



Service User Slip/Trip/Fall (STF) Incidents Reported on NIMS, the National Incident Management System, as occurring 2020-2024

Overview of incidents



168,525

The number of service user STF incidents occurred



24%

STF incidents accounted for almost one in four service user incidents that occurred



82.7%

were categorised as negligible (no harm) in severity



56.6%

occurred in hospital settings



70.1%

related to persons 65 years or older



10am–12pm

When most STFs occurred in both hospital and community settings combined

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a fall (STF) incident as an event which results in a person coming to rest unintentionally on the ground or floor or other lower surface. It is not caused by an external force or hazard and may result in no injury.

Service user STF incidents in detail

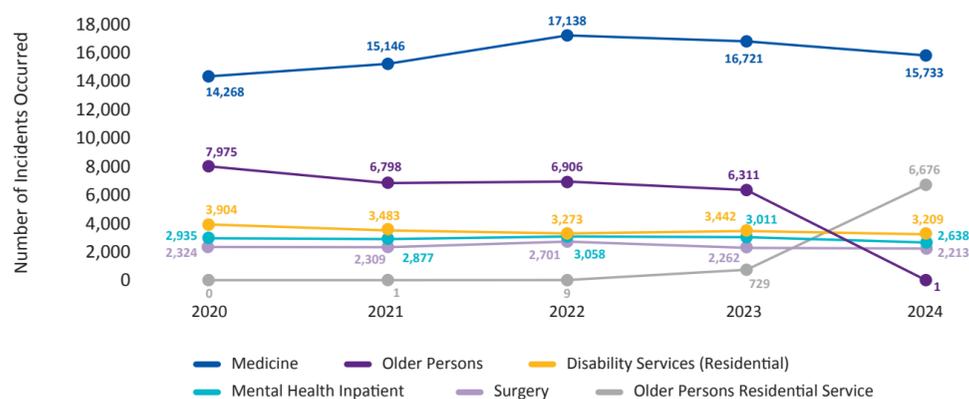
Service user STF incidents by year occurred



STF incidents reported on NIMS, the National Incident Management System, show some variation. However, overall the number of incidents reported has remained relatively stable in recent years.

What services are reporting STF incidents?

Top service categories selected on NIMS for STF incidents



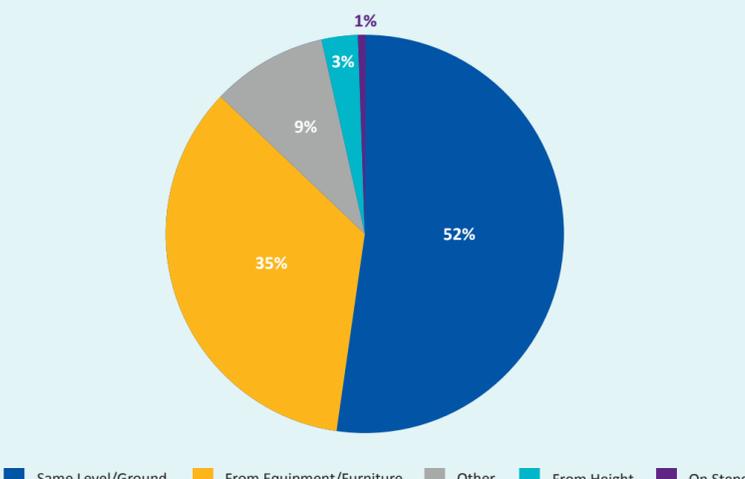
*"Older Persons Residential Service" was introduced as a new NIMS category from January 2021. This helps explain the respective increases and decreases seen in the figures of the "Older Person" services.



The service of Medicine reported the highest number of STF incidents (46.9%) followed by Older Persons (16.6%), Residential Disability (10.3%), Mental Health Inpatient services (8.6%) and Surgery (7.0%). Health and social care professionals should report all STF incidents on NIMS in a timely manner, in line with the statutory requirement to report incidents to the State Claims Agency and manage them according to the HSE's Incident Management Framework.

In what circumstances are reported STF incidents happening?

Top 5 STF 'sub-hazard' categories selected on NIMS



Most STFs (51.9%) happened at the same level/ground, with some 34.6% of reported STFs from equipment/furniture. It is worth noting that the NIMS "Sub Hazard Please Specify" category which had the most extreme/major incidents occurring was "Same Level/Ground" and across all settings – hospital, community and residential care. There has been no significant change noted in the circumstances reported over the years.



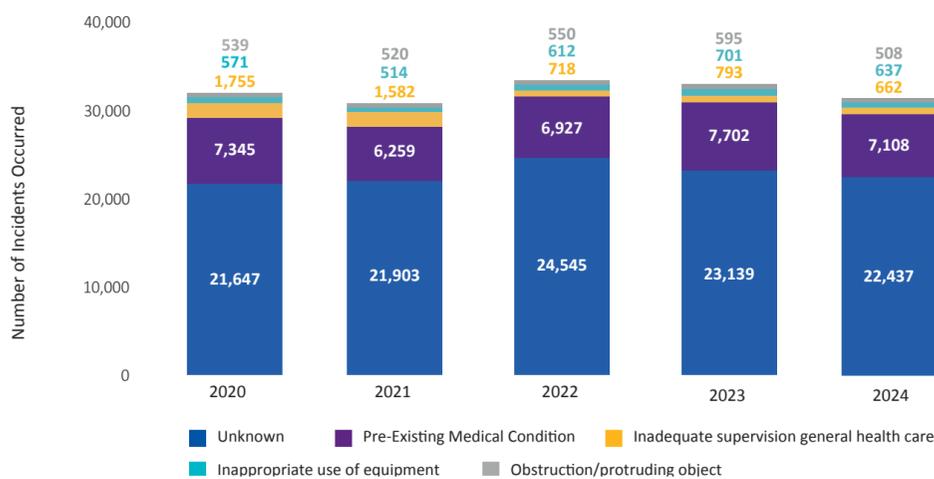
Head injuries and hip fractures

When injuries were reported they most frequently involved the head. Injuries affecting the head accounted for 40.7% of these incidents.* Fractures were uncommon, recorded in just 1.4% of all STF incidents reported. However, hip fractures accounted for 34.6% of these fractures equivalent to 815 hip fractures over the five-year period.*

*Where the injured body part was recorded

How are the causes of STF incidents reported on NIMS?

Top 5 STF 'problem/cause' categories selected on NIMS



The most common incident category (problem/cause) selected at the time of reporting was 'unknown' (67.5%) followed by 'pre-existing medical condition' (21%) and 'inadequate supervision general' (3.3%). Given that every STF, regardless of harm, is an opportunity to prevent another one, this highlights the need to conduct a proportionate and responsive review post-STF to identify factors that contributed to the STF, and implement preventative STF improvement initiatives that are service user centered.



Please note that this infographic used service user STF data which includes public hospitals, community healthcare and related organisations, and national services. Date of incident occurrence on NIMS was used to generate the data. The data is correct as of 31/12/2024.



If you require further information, please get in touch with us via stateclaims@ntma.ie

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