

Accidental Injuries

Introduction

Unintentional injuries are a major cause of death and injury in children. Many unintentional injuries are preventable. In 2018 a Public Health England analysis of 5 years of data on hospital admissions and deaths, an average of 55 children a year died of unintentional injuries, 370,000 children attended A&E and 40,000 children were admitted to hospital as an emergency.

There are many modifiable risk factors for unintentional injuries in children. These range from modifications to the home environment to prevent falls as well as reducing the opportunities for burns and scalds.

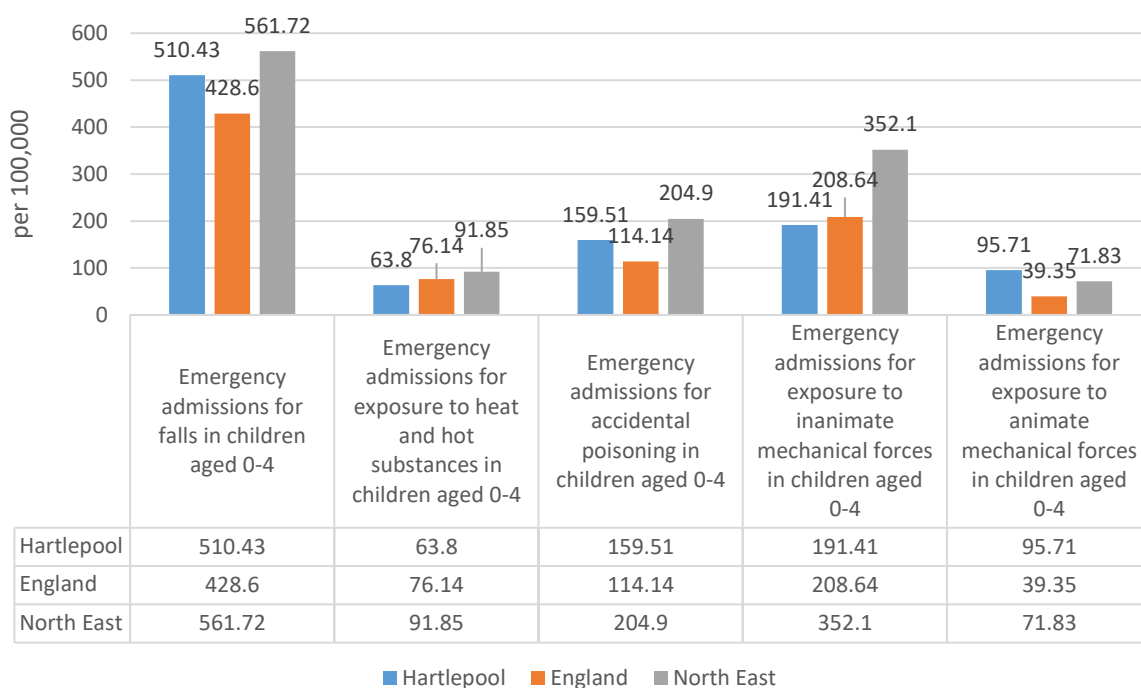
Unintentional injuries show a social gradient with those children from more deprived areas, more likely to experience an injury than those from more affluent areas.

PHE (2018) *Reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home among children under five years* PHE London

Main Issues

The five most common unintentional injuries leading to a hospital admission are falls, injuries caused by humans or animals, injuries from being hit crushed or cut, burns and scalds, and poisoning.

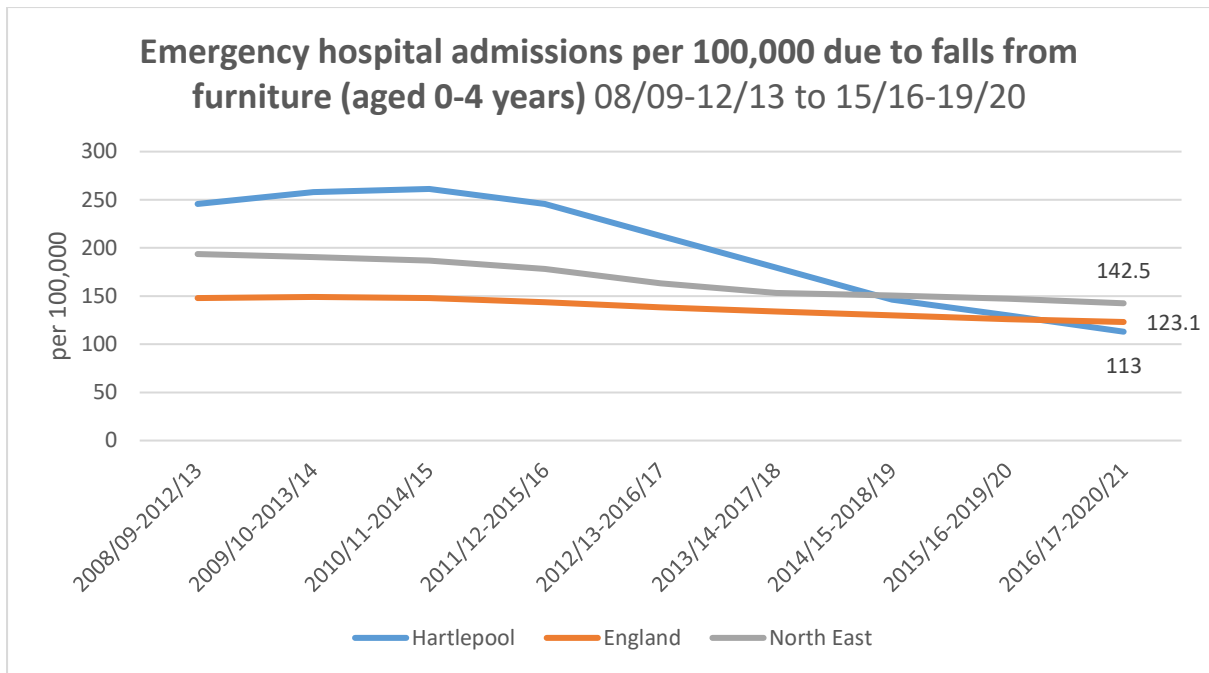
The main causes of emergency hospital admission for under 5s following unintentional injuries 18/19-20/21 (per 100,000 children aged 0-4)



Source: OHID 2023

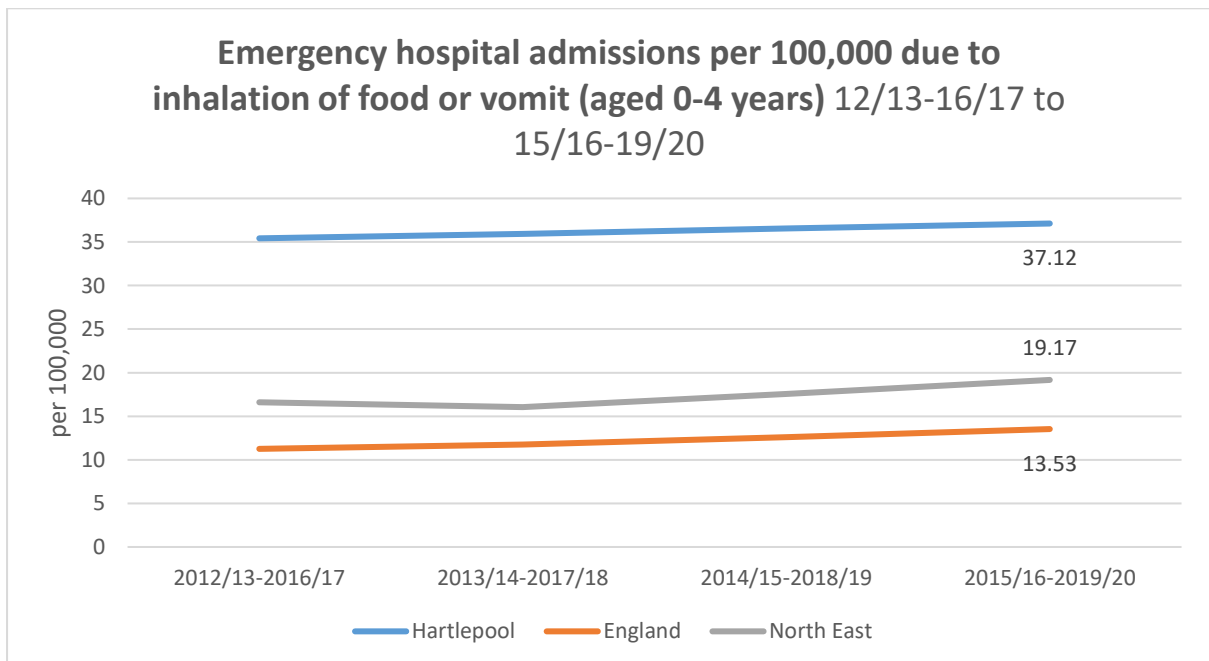
Hartlepool's emergency admission rate for exposure to animate mechanical forces is above both the north east and England averages, however for the other 4 indicators Hartlepool is below the north east average. For exposure to heat and hot substances, and exposure to inanimate mechanical forces Hartlepool's rate is below both the north east and England. For exposure to animate mechanical forces Hartlepool's rate is almost 2.5 times the size of the England rate and a third higher than the north east average. However for exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, while Hartlepool's rate is comparable to England it is almost half the size of the north east average. Hartlepool's admissions for falls, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, and accidental poisoning have all fallen over the last five years of data, falls by 35%, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces by 21% and accidental poisoning by 11%. The other two admission categories don't have five years' worth of data available for Hartlepool.

Whilst the above figures produce the largest hospital admissions, there are a range of specific causes within each category that produce more severe injuries and death. Three of the most severe causes are falls from furniture, inhalation of food or vomit and poisoning from medicines.



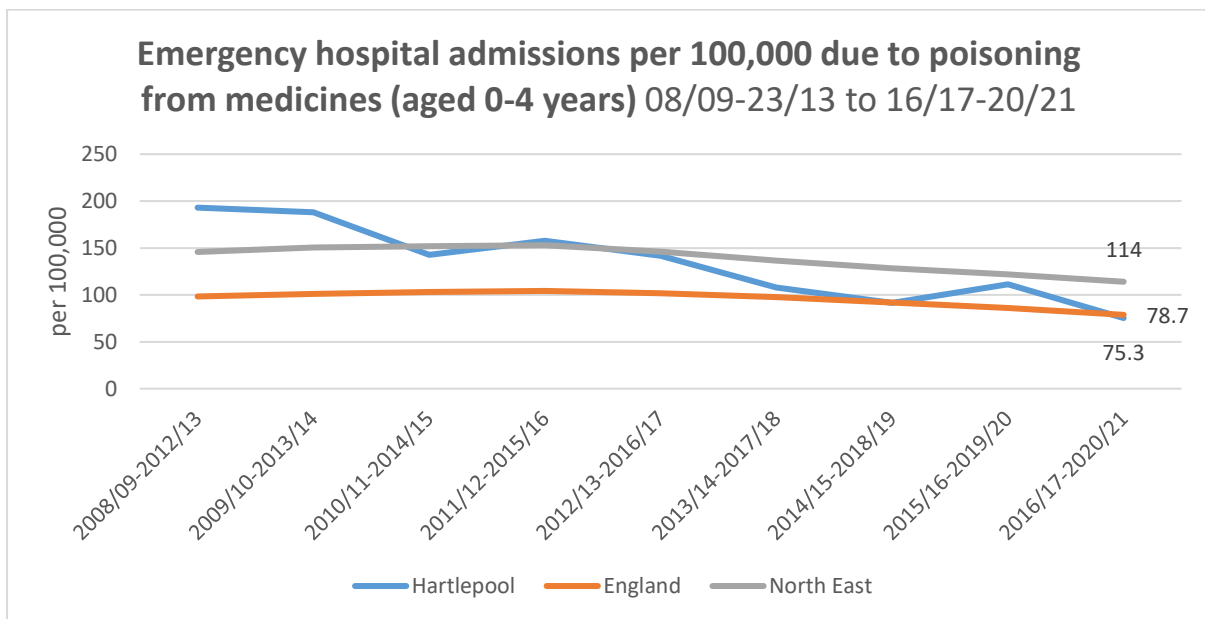
Source: OHID 2023

Hartlepool has seen a reduction in the rate of falls from furniture, more than halving in the last six years of data, from a peak of 261.2 in 2010/11-14/15 to 113.0 in 2016/17-20/21. In the same period the England rate fell by 14.8% and the north east by 23.8%. Hartlepool has maintained a position statistically similar to the England rate for the last four years of data.



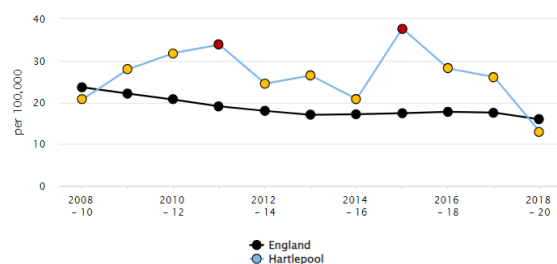
Source: OHID 2023

Hartlepool's rate for emergency hospital admissions due to inhalation of food or vomit in the under 5s has remained largely consistent, only increasing by 5% over the 4 years of data. By comparison England increased by 20% and the north east by 16% in the same period. However Hartlepool's rate is more than 2.5 times the size of the England rate and remains significantly higher than both the England and north east rates.



Hartlepool's rate of poisoning from medicines for under 4s has fallen from a peak of 193.0 in 2008/09-12/13 to 75.3 per 100,000 population in 2016/17-20/21. This is a fall of 61%, compared to a 20% decline for England and 22% for the north east in the same period. Hartlepool's rate has now been statistically similar to the England rate for the last four years of data.

The numbers of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads in Hartlepool had a large spike in 2015/17, up to levels not previously seen in the reporting period and moving Hartlepool to a position of statistically worse than England.



Recent trend: Could not be calculated

| Period | Hartlepool | | | | North East | England |
|-----------|------------|-------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| | Count | Value | 95% Lower CI | 95% Upper CI | | |
| 2008 - 10 | 12 | 20.7 | 10.7 | 36.1 | 27.9 | 23.6 |
| 2009 - 11 | 15 | 27.9 | 15.6 | 46.0 | 29.0 | 22.1 |
| 2010 - 12 | 17 | 31.8 | 18.5 | 50.9 | 26.5 | 20.7 |
| 2011 - 13 | 18 | 33.8 | 20.0 | 53.4 | 25.0 | 19.1 |
| 2012 - 14 | 13 | 24.5 | 13.0 | 41.8 | 23.3 | 17.9 |
| 2013 - 15 | 14 | 26.4 | 14.5 | 44.3 | 23.6 | 17.0 |
| 2014 - 16 | 11 | 20.8 | 10.4 | 37.2 | 22.6 | 17.1 |
| 2015 - 17 | 20 | 37.7 | 23.0 | 58.2 | 23.1 | 17.4 |
| 2016 - 18 | 15 | 28.1 | 15.7 | 46.4 | 21.6 | 17.7 |
| 2017 - 19 | 14 | 26.1 | 14.2 | 43.8 | 22.8 | 17.6 |
| 2018 - 20 | 7 | 13.0 | 5.2 | 26.8 | 20.9 | 15.9 |

Source: Department for Transport (DfT)

However, since point there has been year on year decreases for three years, moving Hartlepool to its lowest level in the 11 year reporting period. Hartlepool's rate of 13 per 100,000 in 2018-20 is a fall of 50% on the 2017-19 figure. This steep decline is not mirrored by either England or the north east, where falls of 10% and 8% respectively occurred.

Current Services

- Young People with injuries should go straight to A&E, walk-in or to their GP. **All** A&E attendances for under 5's are reviewed by health visitors to identify repeat issues and/or risk. They are addressed with parents individually and logged as significant events.
- Health Visitors, School Nurses and Children's Centres offer preventative advice individually and/or in groups.
- Children's Centres provide advice around home safety and use of equipment, safe sleep, sun safety, hot drinks (burns and scalds) and car safety.
- There are regular preventative childhood safety messages through our Facebook page 'Hartlepool Children's Centres' and we also promote safety in monthly early help events within the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Crucial Crew - As part of the Councils drive to reduce unintentional injuries in children and young people, the Children's and Joint Commissioning Services along with other council departments and local partners co-ordinates an annual event called Crucial Crew. Crucial Crew aims to provide an enjoyable way of teaching children to become more aware of personal safety, to learn how to react to dangerous situations and to provide an opportunity for children to practice safety skills in an exciting, stimulating and safe environment. Seven organisations, comprising of Cleveland Fire Brigade, Northern Power Grid, Beamish Open Air Museum, HART, Cleveland Police, HBC & RNLI deliver interactive scenarios to over 1250 year 6 pupils from every primary schools across Hartlepool. Each scenario giving valuable information on health and safety issues. Some of the scenarios include the use of telephones to practice making an emergency phone call. The program runs for 2 weeks with each school attending for a half day. Crucial Crew completed its 24th year in 2019.