

# MAJOR TRAUMA AUDIT PAEDIATRIC SUMMARY REPORT 2014-2019

The Major Trauma Audit (MTA) was established by the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) in 2013. This audit focuses on the care of the more severely injured patients in our healthcare system, across 26 trauma receiving hospitals.




















## WHAT IS MAJOR TRAUMA?

Major trauma is any injury that has the potential to cause prolonged disability or death. There are many causes of major trauma. These injuries can be caused by blunt or penetrating mechanisms such as falls, motor vehicle collisions, stab wounds, and gunshot wounds (World Health Organization, 2014).

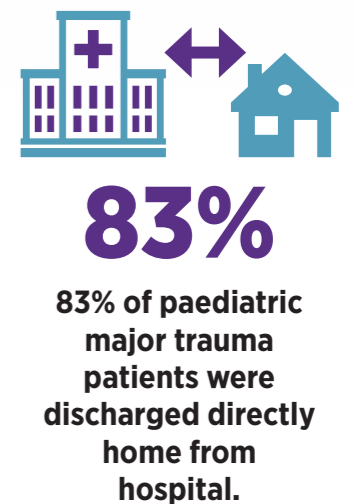
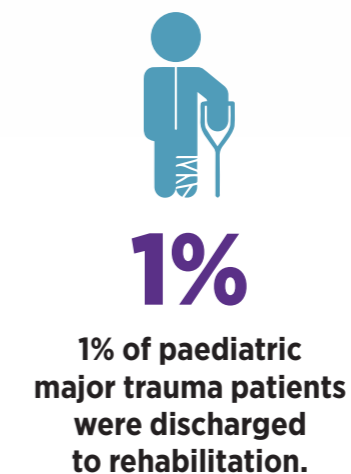
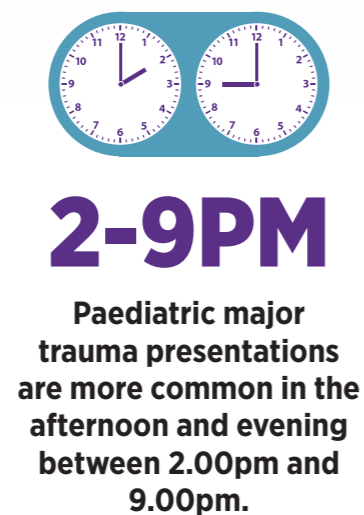
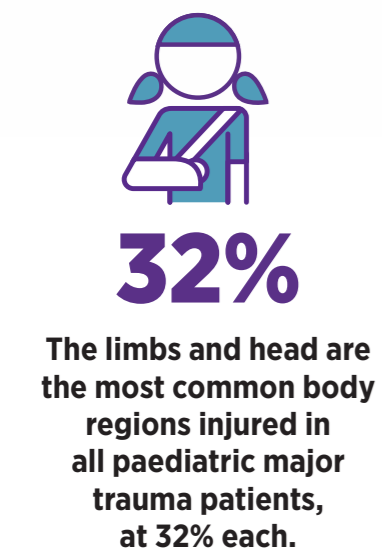
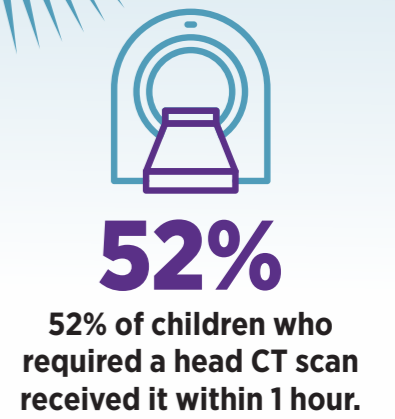
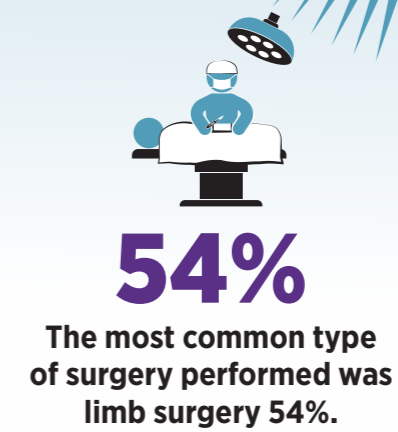
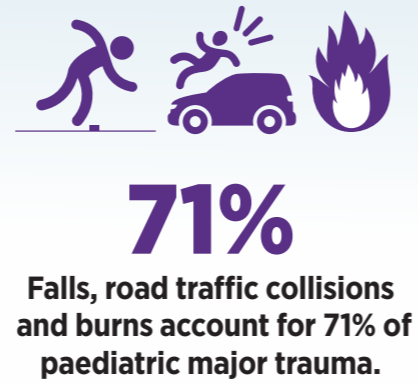
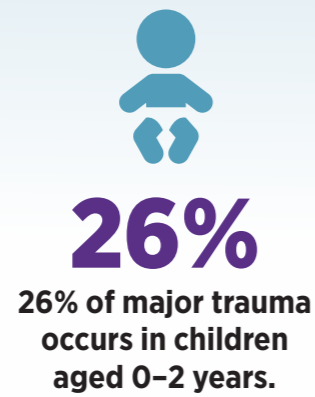
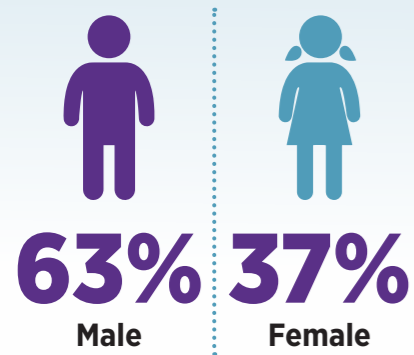
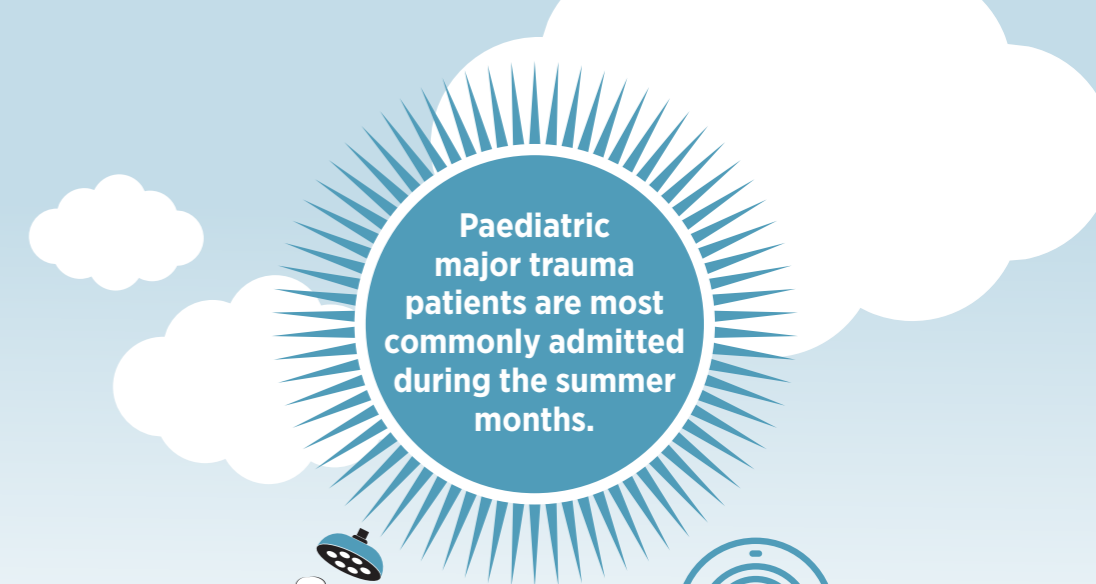
## WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF MAJOR TRAUMA IN CHILDREN IN IRELAND?

The most common causes of major trauma in children are falls, road traffic collisions and burns. Attention to the following details can help prevent major trauma injuries in children.





## HOW CAN WE PREVENT MAJOR TRAUMA IN CHILDREN?

<b>1. FALLS IN CHILDREN AGED 2 YEARS OR UNDER</b>		<b>2. BURNS</b>		<b>4. FARM ACCIDENTS</b>	
Take care when carrying small children, especially on steps/stairs.		Keep hot things out of the reach of children, especially hot liquids, soup, pots on the stove, kettles and teapots.		Supervise children on farms at all times.	
Watch out for tripping hazards.		Ensure that lids on hot water bottles are fastened correctly.		Know where children are before driving or operating large machinery.	
Fasten straps correctly on seats.		Check bath temperatures.		Lock the doors to sheds and barns.	
Always keep bouncers on a low surface.		<b>3. ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS</b>		Take care when children are around large animals, such as horses and cows.	
Supervise young children sitting on couches or chairs, in walkers, and on changing tables.		Wear seatbelts.		Make sure that large objects (i.e. bales of hay, tanks, bags of fertiliser) are not at risk of toppling.	
Install safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs.		Use the correct seat for the child's age and ensure that it is fitted properly.		Ensure that seatbelts are in place in any farm vehicle.	
Use bicycle helmets for children of all ages.		Sit children in the back seats of vehicles.			

# PAEDIATRIC KEY FINDINGS 2014-2019



# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

	→	The MTA continues to highlight the need for implementation of the Trauma System for Ireland strategy and to address the needs of paediatric patients in this system by developing paediatric major trauma pathways of care.
	→	The MTA will engage with national organisations to use the information from this report to inform injury prevention strategies for children.
	→	Each hospital should have a local MTA hospital governance committee who actively use the data for quality improvement.
	→	NOCA will develop a research group and further develop public and patient involvement in the audit.

## PATIENT AND PUBLIC INTEREST

“This important report includes audit data regarding major trauma in children for the years 2014–2019. Monitoring and learning from the data can highlight areas for continuous quality improvement and identify how childhood injuries can be prevented.”

*Naomi Fitzgibbon, Patient and Public Interest Representative, MTA Governance Committee*



## REFERENCES

World Health Organization (2014) Injuries and violence, the facts. World Health Organization. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/149798/9789241508018\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=F983209806005B5AC4EDB-8DAC8FB218B?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/149798/9789241508018_eng.pdf;jsessionid=F983209806005B5AC4EDB-8DAC8FB218B?sequence=1) [Accessed 20 November 2020].

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