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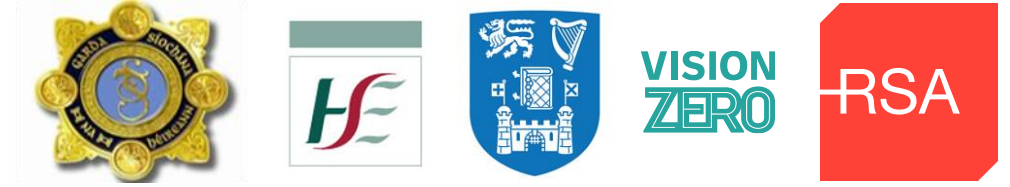
Serious injuries in Ireland using hospital and An Garda Síochána data

Period 2019-2023

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Background



- This report provides an overview of serious injuries over 2019-2023.
- This report includes the most recent data available on serious injuries, updating a [previous report](#) on the total of serious injuries for a longer term trend (2014-2022).
- The EC has requested all EU Member States to report on serious injuries using hospital data, to complement police data on serious injuries. It is internationally acknowledged that police data alone will understate the number of serious injuries from road traffic collisions; therefore it is important that both sources of data are reported in Ireland to provide a holistic picture of the serious injury problem.
- For the preparation of this report, two sources of data were used:
 - **Hospital records** from the **Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) database**, and
 - **Collision records** from the **Irish Road Traffic Collision database**, transferred from An Garda Síochána (AGS) to the RSA.
- The HIPE database is managed by the HSE and includes demographic and clinical information on casualties admitted to acute hospitals in Ireland.
- AGS information is provisional and subject to change. This means that AGS serious injury numbers presented here may change at a later date when new information becomes available.
- Details on the **methodology** that we use to report on serious injuries and **FAQs about hospital data** can be found [here](#).



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Definitions of injury

Hospital data

- We follow a medical definition of a serious injury, based on an international validated injury severity scoring scale, the **Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS)***.
- The AIS scale allows to assign an injury severity score between 1 (minor) to 6 (critical) to each hospitalised casualty.
- A casualty may have one or more injuries recorded in their hospital chart. We first assign an AIS score to each injury, and then determine the maximum AIS score assigned to each casualty.
- **Seriously injured casualties are those with at least one injury with a maximum AIS score of 3 or more (MAIS3+).**
- Casualties with a maximum AIS score of 2 or less (**MAIS2-**) are defined as having injuries of minor-to-moderate severity.
- We add the number of casualties having MAIS3+ and MAIS2- scores to obtain the total number of **hospitalised casualties**.
- Please see our [methodology report](#) for more details on the definitions of injury.

*Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (2016). Abbreviated Injury Scale (c) 2005 Update 2008. (T. Gennarelli, & e. Woodzin, Eds.) Chicago, Illinois.





Definitions of injury

An Garda Síochána data

- The definition of a serious injury followed by AGS is as follows:
 - A serious injury is an injury for which the person is **detained in hospital as an 'in-patient'**, or has any of the following injuries **whether or not detained in hospital**: fractures, concussions, internal injuries, crushing, severe cuts and lacerations, or severe general shock requiring medical treatment.
 - All hospitalised casualties fall into the AGS definition of a serious injury, as they are all 'in-patients'.
 - Please see the [methodology report](#) for more details.

Report Outline

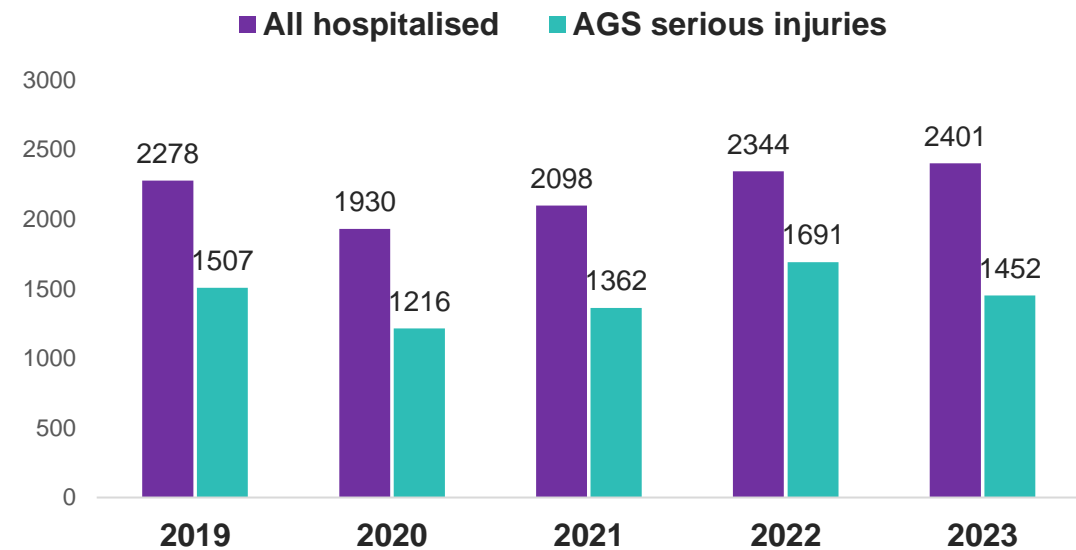
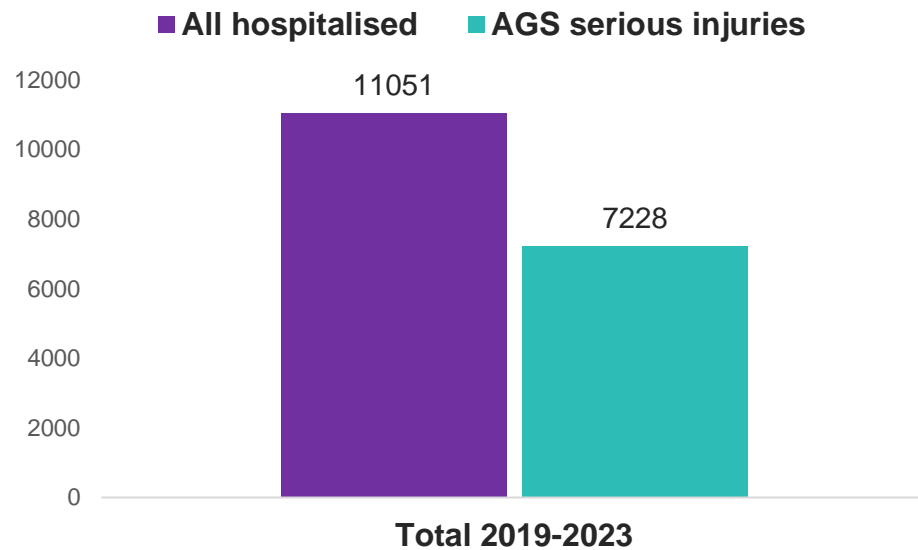
-  Total and trend - hospitalised casualties and AGS serious injuries (2019-2023)
-  Total by road user type - hospitalised casualties and AGS serious injuries (2019-2023)



Total and trend

All hospitalised and AGS serious injuries – 2019-2023

- Over 2019-2023, a total of 11,051 casualties were hospitalised with injuries from road traffic collisions. Over the same period, AGS recorded 7,228 serious injuries.
- The annual number of hospitalised casualties declined in 2020 and increased from 2021 onwards, being the highest in 2023.



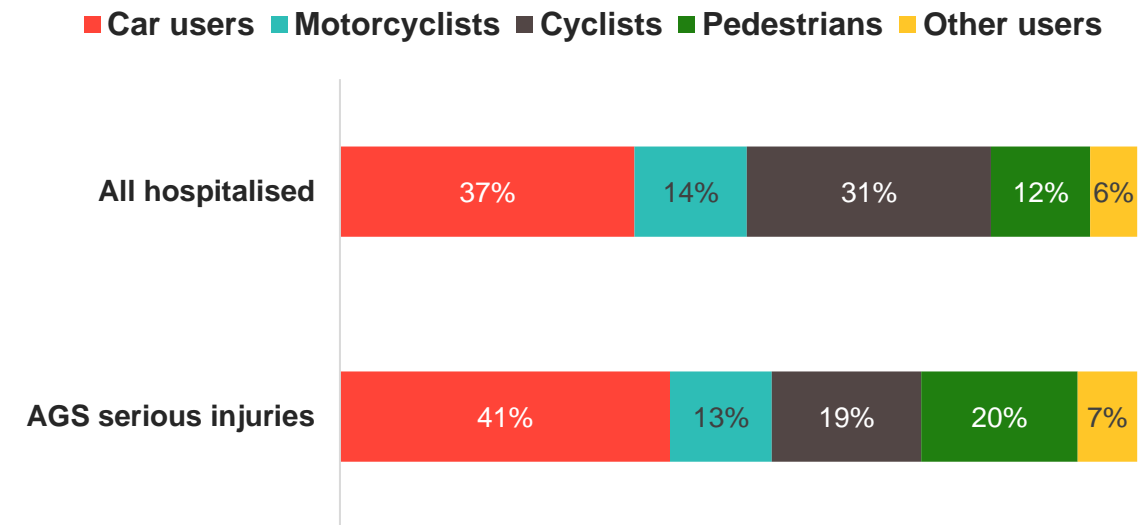
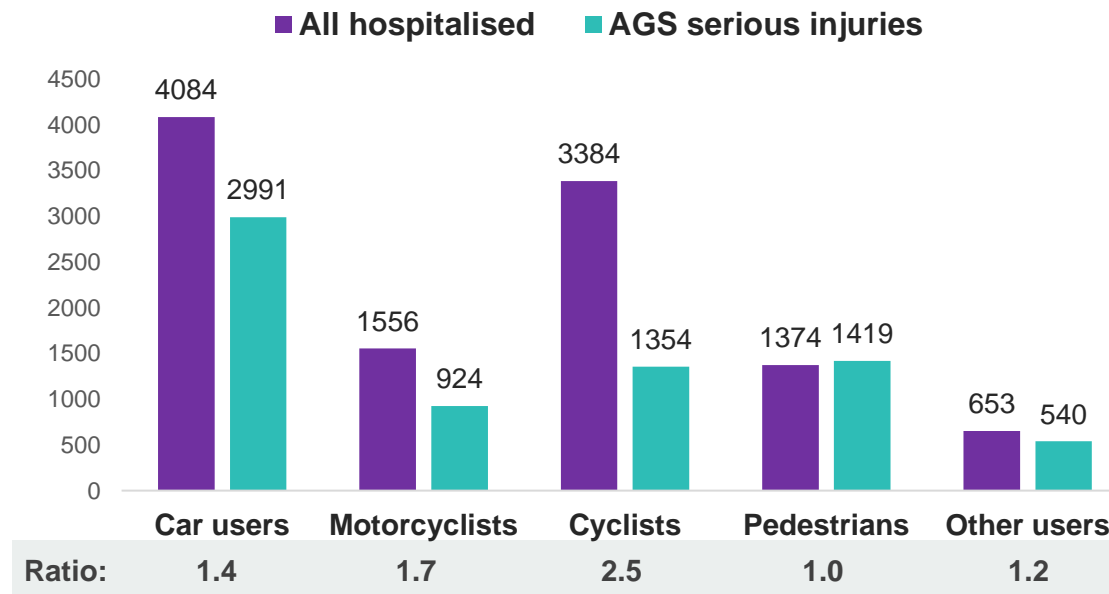
AGS data is current as of December 2024. AGS data for 2020 onwards is provisional and subject to change.



Total by road user type

All hospitalised and AGS serious injuries – 2019-2023

- The discrepancy between the number of hospitalised casualties and AGS serious injuries recorded over 2019-2023 was observed for each road user type separately.
- The highest discrepancy between the data sources was observed for pedal cyclists: there were between 2 and 3 hospitalised cyclists for each cyclists recorded by AGS as seriously injured.
- Cyclists accounted for 31% of hospitalised casualties and 19% of AGS serious injuries.



AGS data is current as of December 2024. AGS data for 2020 onwards is provisional and subject to change.


Serious injuries in hospital and AGS records


2019-2023



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 This report is part of a series describing the characteristics of serious injuries as recorded in hospital and AGS data.

 Two reports focusing on [cyclists](#) and [pedestrians](#) have been published at [RSA.ie](#).

Acknowledgements

- Members of the MAIS3+ project Board:
 - Dr Fionnuala Donohue, National Health Intelligence Unit, HSE.
 - Prof Noel McCarthy, Department of Public Health & Primary Care, Trinity College Dublin.
 - Ms Velma Burns, Research Manager, RSA.
 - Ms Sharon Heffernan, Statistician, RSA.
- RSA Research Department.



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