

Medication Incidents Reported on NIMS, the National Incident Management System, 2019 – 2022



69,889

Number of reported medication incidents



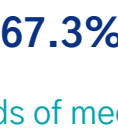
29.2%

Medication incidents account for almost three in 10 clinical incidents reported



34

Median number of days to report a medication incident



67.3%

Two-thirds of medications incidents were reported under the acute hospital division on NIMS



93.9%

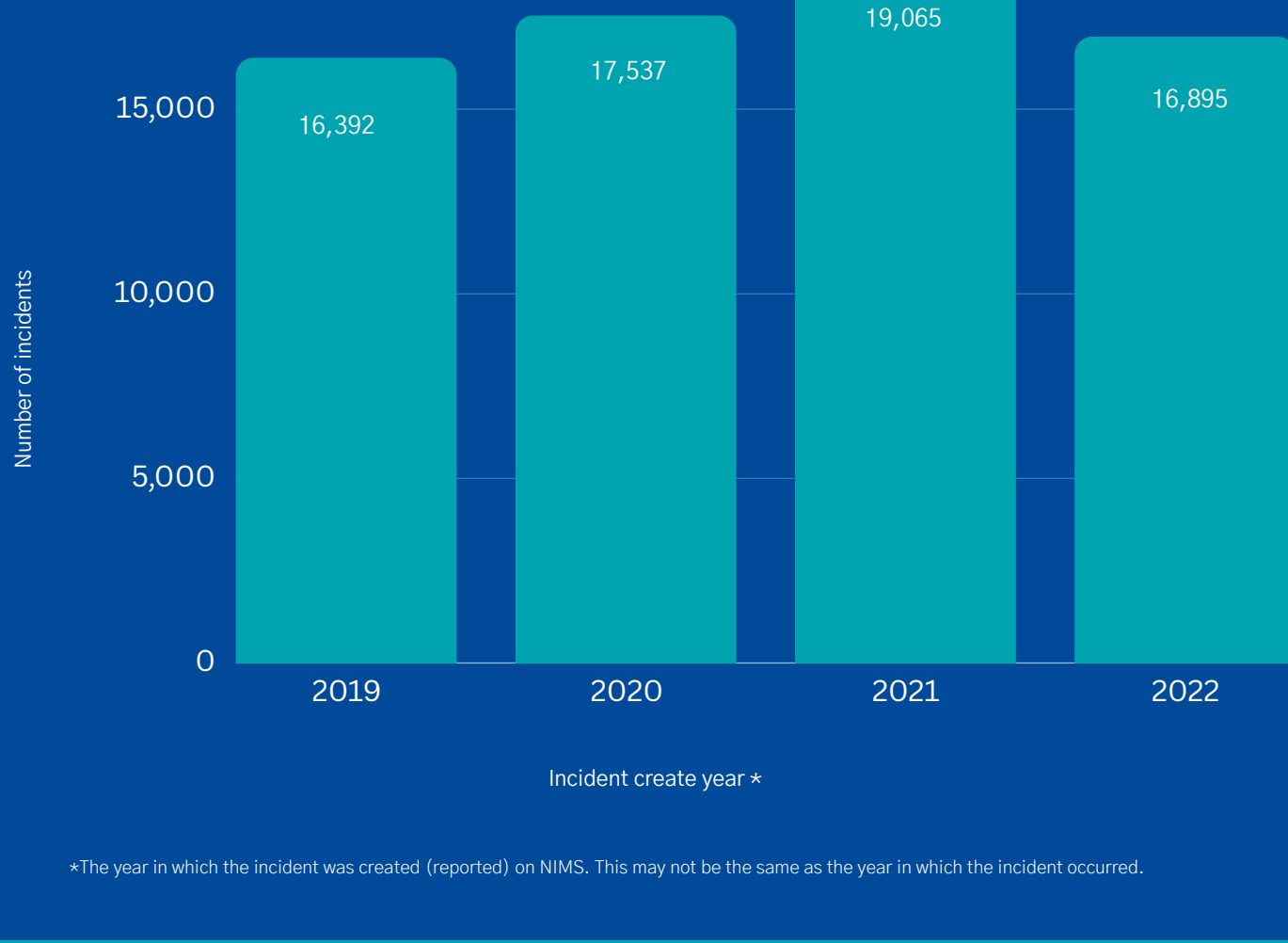
More than nine in 10 medication incidents were reported with a 'negligible' (no harm) severity rating



10%

One in 10 medication incidents were reported without the name of the medication(s) involved

Medication incident reporting in detail



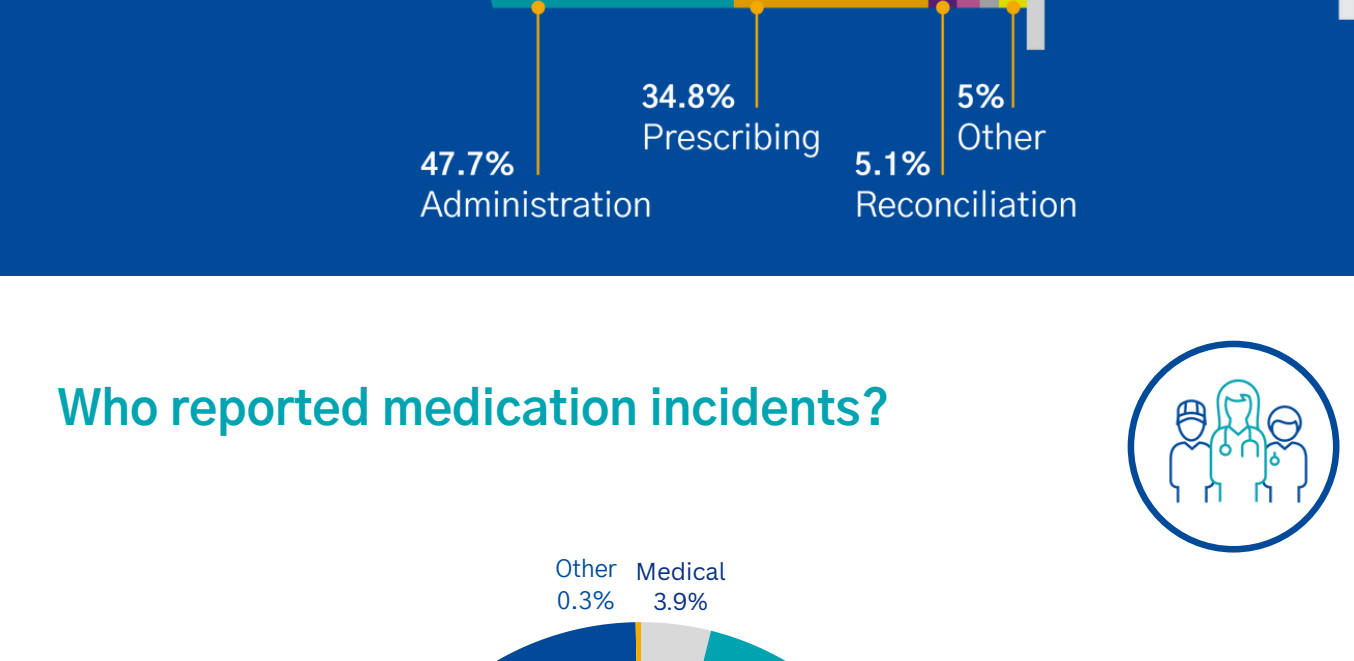
The reporting of medication incidents related to COVID-19 vaccines resulted in an increase in the number of medication incidents reported in 2021.



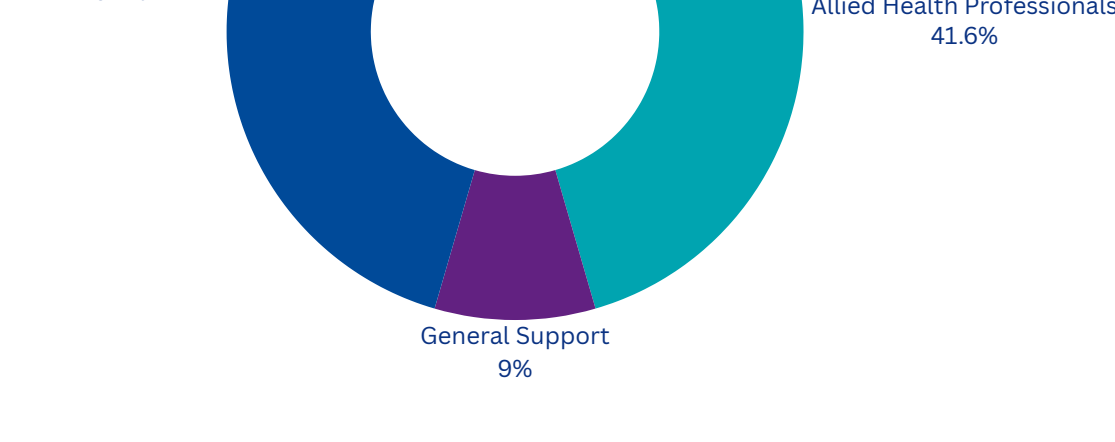
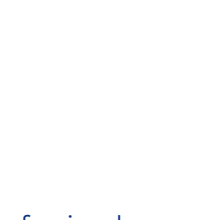
What was the most common medication incident category chosen on NIMS?

The most common incident category (problem/cause on NIMS) was 'Omitted/Delayed Dose', which accounted for 22.7% of medication incidents by category.

Where in the process did medication incidents occur?



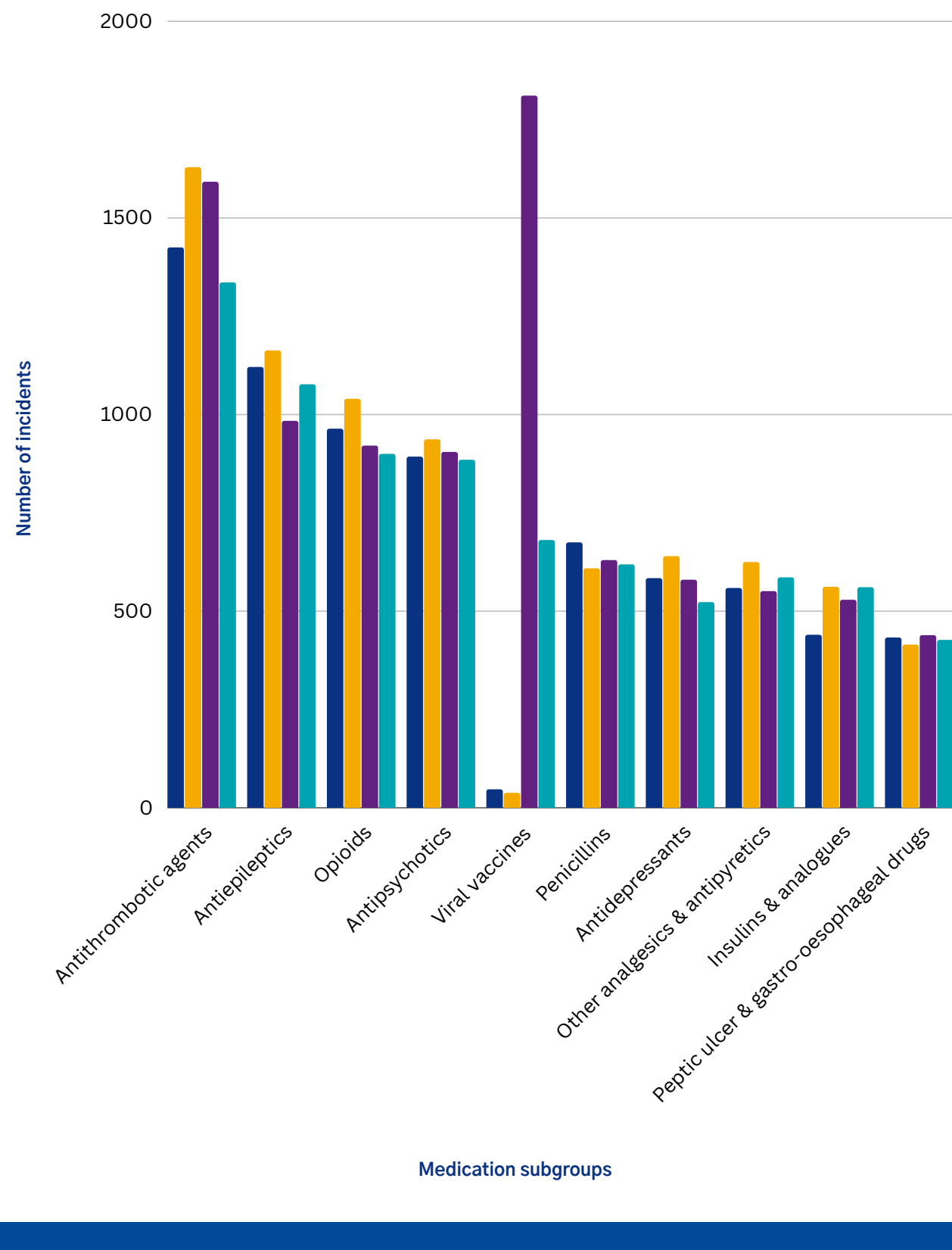
Who reported medication incidents?



Health and social care professionals should report all medication 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. In particular, doctors who are involved in, or identify, a medication incident or other adverse event should report it in accordance with Medical Council guidance.

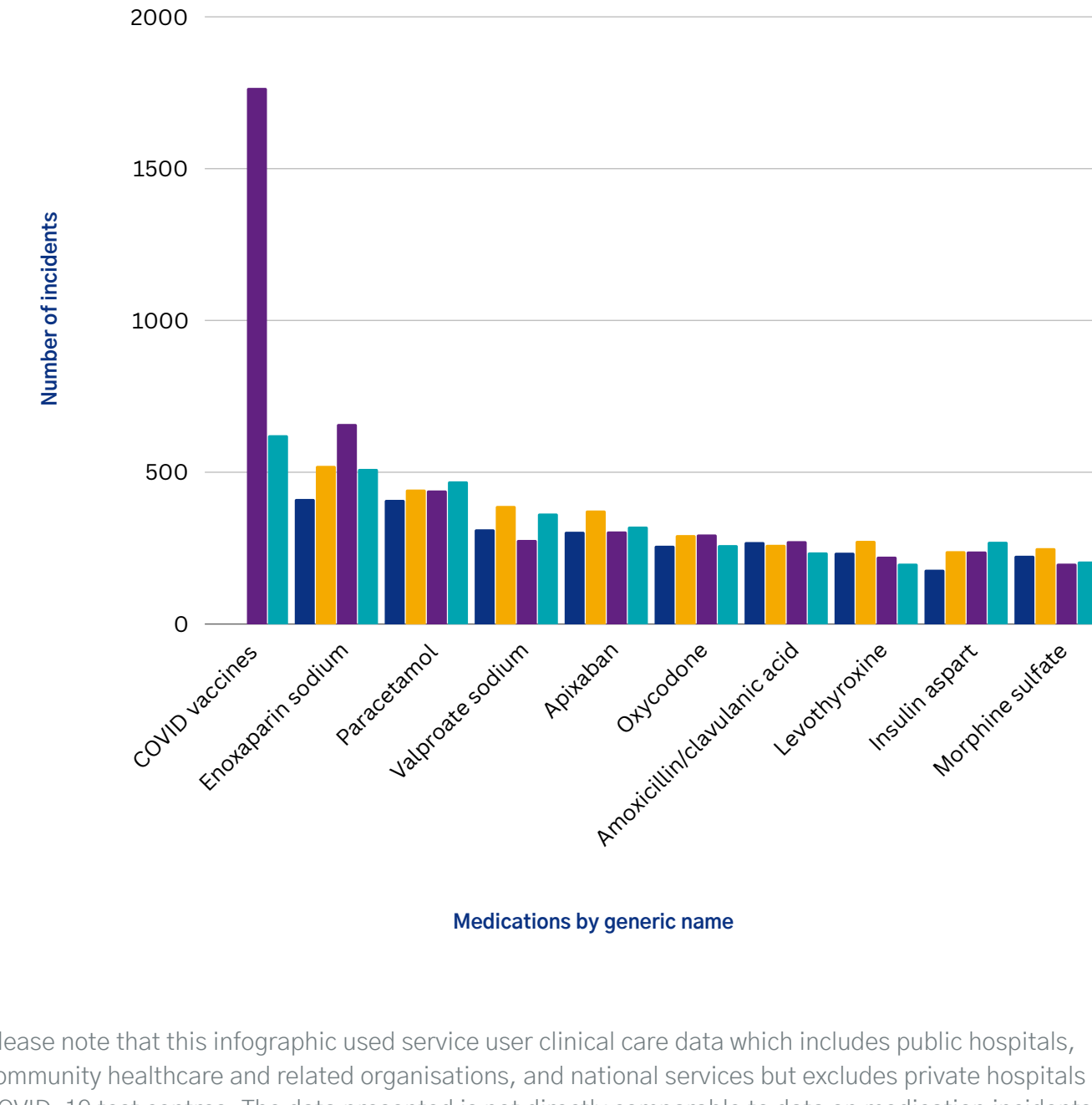
What medications featured most frequently in incident reports?

Top 10 medication subgroups



Antithrombotic agents were the subgroup most commonly involved in medication incidents. Antiepileptics, opioids and antipsychotics were the next most frequently involved medication subgroups. Viral vaccines were associated with a spike in medication incident reports in 2021 coinciding with the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines, although this moderated in 2022.

Top 10 medications by generic name



Please note that this infographic used service user clinical care data which includes public hospitals, community healthcare and related organisations, and national services but excludes private hospitals and COVID-19 test centres. The data presented is not directly comparable to data on medication incidents reported by Irish acute hospitals only previously published by the State Claims Agency. Please note percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. The data is correct as of 31/03/2023.

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



Scan the QR Code to learn about our Clinical Risk Unit