



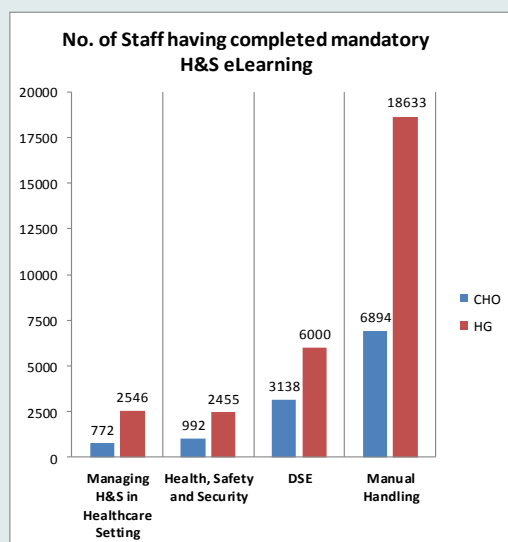
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláimte  
Health Service Executive

# OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH NEWSLETTER

National Health & Safety Function, WHWU, HR, Issue 8

## HSELand H&S eLearning Courses – Available to you

There are 4 mandatory Health and Safety courses available to you on [HSELand](https://hse.land) now.



- **Managing H&S in Healthcare Setting:** applicable for Managers with responsibility for ensuring adequate management of health and safety in the workplace.
- **Health, Safety and Security:** applicable for all staff as an introduction to legislation, responsibilities, policies and work practices to maintain health, safety and security.
- **Manual Handling Awareness:** applicable for all staff prior to attending the practical session of your manual handling training.
- **Display Screen Equipment (DSE):** applicable for all staff who work at computers for a significant part of their working day,

Log onto [HSELand](https://hse.land) and in “My Learning” search for the courses. Managers and staff could be subject to prosecution if training is not completed—**Act now!**

[hse.land](https://hse.land)  
Cúram le Eolas

## HEALTHY WORKPLACES FOR ALL AGES

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Healthy Workplaces for all Ages

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The European Safety Campaign for 2016-2017 is “Healthy Workplaces for all Ages”. The main message of the campaign is “Safe and healthy working conditions throughout the whole working life are good for workers, business and society as a whole.”

Four key objectives are:

1. Promoting sustainable work and healthy ageing from the start of your working life
2. Preventing health problems throughout your working life
3. Providing ways for employers and workers to manage occupational safety and health in the context of an ageing workforce
4. Encouraging the exchange of information and good practice



The HSE is supporting this campaign. Professionals working in the areas of Health & Safety, Occupational Health, Health Promotion & Improvement, Human Resources, Employee Assistance and Counselling Services (EACS), Organisational Psychology, Learning, Education and Development have developed information sheets that will support managers in the management of such diversity in the workplace. All this information is available at [www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing](https://www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing) and <https://healthy-workplaces.eu/>

# Safer and healthier work at any age



## UNDERSTANDING OSH — AN AGEING EU WORKFORCE

The EU OSHA at the request of the European Parliament have developed a data visualisation tool which highlights key findings on the ageing EU Workforce. Retirement ages are rising and our working lives are likely to become longer.

22%

of workers 50+ think that they would not be able to their current job at the age of 60.

22%

of people in Ireland aged 50-69 stopped working for health or disability reasons, compared with the EU norm of 20.9%

22%

is the proportion of employed people aged 55-64 in Ireland reporting a long-standing illness or health problem.

32%

of establishments do not have a procedure to support return to work

35%

of workers 50+ have received training paid by the employer in the past year, compared with 41% for age group 35yr—49yr.

45%

of Europeans think discrimination on the grounds of being 55+ is widespread

Source—[EUOSHA Data Visualisation Tool](#)

## WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN TO ME?

The official retirement age is increasing therefore many workers are likely to face both longer working lives and longer exposure to hazards at work as well as a changing world of work. The changes we are facing in Ireland result in various challenges for Employees, Managers, Employers and Organisations:

- Longer working lives may result in longer exposures to risk
- Older workers might be more vulnerable to certain hazards
- Injury prevention, rehabilitation and return to work are of increased importance

To prevent higher incidents of ill-health, efforts have to be made to ensure safe and healthy working conditions throughout the whole working life.

For further information from HR, Occupational Health and Health and Safety please go to [www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing](http://www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing)

## HEALTH & SAFETY AUTHORITY (HSA), SUMMARY OF WORKPLACE INJURY, ILL HEALTH & FATALITIES STATISTICS 2015 – 2016

The HSA has recently published statistics from which this is a very brief summary relating to the healthcare sector.

8,381 non-fatal injuries were reported to the HSA in 2016. The largest number of non-fatal injury reports to the HSA came from the Health and Social Work sector. This sector submitted 19.3% (n=1536) of the non-fatal injury reports relating to staff.

**Manual handling**-related injuries continue to account for about one-third of all non-fatal injuries reported to the HSA (33%), with 30% reported for workers in the Health and Social Work sector.

The Health and Social Work sector reported 16% of the incidents involving **aggression, fright, shock or violence**.

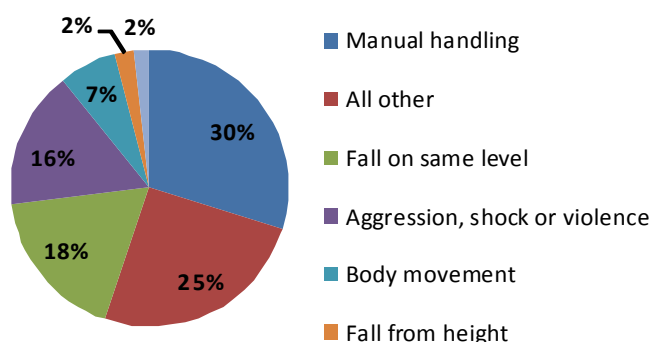
Health and Social Work sector had the **highest illness rates** in 2015 (4+ days lost) with 41 per 1,000 workers, compared to the 2nd highest sector, Accommodation and Food Services, with 33 per 1,000.

Since 2011, women have experienced a higher illness rate than men. Older workers continue to have higher work-related illness rates than younger workers. See [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie) for full report.

To prevent workplace injury,

- Review your training needs with your manager. The [NHSF Staff Training Brochure](#) details both the eLearning courses and training programmes available to you. It also contains a training matrix for each discipline to help staff identify their training needs.
- Familiarise yourself with these policies: [HSE Policy on Work Related Aggression and Violence 2014.pdf](#), [Manual Handling and People Handling Policy 2012](#), [Policy on Lone Working 2012](#) & [Prevention and Management of Stress in the Workplace 2012](#)

**Number and percentage of non-fatal accidents in Health & Social Work, 2016**



### LEARN AND SHARE

#### **NHS trust fined £1m following 53 year old man's death**

The patient died on 10 April 2012 from internal injuries after falling onto an exposed metal post on the standing aid hoist that staff were using to support him.

The kneepad on the standing aid hoist had been incorrectly removed leaving the exposed metal post that

caused the fatal injuries when he collapsed after standing up.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found the Trust did not have systems for training and monitoring how staff used the standing aid hoist and unsafe practices had developed.

The Trust was found guilty and was fined £1 million and ordered to repay

£160,000 in costs.

The trust has also been ordered to pay £3,800 to the patient's family to cover the costs of the funeral.

After the hearing the Trust stated that "If staff had received effective training and monitoring in the use of the standing aid hoist the death could have been avoided."

Source: [Barbour briefing](#)



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# Whats New

## HSE NHSF

### Fast Facts

- ◆ [When the Inspector Calls](#)
- ◆ [Dealing with Aggressive Phone Calls](#)
- ◆ [Ergonomic Tips for a Healthier Workplace](#)

### Audit

- ◆ [Level 2 Audit](#)
- ◆ [Safety Committee Audit Tool](#)

### Training

- ◆ [Staff Training Brochure](#) & [Terms and Conditions](#)

Documents are updated regularly, please refer to <http://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/safetywellbeing/>

## Health and Safety Authority [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

**Safety Alert:** [Use of portable medical oxygen CD cylinders](#)

Use of portable medical oxygen CD cylinders - July 5th



**Online Course: Free**

[Your Safety, Health and Welfare in Healthcare](#)

## HSELand

**Online Course:**

Integral valve oxygen cylinder guide



## Winter is coming - consider the following early warnings and take action

**Flu** Every year the flu vaccine is offered to health care workers to prevent the spread of flu to vulnerable patients and to staff. **Health care workers should get the flu vaccine** to protect themselves, their families and their patients. This year the HSE aims to achieve a target of 40% flu vaccine uptake among health care workers.



### Facts about flu

- ✓ Healthcare workers are **10 times** more likely to get flu
- ✓ Flu vaccine is the best protection against flu for at risk groups and healthcare workers
- ✓ Flu causes death and hospitalisation every year

**Driving** In torrential rain, severe winds, fog, ice and snow, it is best to avoid making a journey by road unless absolutely necessary. However many of us will have to drive, so be prepared. The golden rule is drive with care and caution. **Expect the unexpected**, [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

**Walking** If you have to walk use the footpath. If there are no footpaths, walk on the right hand side of the road (towards oncoming traffic). **Be seen** wear bright or reflective clothing [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

**Look after yourselves and others this winter**

## 4 OUT OF 5 IRISH DRIVERS ADMIT TO USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE DRIVING.

### IS THIS YOU?

Research carried out by IPSOS Mori on behalf of Aviva suggests four out of five Irish drivers admit to using electronic devices or consulting maps through a device while driving.

The key findings of the survey are:

60% - Eat and drink at the wheel

45% - Making a phone call while driving without hands-free kit

26% - Sending text messages while driving

15% - Checking/posting to social media while driving

11% - Viewing or uploading images to social media while driving.

Speaking about the findings, Michael Bannon, Underwriting Manager with Aviva Motor Insurance, said: "It is shocking to find that so many drivers are taking such risks, given all that we know about road safety. Just a split second of distraction or lapse in concentration can result in death on the road."

Source: [RTE News](#)