



accidents don't have to happen

Safer Lives, Stronger Nation

RoSPA's Call for a National Accident Prevention Strategy

18 February 2025

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What did we set out to achieve?

RoSPA has conducted a comprehensive review of accidental injuries in the UK to:

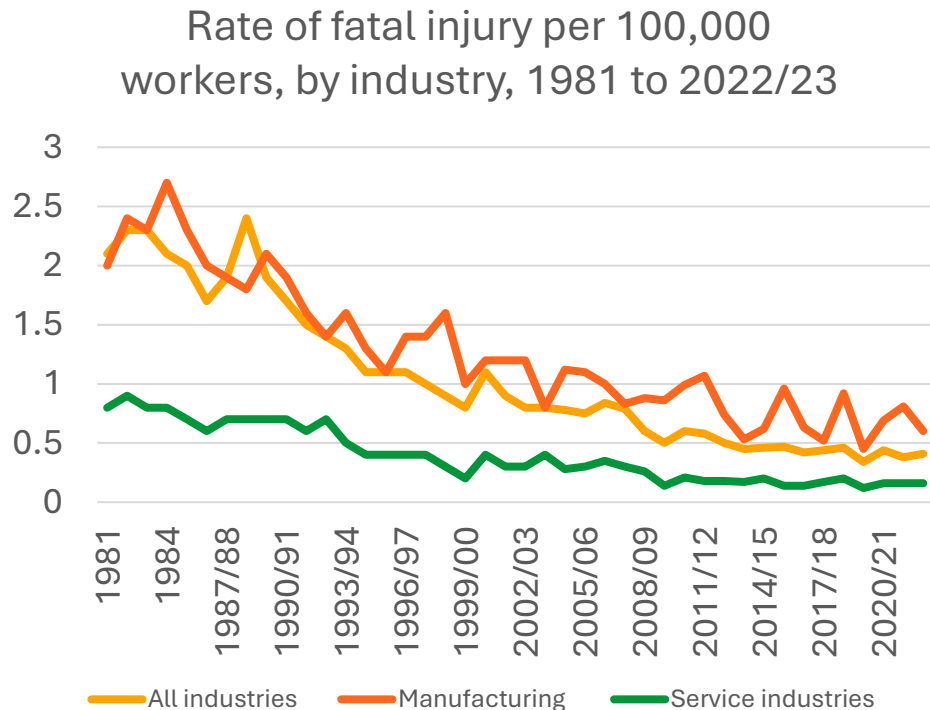
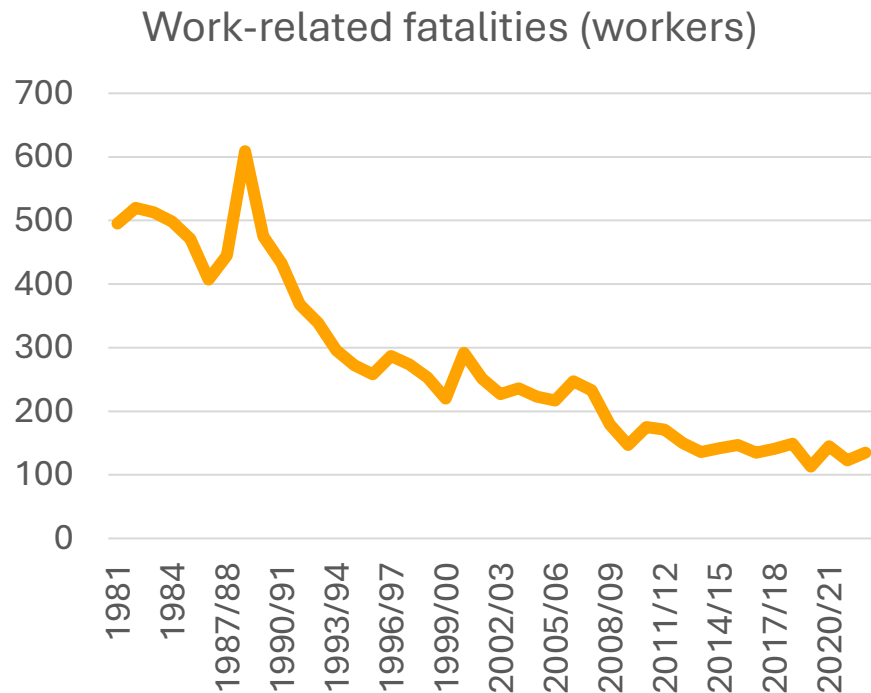
- For the first time, uncover how many accidents happen across all four nations
- Discover trends – are things getting better or worse?
- Identify focus areas and gaps
- Develop recommendations for policy change
- Form the basis of a concerted campaign
- Drive renewed interest in accident prevention in Government, the press and the public



What did we find?



Work-related fatalities are down 73% on 1981, though no change over the decade



But...



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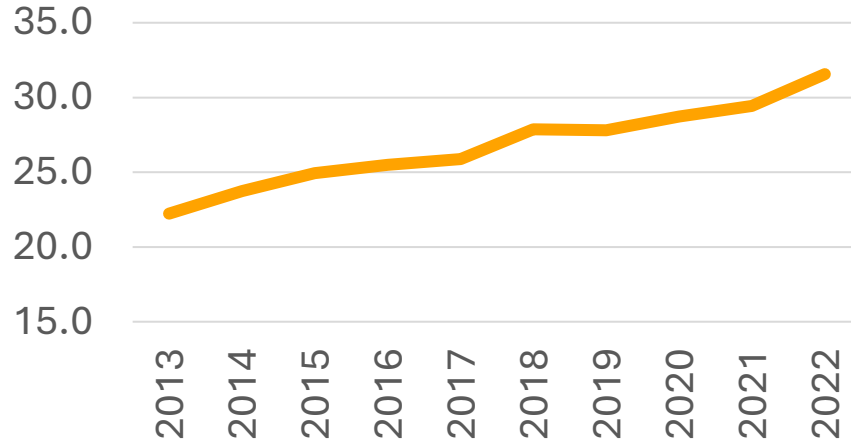
Accident rates are rising outside of work

- **21,336 people died of accidents in the UK in 2022**
- The per capita rate of accidental deaths has **increased by 42% since 2013**
- **741,755 hospital admissions** related to accidents in England alone in 2022/23
- The per capita rate of accident-related hospital admissions in England has **increased by 29% since 2002/3**
- In 2019/20, we estimate that there were **7,126,961 accident-related A&E attendances** in the UK

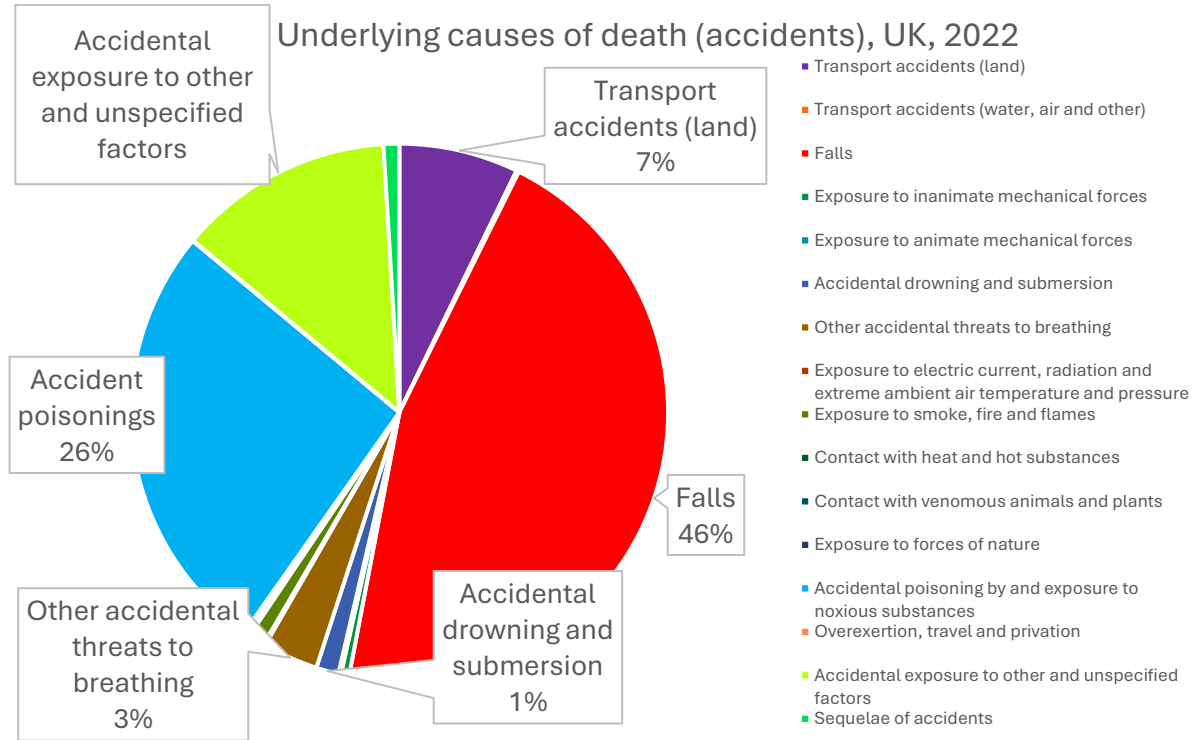


Accidental deaths have been rising for years

Rate of accidental deaths per
100,000 people, UK, 2013 to
2022



Most accidental deaths are caused by falls, poisonings or transport



Findings

- The deaths caused by **falls** are up by 90% since 2013
- Deaths caused by **accidental poisonings** are up 96% on 2013
- Hospitalisation figures have been rising for most accident types
- **84,000 people** were admitted to hospital last year for **crushing, striking or cutting injuries**
- Hospitalisations due to **dog bites** have **trebled** since 2002
- In 2022/3, there were **315 fire-related deaths** in Great Britain and **7,499 fire-related casualties**, of which over 3,000 needed hospital treatment
- There were **32,669 dwelling fires** in 2022/3



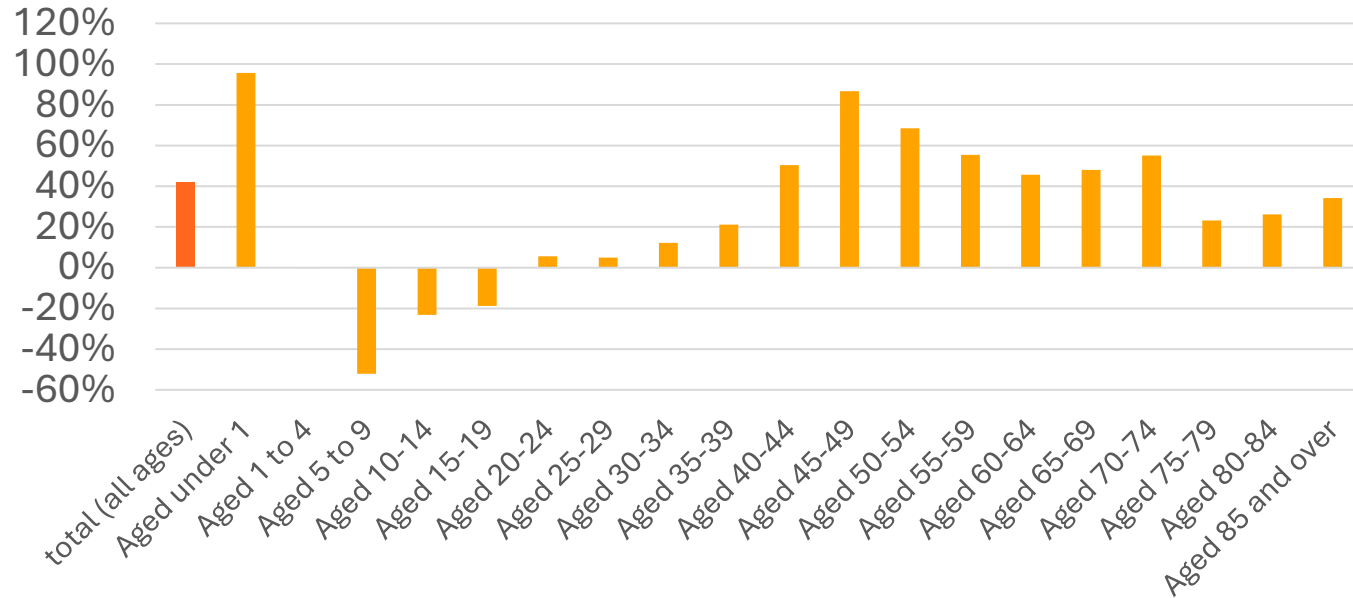
Thousands of people are seriously injured on our roads every year

- **1,643** people are **killed** in road traffic collisions every year
- **29,643** people are **seriously injured** **Progress** on road fatality reduction has **slowed down**
- 9% death reduction since 2014 compared with 47% across the previous decade



Across the UK, accidental death rates have risen across all adult age groups

Change in age-specific per capita rate of accidental deaths, UK, 2013 compared with 2022



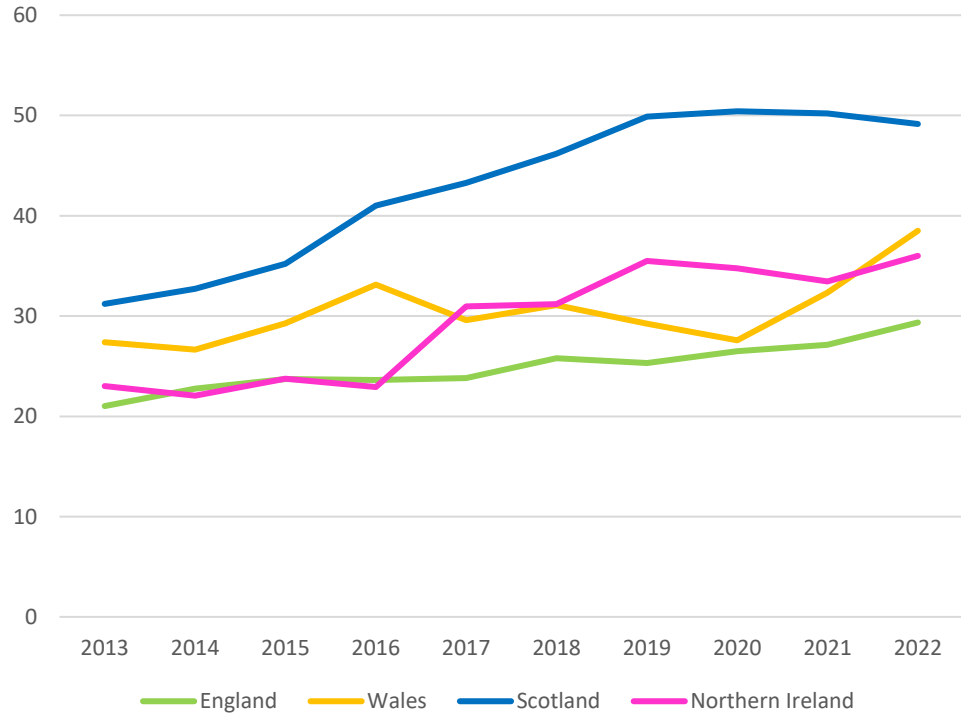
Focus on Scotland

- **Scotland** has seen the **biggest rise in accidental death rate** of all 4 nations: **+57% (2013 to 2022)**
- Scotland's rate is **69% higher than England's (2022)**
- **2,677 died** due to accidents in Scotland in 2022
- Most types of fatal accident are **more common in Scotland**

Source: NRS and ONS, Mortality Statistics.



Accidental death rates for the four nations



Source: NRS, ONS and NISRA, Mortality Statistics.

Focus on Scotland: Leading differences

Cause of accidental death	Rate in Scotland compared to the UK as a whole
All types of accidental deaths	56% higher
Non-transport related	57% higher
Poisoning	139% higher
Drowning	59% higher
Exposure to smoke, fire or flames	42% higher
Falls	45% higher

Source: NRS, ONS and NISRA, Mortality Statistics. NB: analysis of WAID data shows that Scotland has an even higher rate of accidental drowning



Focus on Scotland: Road safety

- **153 people were killed on Scotland's roads in 2023**
- **1,931 more were seriously injured**
- **Some good progress – but more to do**
- **The rate of people killed and seriously injured is now lower than England and Wales (38 per 100,000 people, compared with 44 and 46)**
- **However, fatality rate remains slightly higher than England and the UK (2.8 per 100,000 people compared with 2.4 and 2.5)**

Source: DfT, Road Safety Statistics, Table RAS0402; ONS, mid-year population estimates (2023).



In short:

- We've made our workplaces safer, only for people to be more likely to be injured outside of work
- This is hugely costly, **reducing economic output by £6bn** annually due to lost working days and the costs these incur
- **29 million working days are lost** annually to accidents – most of them happening outside of work
- The **cost of accidents to the NHS is £5.9bn** annually at least, further squeezing public spending
- **Thousands of people die** preventable deaths annually and many more **suffer long-term injuries... and it's getting worse.**
- Lack of readiness for **future challenges** and **4 nations** working
- Disjointed or **poor data collection and monitoring**



The UK doesn't have a plan

- Accident prevention remains **low down the political priority list**
- **Departmental ownership** for accident prevention policy is **fragmented**, disjointed and lacks oversight/coherency
- Limited **appetite for change**
- The UK faces **systemic challenges** but **no joined up set of policies** involves accident prevention in addressing these issues
- **In short: there is no plan**



What are we doing?

- **Campaigning** for a new **National Accident Prevention Strategy (NAPS)** to be adopted by the Government
- This would take a top-level overview of Government activity in accident prevention, identify gaps and map out key areas for policy development
- **Ideal position:** NAPS is adopted by the next Government, with a **minister without portfolio** appointed to oversee accident prevention policy



What should NAPS do and include? (Part 1)

- Take a **joined-up approach** which cuts across **departments** and provides **strategic leadership** to guide policy making
- **Empower individual departments or agencies**
- Propose ambitious but realistic and **evidence-led policy interventions**
- Cover the **core sectors** directly affecting the UK economy: home, work, product, leisure and transport
- **Be forward-facing** to address emerging challenges



What should NAPS be and include? (Part 2)

- **Address inequalities**
- Take a **four-nations approach** to data sharing and collaboration.
- **Support local authorities** to deliver interventions
- Understand the **global context**, look for lessons from abroad where appropriate, and help to **export expertise** around the world
- Strengthen Government's **data collection** to help **set targets** and ensure the strategy is evidence-led



Supporters

- Over 400 companies and individuals have signed up as supporters



Any questions?



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