Gníomhaireacht Bainistíochta an Chisteáin Náisiúnta
National Treasury Management Agency

An Ghníomhaireacht um Éilimh ar an Stát
State Claims Agency

Diagnosis incidents reported on NIMS, the National Incident Management System, 2022-2023

Overview of incidents

2,590
number of diagnosis incidents* reported

77.9%
of diagnosis incidents were reported as negligible (no harm) in severity

57
average number of days to report a diagnosis incident

79.2%
were reported as delayed diagnosis

90%
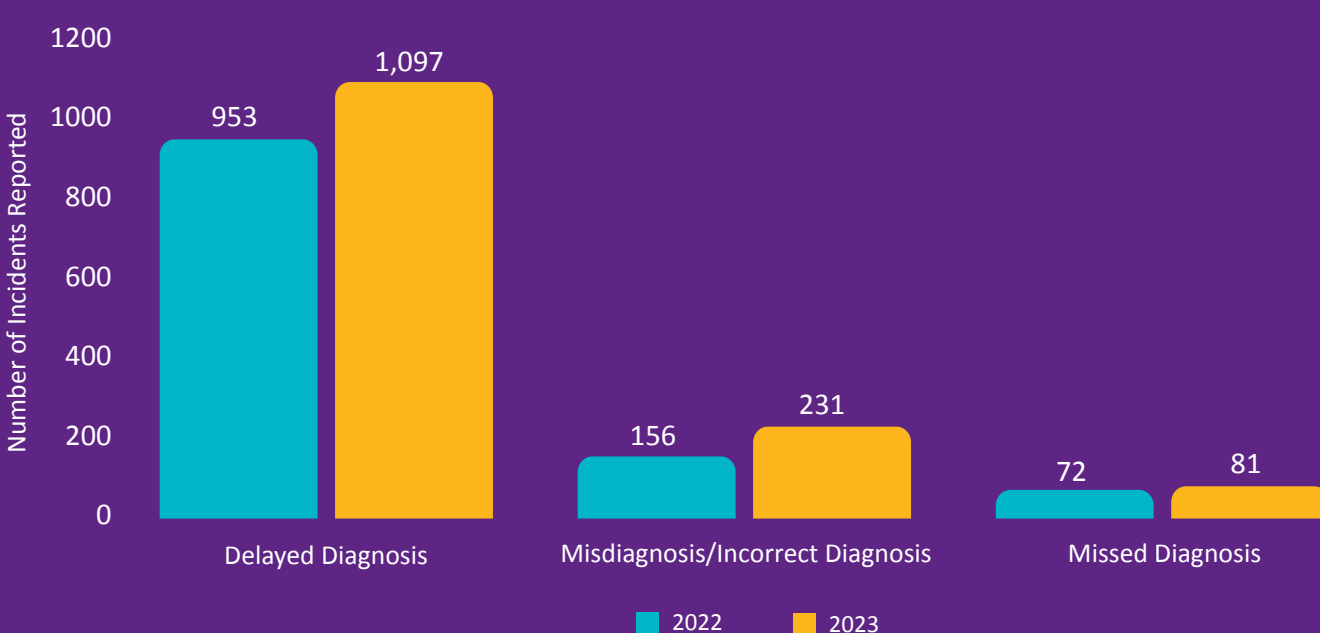of diagnosis incidents were reported by acute hospitals

37.3%
over a third of diagnosis incidents were reported under the service of medicine

*A diagnosis incident is an event or circumstance that could have or did lead to unintended and/or unnecessary harm occurring during the diagnostic process, and which may give rise to a delayed diagnosis, missed diagnosis or misdiagnosis (incorrect diagnosis).
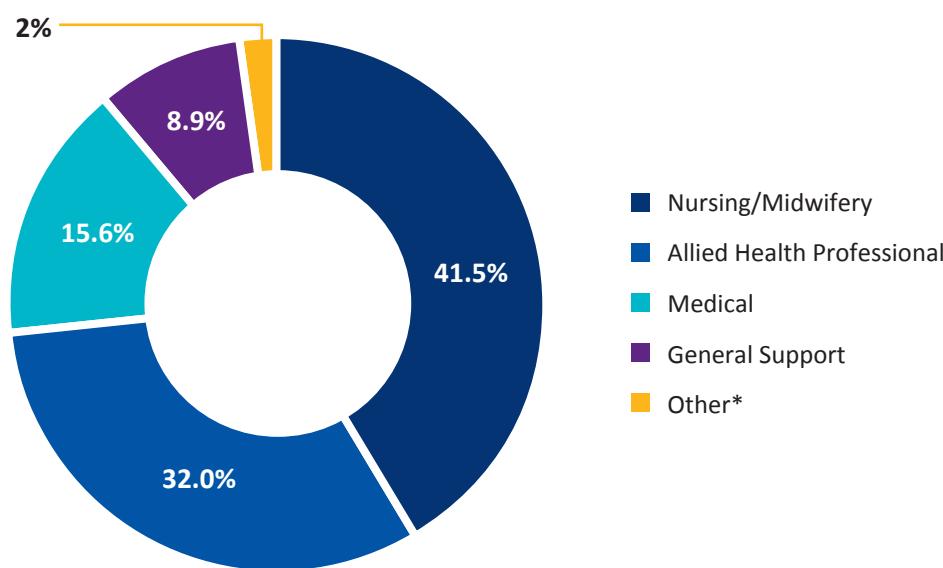
Diagnosis incidents in more detail

Diagnosis incidents reported by 'sub hazard please specify' field on NIMS

Bar chart — Number of Incidents Reported:
- Delayed Diagnosis: 953 (2022), 1,097 (2023)
- Misdiagnosis/Incorrect Diagnosis: 156 (2022), 231 (2023)
- Missed Diagnosis: 72 (2022), 81 (2023)

i The majority of incidents were reported under delayed diagnosis. A number of these related to delayed access to diagnostic services or delays in receiving diagnostic results, placing service users at risk of delayed treatment or intervention.

Who reported the diagnosis incidents?

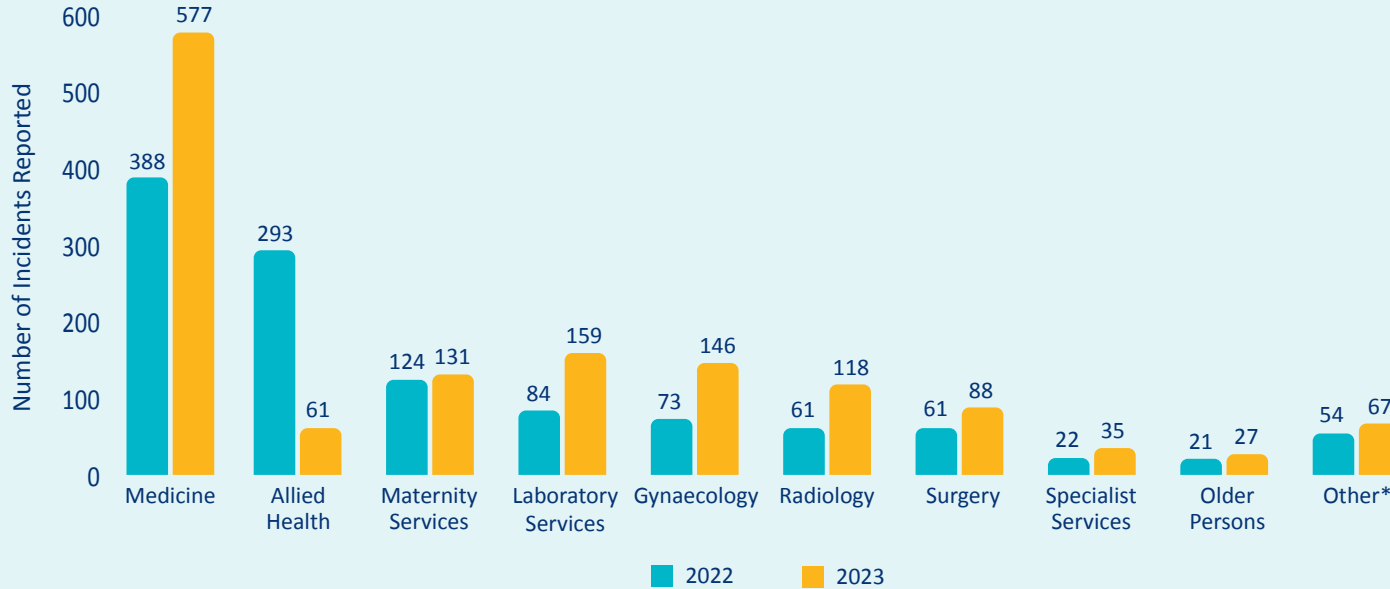Diagnosis incidents reported by 'category of person reporting' field on NIMS

Donut chart:
- Nursing/Midwifery: 41.5%
- Allied Health Professional: 32.0%
- Medical: 15.6%
- General Support: 8.9%
- Other*: 2%

*Other includes the following category of person reporting fields: Dental, Ambulance/Service User Transport and Tech/Maintenance.

i Nursing/midwifery reported the highest number of diagnosis incidents followed by allied health professionals. Health and social care professionals should report all diagnosis incidents on NIMS in a timely manner, in line with the statutory requirement to report incidents to the State Claims Agency and the HSE's Incident Management Framework.

Which services are reporting diagnosis incidents?

Bar chart — Number of Incidents Reported (2022, 2023):
- Medicine: 388, 577
- Allied Health: 293, 61
- Maternity Services: 124, 131
- Laboratory Services: 84, 159
- Gynaecology: 73, 146
- Radiology: 61, 118
- Surgery: 61, 88
- Specialist Services: 22, 35
- Older Persons: 21, 27
- Other*: 54, 67

*Other includes all service categories that do not rank in the top 9 for the number of diagnosis incidents reported.
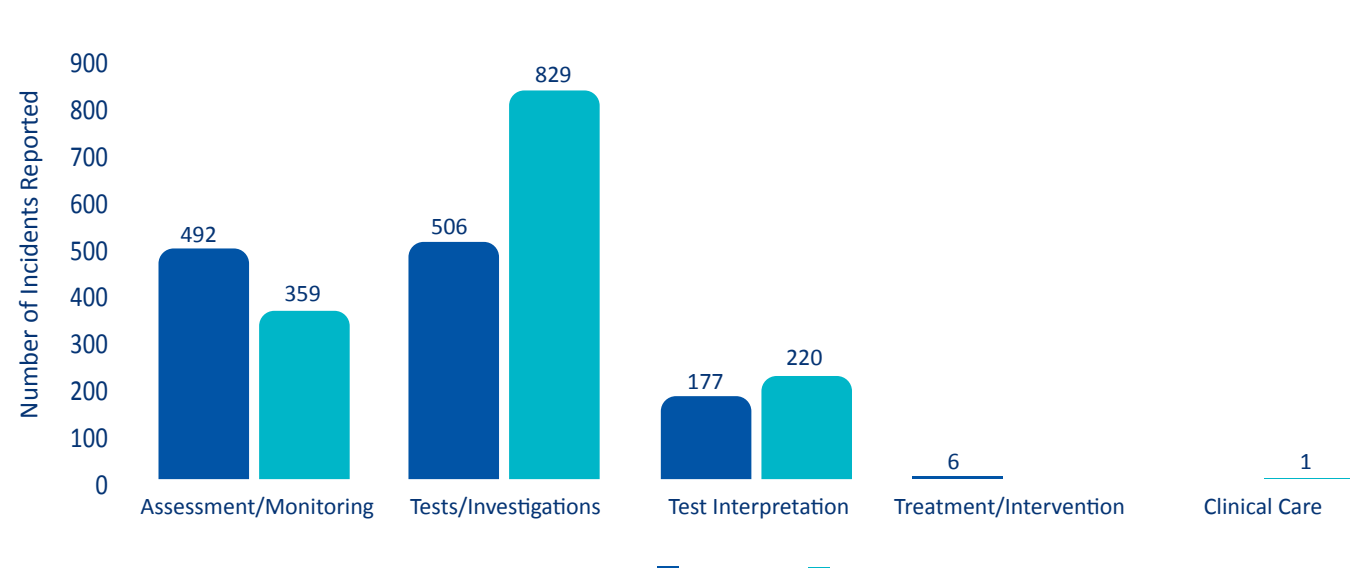
What was the most common diagnosis incident category chosen on NIMS?

The most common incident category (problem/cause on NIMS) reported was **'not performed when indicated' (55%).**

Where in the process did diagnosis incidents occur?

Diagnosis incidents reported by 'process' field on NIMS

Bar chart — Number of Incidents Reported (2022, 2023):
- Assessment/Monitoring: 492, 359
- Tests/Investigations: 506, 829
- Test Interpretation: 177, 220
- Treatment/Intervention: 6
- Clinical Care: 1

i 52% of incidents were reported by stage of process as 'test/investigations'. Whilst this indicates that diagnostic services should pay heed to their internal flow process to ensure timely access and reporting, it should also be noted that specimen/blood sampling issues accounted for some of these incidents.

! Please note that this infographic used service user clinical care data which includes public hospitals, community healthcare and related organisations, and national services. The incident create date on NIMS was used to generate the data. Please note percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. The data is correct as of 31/12/2023.