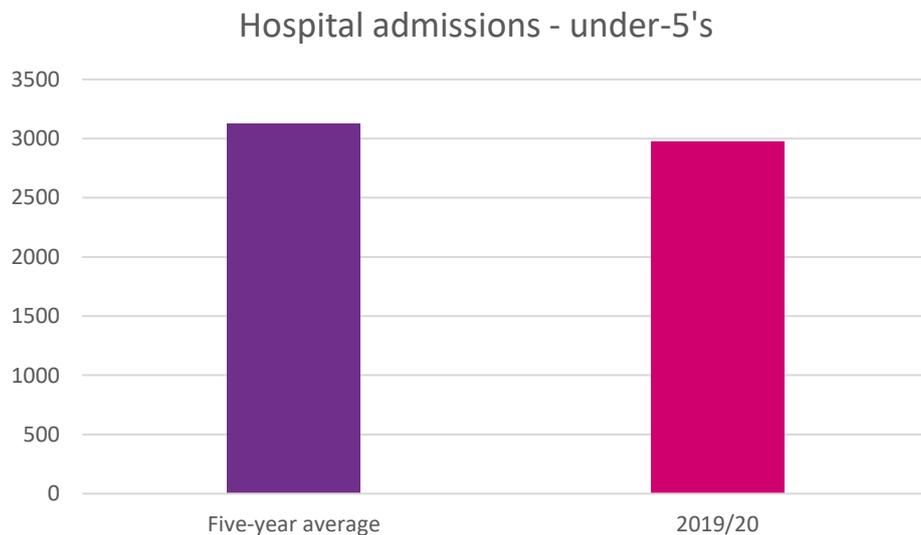


Figure 12: Unintentional injury hospital admission rates, 0 - 4, five-year average vs 2019/20

Hospital admissions due to home injuries



Over the five-year period, there was an average of 1,722 hospital admissions each year in Scotland due to unintentional injuries in the home. The most recent figure for 2019/20 is lower than the five-year average (1,656 admissions) at around 4 per cent less (see figure 13).

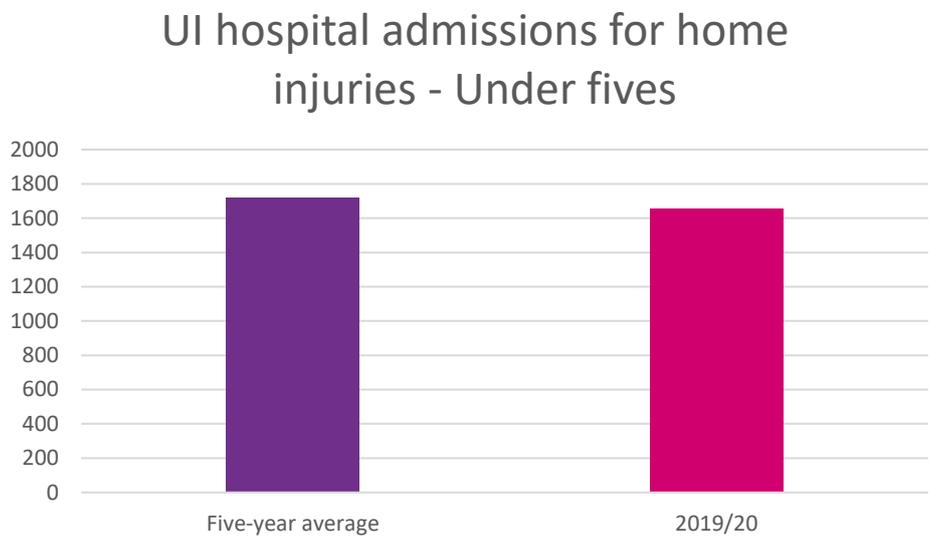


Figure 13: Hospital Admissions for home injuries, 0 - 4, five year average vs 2019/20

Five year averages – over 65s

Fatalities

During the five-year period, Scotland had an average of 1025 fatalities in the over-65s due to unintentional injuries. The most recent data shows 1,191 fatalities, 16 per cent above the five-year average (see figure 14).



UI fatalities - Over 65s

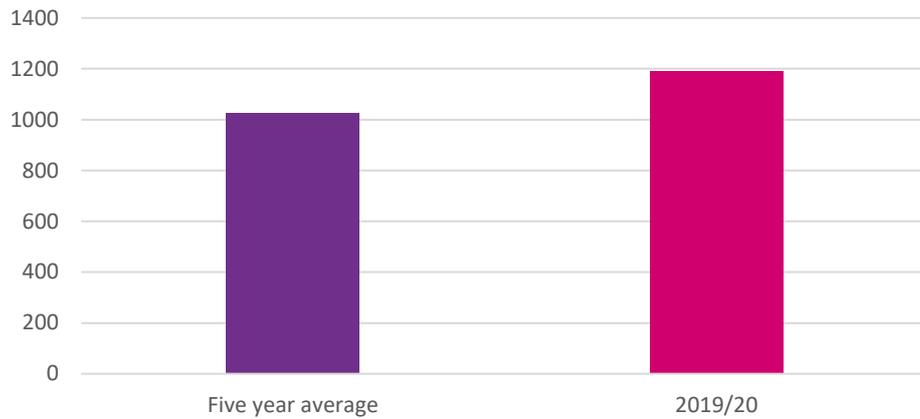


Figure 14: Unintentional injury fatalities, 65+, five-year average vs 2019/20

Fatalities in the home

Within the home, there was an average of 153 fatalities per year in the over-65s due to unintentional injuries over the five-year period. In 2019/20, there were 181 fatalities, eighteen per cent above the five-year average (see figure 15).

UI fatalities in the home

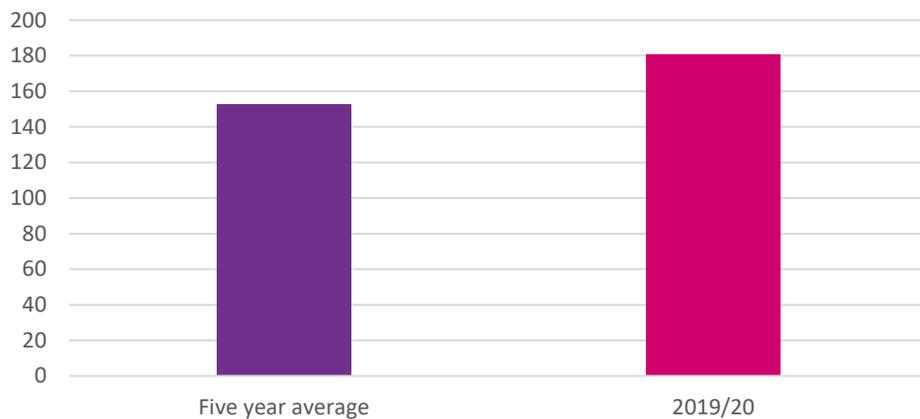


Figure 15: Unintentional injury fatalities in the home, 65+, five-year average vs 2019/20



Hospital admissions

Over the five-year period, there was an average of 25,412 admissions each year in Scotland in the over-65s age category due to unintentional injuries. The most recent figure for 2019/20 is 27,804 which is around a 10 per cent increase from the five-year average (see figure 16).

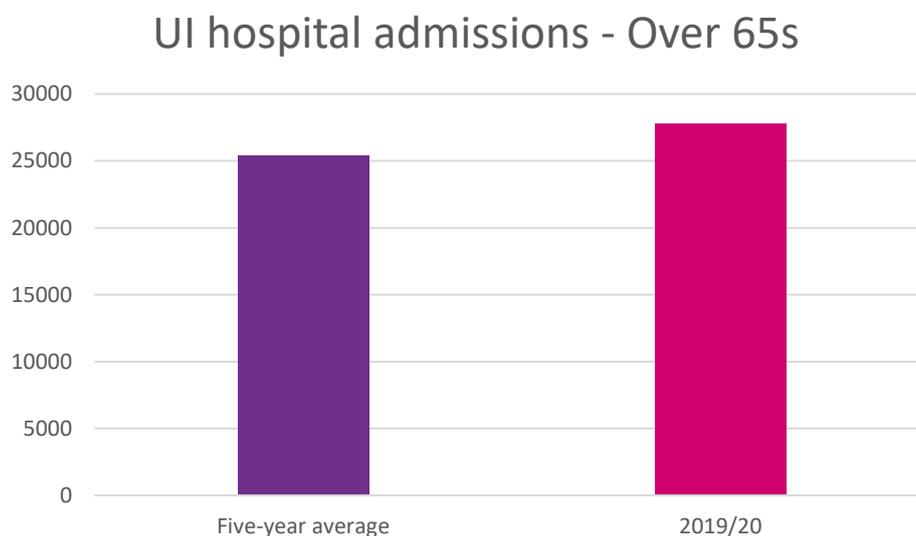


Figure 16: Unintentional injury hospital admissions, 65+, five-year average vs 2019/20

Hospital admissions due to home injuries

Looking at unintentional injuries sustained in the home, there was an average of 12,063 hospital admissions each year over the five-year period among over-65s. The most recent data shows there were 13,332 admissions; 11 per cent above the five-year average (see figure 17).

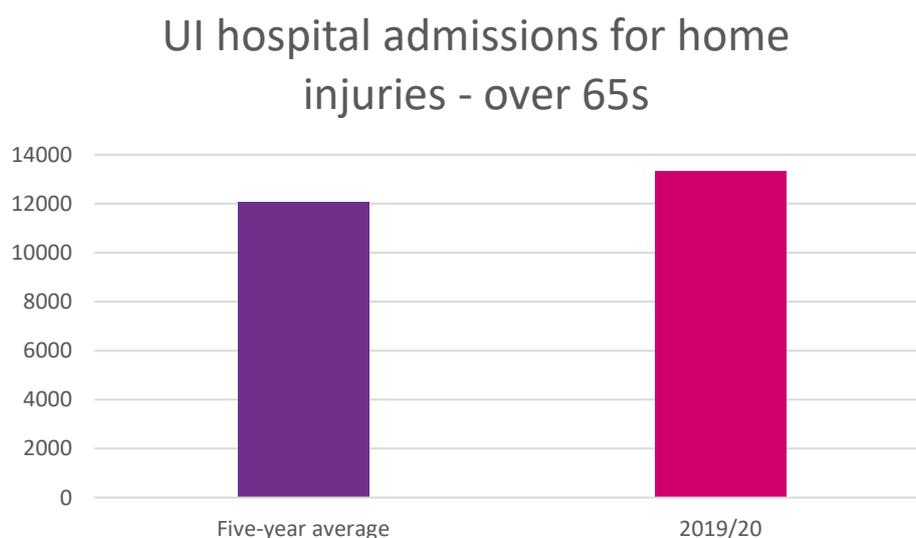


Figure 17: Unintentional injury hospital admissions for home injuries, 65+, five-year average vs 2019/20

Rate of unintentional injuries across SIMD

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is an area-based measurement of multiple deprivation which combines seven domains (income, employment, education, housing, health, crime and geographical access) into an overall index. As can be seen in figure 18, a higher rate of unintentional injury correlates with higher levels of deprivation.

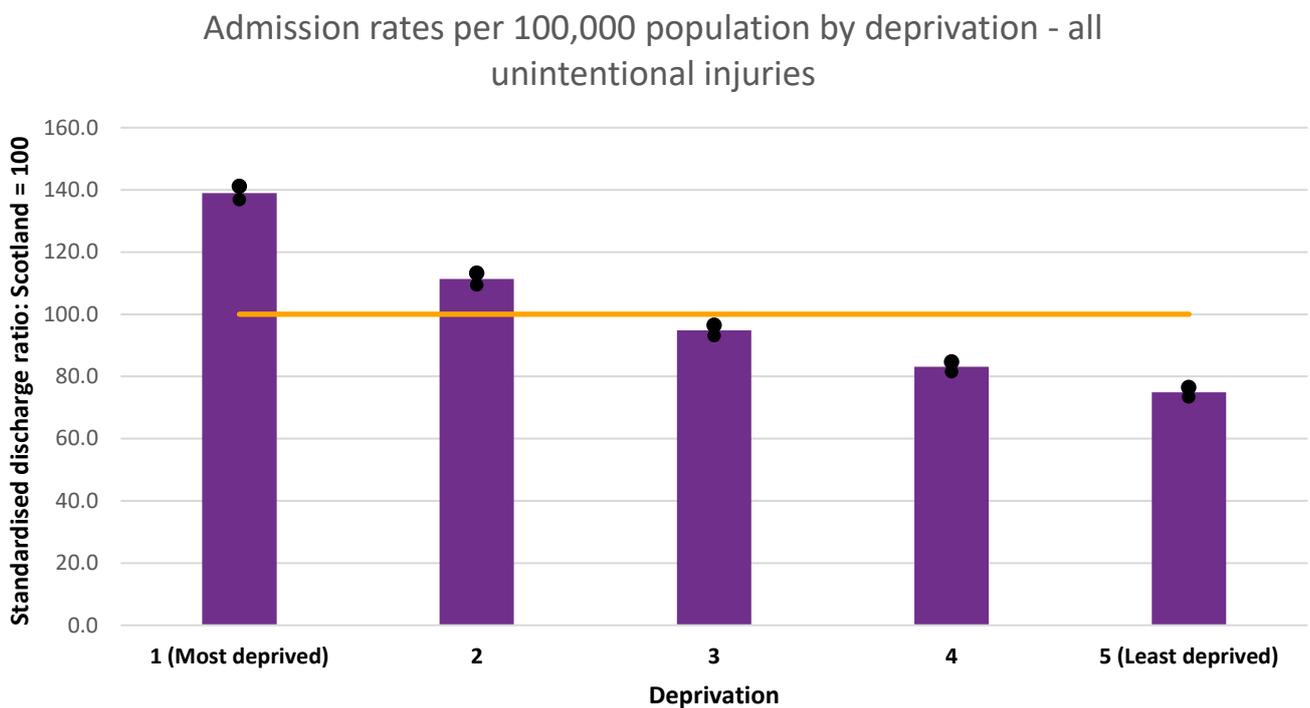


Figure 18: Emergency hospital admissions as a result of an unintentional injury, all ages, by deprivation category; year ending 31 March 2020

