

## Spectator injuries at football grounds 2023/24 report

### Introduction

This report details the spectator injuries that were reported at football grounds during the first six months of the 2023/24 season (Tranche 1, July 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024). The information in this report was provided by the 92<sup>1</sup> football grounds in England and Wales subject to licensing by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA).

This report compares the 2023/24 (Tranche 1) injury statistics with those from Tranche 1 of the 2022/23, 2021/22 and 2018/19 seasons. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2019/20 matches were played behind closed doors for the second half of the season and has therefore been omitted. Comparisons with 2020/21 have also been omitted as most matches took place without spectators during that season.

### Key findings

In the 2023/24 season reporting period:

- 23,178,073 spectators attended matches in the Premier League, English Football League (EFL) Championship, Leagues One and Two, and at Wembley Stadium
- 1,381 spectators were treated for eligible injuries. This equates to one eligible injury per 16,784 spectators and 6 injuries per 100,000 spectators (see Annex A Table 1, and Figure A for additional detail).
- 105 spectators were taken to hospital (see Annex A Table 1 and Figure B).
- Slips, trips and falls were the cause of 40% of all injuries for which a cause was recorded (see Annex A Table 5).
- Cut/laceration was the most common type of injury reported across all leagues, accounting for 32% of all injuries for which an injury type was reported (see Annex A Table 7).

The total number of injuries – and the pattern of injuries recorded – is comparable to Tranche 1 of 2022/23. However, the rate of injuries per 100,000 spectators is lower due to higher attendance at the Championship and EFL League Two matches in 2023/24.

In previous years, both Tranche 1 (interim) and full season reports were produced. For the first time, this Tranche 1 report will be the only report produced for this season. Previously, full-season reports on spectator injuries at football grounds gathered data at two points during the season – the first during the annual licence round, which takes place in February each year (Tranche 1), and a second collection point at the end of the season (Tranche 2). For this reporting year, it was decided that only the data from the first collection point would

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<sup>1</sup> No designated football matches were played at the Principality Stadium during the 2023/24 season. One ground reported no spectator injuries across the whole season which likely reflects a reporting error, not a lack of incidents. The ground has therefore been excluded from analysis.



be used to analyse the level of spectator injuries at football grounds. There were a number of reasons for this, including:

- The information collated during the licensing process was more readily available and accessible, along with being an established part of the SGSA licence application form.
- Tranche 2 data was challenging to collect due to the timing of the request at the end of the season, and as such could cause delays in the timely publication of the report. There was a risk that this data was less complete than Tranche 1 data and could be less robust, which may have led to unreliable information.
- Prior to making this decision, Tranche 1 and full season data from the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons was analysed to ensure that there was not a noteworthy difference between either the rate of injuries reported or the pattern of injuries sustained.

For the reasons above, when comparing year-on-year changes to previous seasons, all figures and trends reported relate to comparable Tranche 1 data only.

## Commentary

Reported injuries to spectators continue to be low and relatively stable. Where injuries do occur, they rarely require a spectator to be transferred to hospital. A summary of the reported spectator injuries for the first six months of the 2023/24, 2022/23, 2021/22 and 2018/19 seasons from all the grounds, subject to SGSA licensing, is shown in Annex A (Table 1 and Figures A and B). This is broken down by each league, as well as giving a cumulative number for all.

Additionally, Annex A includes detailed analysis and results for 2023/24 (Tranche 1) broken down by league and overall comparisons (figures combined across all leagues) with 2022/23 (Tranche 1):

- Table 2 and Figure C – Location in ground where injury occurred
- Table 3 and 4 – Time period when injury occurred
- Table 5 and Figure D – Common causes of injury
- Table 6 and Figure E – Age breakdown of spectators who suffered an eligible injury
- Table 7 and Figure F – Common types/presentation of injury
- Table 8, Table 9, Figure G and Figure H – Breakdown of eligible and non-eligible injuries

The statistics cover men's cup, league and international matches. Some data on injuries at women's matches (16 grounds returned spectator injury data) was returned. A note on this data is included at the end of the report.



## Methodology

The figures in this report cover the first six months of the 2023/24 season. The figures are based on injury data and attendance figures returned by 92<sup>2</sup> of the 94 grounds in England and Wales subject to SGSA licensing for the season.

At the mid-point of each season, the SGSA asks all football grounds in England and Wales subject to its licensing (those grounds at which designated football matches<sup>3</sup> are played) to provide details of the number of staff and spectators treated by the crowd medical team at their grounds during that season. This data is compiled and then sent to the National Centre for Social Research for analysis and commentary. To aid administration, this data request forms part of the SGSA licence application process for the next season and helps inform SGSA regulatory activity under the Football Spectators Act 1989<sup>4</sup>. The data request, however, is not a formal or statutory requirement.

For the purposes of this report, the incidents, injuries, pre-existing conditions and illnesses treated at the ground on a match day are split into eligible and non-eligible injuries. As SGSA wished to differentiate an injury sustained by a spectator at a football ground from all other medical reports, an eligible injury in this report is classed as a wound or trauma, hurt or harm, usually applied to damage inflicted on a spectator by an external force within the grounds on a matchday. Injuries to staff and players are excluded. Illnesses and pre-existing injuries or conditions are by their nature excluded. Injuries which did not occur within the grounds, or on a senior men's cup, league or international matchday are excluded.

However, non-eligible 'injuries', including injuries to spectators and medical treatments for pre-existing conditions or injuries, are included towards the end of this report. Annex A Table 8, Figure G and Figure H provide further details on the 2023/24 (Tranche 1) statistics for eligible and non-eligible injuries, based on the above criteria.

When analysing the 2023/24 (Tranche 1) data, cases where the subject was reported as 'not known' have been excluded. This is to provide a clearer view of fully reported spectator injuries and the factors being analysed. However, in previous years, 'not known' cases have been included in the analysis. Therefore, any analysis which makes comparisons across years includes cases where the subject was reported as 'not known'. The table and figure bases indicate whether 'not known' cases have been excluded or included.

When interpreting the findings, it is important to note the limitations in the data:

- The accuracy of injury reporting relies on spectators seeking medical help, which doesn't occur for all injuries.
- There are also inconsistencies in reporting, with a relatively high proportion of injuries reported having some details, such as the location or cause of injury, recorded as 'not known' (see Appendix tables for details). The tables included in this report

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<sup>2</sup> One ground reported no spectator injuries across the whole season which likely reflects a reporting error, not a lack of incidents. The ground has therefore been excluded from analysis.

<sup>3</sup> A designated match is defined under the Football Spectators (Designation of Football Matches in England and Wales) Order 2000 as 'any association football match which is played at Wembley Stadium, at the [Principality Stadium] in Cardiff or at a sports ground in England and Wales which is registered with the Football League or the Football Association Premier League as the home ground of a club which is a member of the Football League or the Football Association Premier League at the time the match is played'.

<sup>4</sup> Under the Football Spectators Act 1989, SGSA's regulatory role is to issue licences to all Premier League and English Football League grounds in England and Wales, along with Wembley and the Principality Stadium in Cardiff to allow them to permit spectators to watch matches; and oversee local authorities in their duties to sports grounds safety and safety certification.



exclude the cases categorised as 'not known'. However, for consistency with previous year, the 'not known' cases have been left in when comparing with the 2022/23 (Tranche 1).

- Prior to 2023/24, 'fixture type', that is whether the match was a men's or women's match, and whether it was a league, cup or other type of match was not reported alongside the injury data. Reporting in 2022/23, 2021/22 and 2018/19 analysis was based on the grounds rather than the type of the match played. Therefore, these data may include matches not covered by SGSA licensing, such as women's football matches and under-21 matches<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> In some cases, it was clear from the information recorded under Homeclub/Awayclub that the fixture was not eligible. These matches were excluded from analysis in previous years. However, prior to 2023/24 it was not possible systematically to distinguish between fixture types.



## Annex A – Injuries at football grounds for 2023/24 (Tranche 1)

### Prevalence of injuries across all leagues

In the first six months of the 2023/24 season:

- 23,178,073 spectators attended matches in the Premier League<sup>6</sup>, EFL Championship, and EFL League One and Two.
- 1,381 spectators were treated for eligible injuries<sup>7</sup>. This equates to one injury for every 16,784 spectators and 6 injuries per 100,000 spectators.
- 105 spectators (one in every 13) who were treated for injuries were taken to hospital. This equates to 0.5 hospital visits per 100,000 spectators.
- The overall injury rate dropped in 2023/24 (Tranche 1) when compared with 2022/23 (Tranche 1), from 6.7 to 6 injuries per 100,000 spectators, the lowest rate across the 4 time periods reported on. The hospitalisation rate for 2023/24 remained constant across the years at 0.5 hospital visits per 100,000 spectators.
- Prevalence of injury and hospitalisation varies slightly across leagues, as shown by the charts below. Prevalence of injuries was higher in EFL League Two than the other leagues. EFL League Two was the only league in which injury rates increased from 2022/23. EFL League One was the only league which saw a decrease in hospitalisation rates. However, it is worth noting that injury/hospitalisation rates for individual leagues, especially the lower leagues, will be subject to greater fluctuations year on year because of lower base sizes (spectator numbers).

See Table 1 and Figures A and B below for more detail.

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<sup>6</sup> Including football matches played at Wembley Stadium.

<sup>7</sup> See eligible vs non-eligible section on page 14 for the definition of 'eligible injury'.



**Table 1: Summary of reported injuries for the 2023/24 season (Tranche 1), by league (including historical data for 2022/23, 2021/22 and 2018/19)**

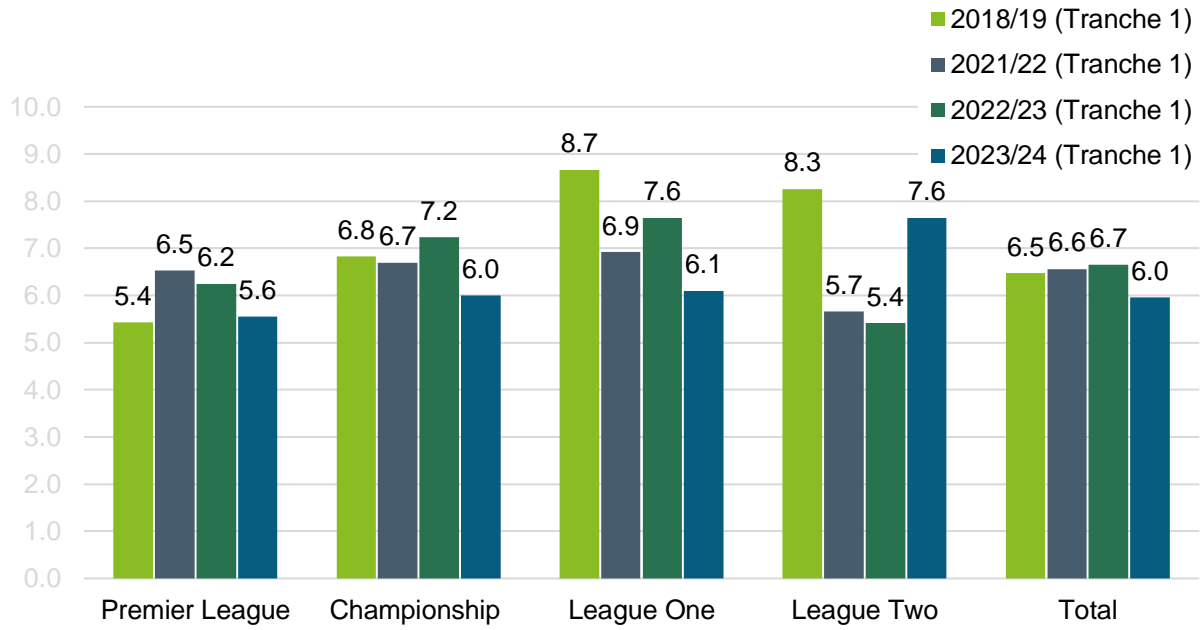
| Football season  | Total spectators treated for injuries | Total spectators taken to hospital | Total attendance | Injury ratio per spectator    | Rate of hospital attendance amongst spectators treated for injuries | Injuries per 100,000 spectators | Hospital visits per 100,000 spectators |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Premier League (including international stadia)</b> |                                       |                                    |                  |                               |   |                                 |  |
| 2023/24 (Tranche 1)                                    | 592                                   | 41                                 | 10,660,418       | 1 injury per 18007 spectators | 1 in 14 went to hospital  | 5.6                             | 0.4                                    |
| 2022/23 (Tranche 1)                                    | 638                                   | 32                                 | 10,209,701       | 1 injury per 16003 spectators | 1 in 20 went to hospital  | 6.2                             | 0.3                                    |
| 2021/22 (Tranche 1)                                    | 658                                   | 52                                 | 10,085,991       | 1 injury per 15328 spectators | 1 in 13 went to hospital  | 6.5                             | 0.5                                    |
| 2018/19 (Tranche 1) <sup>8</sup>                       | 621                                   | 52                                 | 11,437,693       | 1 injury per 18418 spectators | 1 in 12 went to hospital  | 5.4                             | 0.5                                    |
| <b>Championship</b>                                    |                                       |                                    |                  |                               |   |                                 |  |
| 2023/24 (Tranche 1)                                    | 439                                   | 43                                 | 7,310,266        | 1 injury per 16652 spectators | 1 in 10 went to hospital  | 6.0                             | 0.6                                    |
| 2022/23 (Tranche 1)                                    | 389                                   | 26                                 | 5,379,316        | 1 injury per 13829 spectators | 1 in 15 went to hospital  | 7.2                             | 0.5                                    |
| 2021/22 (Tranche 1)                                    | 319                                   | 46                                 | 4,770,152        | 1 injury per 14953 spectators | 1 in 7 went to hospital   | 6.7                             | 1.0                                    |
| 2018/19 (Tranche 1)                                    | 452                                   | 33                                 | 6,615,734        | 1 injury per 14637 spectators | 1 in 14 went to hospital  | 6.8                             | 0.5                                    |
| <b>EFL League One</b>                                  |                                       |                                    |                  |                               |   |                                 |  |
| 2023/24 (Tranche 1)                                    | 190                                   | 8                                  | 3,114,720        | 1 injury per 16393 spectators | 1 in 24 went to hospital  | 6.1                             | 0.3                                    |
| 2022/23 (Tranche 1)                                    | 249                                   | 36                                 | 3,256,072        | 1 injury per 13077 spectators | 1 in 7 went to hospital   | 7.6                             | 1.1                                    |
| 2021/22 (Tranche 1)                                    | 216                                   | 7                                  | 3,121,340        | 1 injury per 14451 spectators | 1 in 31 went to hospital  | 6.9                             | 0.2                                    |
| 2018/19 (Tranche 1)                                    | 244                                   | 23                                 | 2,816,397        | 1 injury per 11543 spectators | 1 in 11 went to hospital  | 8.7                             | 0.8                                    |
| <b>EFL League Two</b>                                  |                                       |                                    |                  |                               |   |                                 |  |
| 2023/24 (Tranche 1)                                    | 160                                   | 13                                 | 2,092,669        | 1 injury per 13079 spectators | 1 in 12 went to hospital  | 7.6                             | 0.6                                    |
| 2022/23 (Tranche 1)                                    | 95                                    | 4                                  | 1,755,537        | 1 injury per 18479 spectators | 1 in 24 went to hospital  | 5.4                             | 0.2                                    |
| 2021/22 (Tranche 1)                                    | 86                                    | 2                                  | 1,518,806        | 1 injury per 17661 spectators | 1 in 43 went to hospital  | 5.7                             | 0.1                                    |
| 2018/19 (Tranche 1)                                    | 156                                   | 13                                 | 1,889,127        | 1 injury per 12110 spectators | 1 in 12 went to hospital  | 8.3                             | 0.7                                    |
| <b>Total (including international stadia)</b>          |                                       |                                    |                  |                               |   |                                 |  |
| 2023/24 (Tranche 1)                                    | 1381                                  | 105                                | 23,178,073       | 1 injury per 16784 spectators | 1 in 13 went to hospital  | 6.0                             | 0.5                                    |
| 2022/23 (Tranche 1)                                    | 1371                                  | 98                                 | 20,600,626       | 1 injury per 15026 spectators | 1 in 14 went to hospital  | 6.7                             | 0.5                                    |
| 2021/22 (Tranche 1)                                    | 1279                                  | 107                                | 19,496,289       | 1 injury per 15243 spectators | 1 in 12 went to hospital  | 6.6                             | 0.5                                    |
| 2018/19 (Tranche 1)                                    | 1473                                  | 121                                | 22,758,951       | 1 injury per 15451 spectators | 1 in 12 went to hospital  | 6.5                             | 0.5                                    |

Source: SGSA Injury Data; Base: All eligible injuries

<sup>8</sup> Includes matches played at the Principality Stadium and Wembley Stadium. The Principality Stadium did not host any matches in Tranche 1 of 2021/22, 2022/23 or 2023/24.

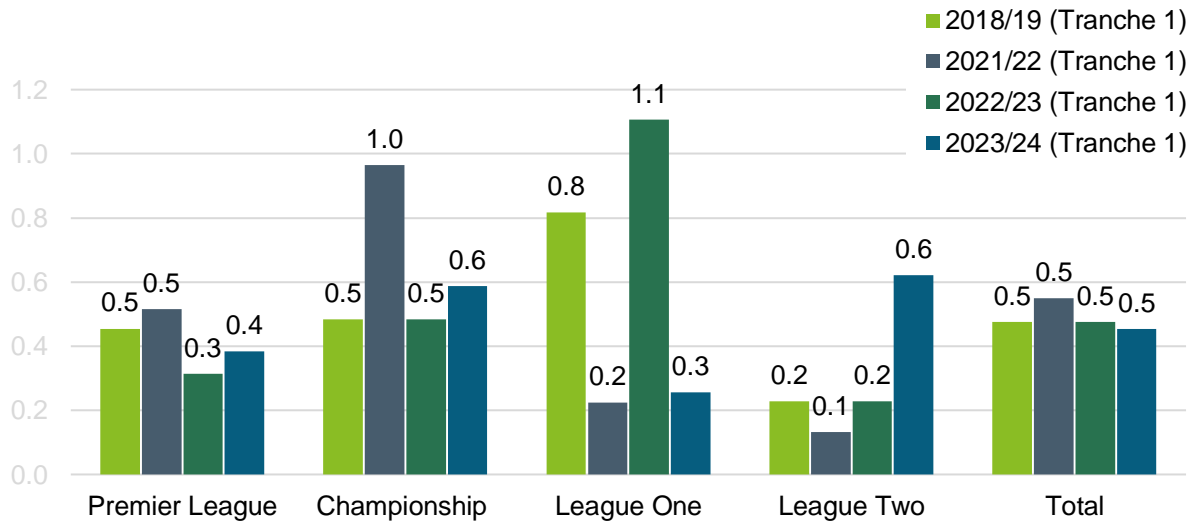


**Figure A – Injuries per 100,000 spectators**



Base: All eligible injuries  
See Table 1 for base sizes  
Source: SGSA Injury Data

**Figure B – Hospital visits per 100,000 spectators**



Base: All eligible injuries  
See Table 1 for base sizes  
Source: SGSA Injury Data



## Injury location

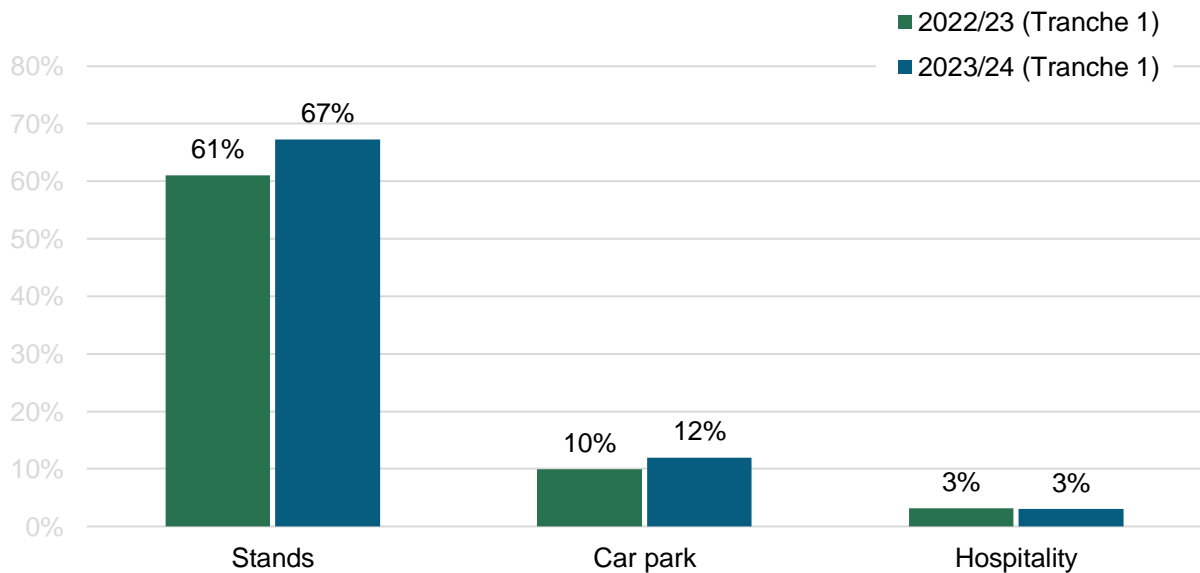
**Table 2: Injury location by league, 2023/24**

| Base: Eligible Injuries where location known | League                  |                |              |              |         |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
|  | Premier/International % | Championship % | League One % | League Two % | Total % |
| In the stands                                | 74                      | 76             | 78           | 77           | 76      |
| Car park                                     | 11                      | 15             | 16           | 14           | 13      |
| Hospitality                                  | 5                       | 3              | 2            | 4            | 3       |
| Concourse                                    | 1                       | 0              | 0            | 0            | <1      |
| Gate/turnstiles/exit                         | 1                       | 0              | 0            | 0            | <1      |
| Other inside ground                          | 9                       | 7              | 5            | 5            | 7       |
| Base   | 482                     | 406            | 189          | 152          | 1229    |

Source: SGSA Injury Data: 2023/24

- Just over three-quarters (76%) of all eligible injuries for which a location was recorded took place in the stands in 2023/24 (Table 2). This is consistent across all leagues, with the highest percentage in the EFL League Two (77%).
- Injuries were not classified as 'eligible' if they took place outside the grounds.
- Of the eligible injuries, 92% occurred in areas covered by the safety certificate<sup>9</sup>, 4% happened outside its scope, and for 4%, it was 'not known' if the incident occurred in an area covered by the safety certificate.

**Figure C – Location of injury across all leagues (percentage of all eligible injuries)**



Base: All eligible injuries including location 'not known'  
 Base size (2022/23): 1371, Base size (2023/24): 1381  
 Source: SGSA Injury Data

<sup>9</sup> The local authority is required to issue a safety certificate to a designated sports ground. The safety certificate will have a geographical boundary, within which the conditions of the certificate apply.





- When including eligible injuries where the location was ‘not known’, 67% of all eligible injuries took place in the stands. This is an increase from 61% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1).
- Clubs record the location of a relatively high proportion of injuries as ‘First Aid room’. As it is unlikely that the injury actually occurred in the First Aid room (7%) these injuries have been recorded as location ‘not known’.
- The percentage of injuries where the location of the incident was reported as not known halved from 8% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1) to 4% 2023/24 (Tranche 1).

### Injury time period

**Table 3: Injury time period by league, 2023/24 (Tranche 1)**

| Base: Eligible Injuries where time period known | League                  |                |              |              | Total % |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
|   | Premier/International % | Championship % | League One % | League Two % |         |
| Before the match                                | 30                      | 29             | 28           | 30           | 29      |
| During the match                                | 50                      | 50             | 48           | 47           | 49      |
| Half time                                       | 7                       | 10             | 10           | 17           | 9       |
| After the match                                 | 13                      | 12             | 15           | 7            | 12      |
| Base  | 574                     | 420            | 185          | 151          | 1330    |

Source: SGSA Injury Data: 2023/24 (Tranche 1)

- Just under half (49%) of all eligible spectator injuries for which the time period was recorded took place during the match. 29% of incidents occurred before the match, with only 12% occurring after the match (Table 3).
- The lowest proportion of injuries took place during half time (9%).

**Table 4: Injury time period by year (all leagues)**

| Base: Eligible Injuries including time period ‘not known’ | 2022/23 (Tranche 1) % | 2023/24 (Tranche 1) % |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Before the match  | 29                    | 28                    |
| During the match  | 46                    | 48                    |
| Half time   | 8                     | 9                     |
| After the match   | 10                    | 12                    |
| Not known   | 7                     | 4                     |
| Base  | 1371                  | 1381                  |

Source: SGSA Injury Data

- Including ‘not known’ cases, there was little change in when injuries occurred between 2022/23 (Tranche 1) and 2023/24 (Tranche 1) (Table 4). In 2022/23 (Tranche 1), 46% of injuries happened during the match, compared with 48% in 2023/24 (Tranche 1).



- The proportion of injuries recorded as ‘not known’ fell from 7% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1) to 4% in 2023/24 (Tranche 1).

### Causes of injury

**Table 5: Cause of injury by league, 2023/24 (Tranche 1)**

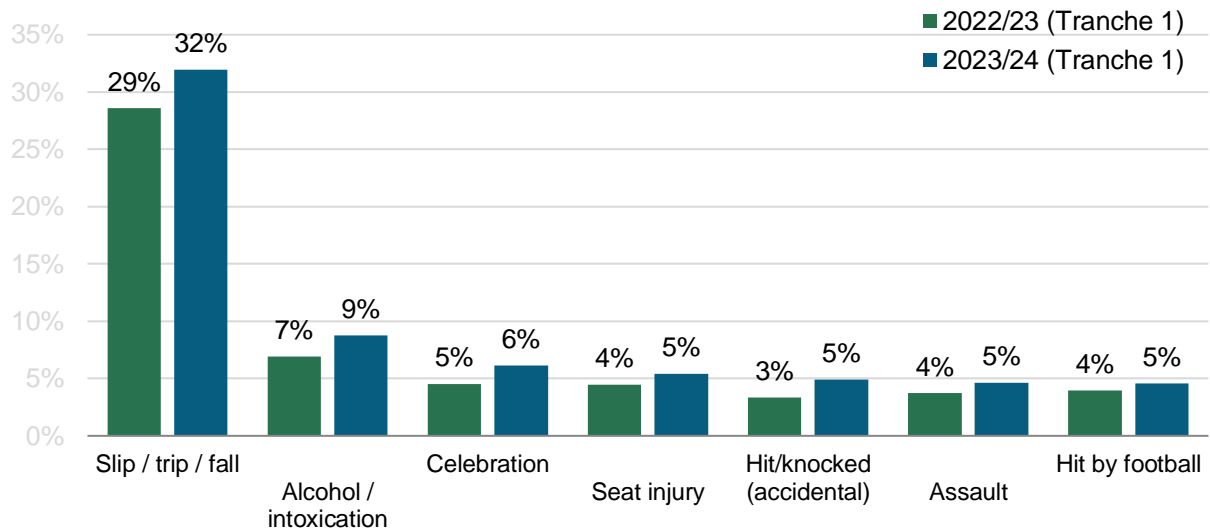
| Base: Eligible Injuries where injury cause known | League                |              |            |            | Total |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------|
|  | Premier/International | Championship | League One | League Two |       |
|  | %                     | %            | %          | %          | %     |
| Slip / trip / fall                               | 42                    | 37           | 41         | 38         | 40    |
| Alcohol/Intoxication                             | 9                     | 14           | 9          | 11         | 11    |
| Celebration                                      | 9                     | 7            | 2          | 12         | 8     |
| Seat injury                                      | 6                     | 8            | 7          | 6          | 7     |
| Hit/knocked (accidental)                         | 8                     | 3            | 8          | 6          | 6     |
| Assault  | 8                     | 5            | 6          | 1          | 6     |
| Hit by football                                  | 2                     | 6            | 8          | 13         | 6     |
| Hot food/drink/ liquid spillage                  | 2                     | 5            | 5          | 5          | 4     |
| Insect bite / sting                              | 3                     | 4            | 5          | 1          | 4     |
| Crowd surge                                      | 1                     | 1            | 3          | 1          | 2     |
| Turnstile  | 1                     | 1            | 1          | 0          | 1     |
| Pushed (accidental)                              | 1                     | 1            | 0          | 1          | 1     |
| Fire/smoke/flare                                 | 1                     | 1            | 1          | 0          | 1     |
| Other  | 7                     | 7            | 3          | 4          | 6     |
| Base   | 464                   | 357          | 150        | 141        | 1112  |

Source: SGSA Injury Data: 2023/24 (Tranche 1)

- Across all leagues, slips, trips and falls were the primary cause of eligible spectator injuries for which a cause was recorded, accounting for 40% of all incidences (Table 5).
- The second most common cause, intoxication, only accounted for 11% of eligible injuries across all leagues. The highest proportion of injuries caused by intoxication was in the Championship (14%). Not all injuries linked to spectator intoxication may have been recorded as such. Alcohol may contribute to an injury without being noted as the main cause. Thus, the impact of spectator intoxication may be underestimated.



**Figure D – Most common causes of injury, across all leagues (percentage of all eligible injuries)**



Base: All eligible injuries including injury cause 'not known'  
 Base size (2022/23 (Tranche 1)): 1371, Base size (2023/24 (Tranche 1)): 1381  
 Source: SGSA Injury Data

- The main causes of injury in Tranche 1 of 2023/24 were broadly in line with Tranche 1 of 2022/23 (Figure D).
- When including 'not known' causes, slips, trips and falls caused 32% of total eligible injuries in 2023/24 (Tranche 1), up slightly from 29% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1).
- However, all categories saw a slight increase from 2022/23 to 2023/24 due to a reduction in the proportion of causes categorised as 'not known'.
- The cause of injury was reported as 'not known' for a fifth of eligible injuries in 2023/24. If clubs were able to provide more information on the cause of injuries, it would enable more of them to be coded into an existing category or highlight a new area of concern.
- Injuries were not eligible if they were caused by general illness or other pre-existing conditions.

### Age of spectators

**Table 6: Age group by league, 2023/24 (Tranche 1)**

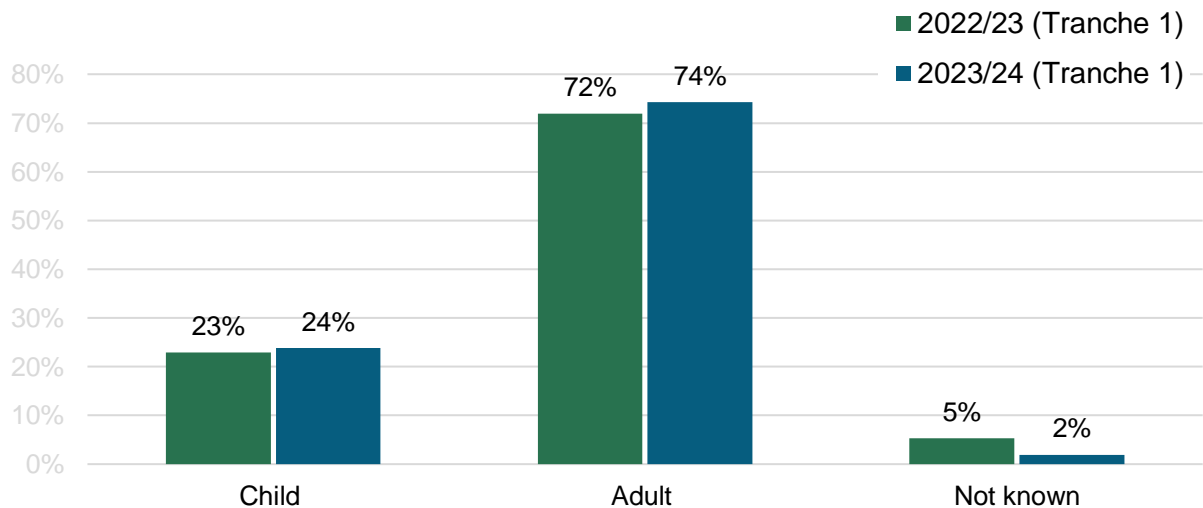
| Base: Eligible Injuries were age known | League                 |              |            |            |       |
|--|------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------|
|  | Premier/ International | Championship | League One | League Two | Total |
|  | %                      | %            | %          | %          | %     |
| Child (<18)                            | 15                     | 29           | 33         | 35         | 24    |
| 18-24                                  | 12                     | 11           | 8          | 12         | 11    |
| 25-59                                  | 41                     | 24           | 32         | 25         | 32    |
| 60+                                    | 25                     | 25           | 23         | 23         | 25    |
| 18+ (unspecified adult)                | 6                      | 11           | 4          | 5          | 7     |
| Base                                   | 579                    | 435          | 185        | 155        | 1354  |

Source: SGSA Injury Data: 2023/24 (Tranche 1)



- The majority of incidents in 2023/24 (Tranche 1) where the age of the injured party was known occurred among adults (76%). Most of those presenting with an injury were aged 25-59 (Table 6).
- The proportion of injuries occurring to children varied across the leagues. EFL League 2 had the highest proportion, 35%, whereas, in the Premier League only 15% of reported injuries were to children.

**Figure E – Adult and child injuries across all leagues (percentage of all eligible injuries)**



Base: All eligible injuries including age of spectator 'not known'  
Base size (2022/23): 2434, Base size (2023/24): 2561  
Source: SGSA Injury Data

- The age distribution of injuries was consistent across 2023/24 (Tranche 1) and 2022/23 (Tranche 1). However, the proportion of 'not known' injuries dropped by 3 percentage points from 5% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1) to 2% in 2023/24 (Tranche 1).



## Type of injury

**Table 7: Type of injury by league, 2023/24 (Tranche 1)**

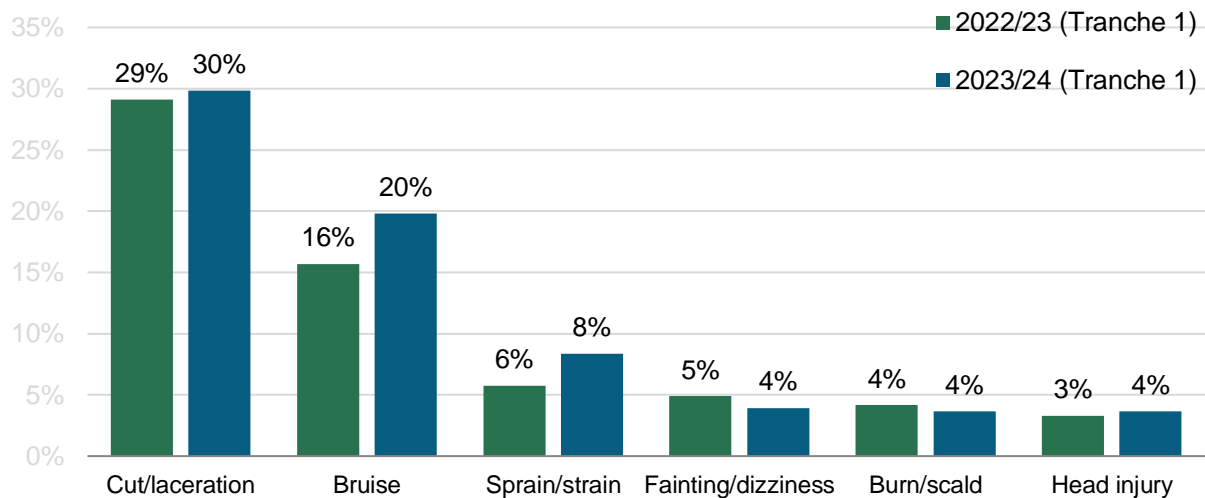
| Base: Eligible Injuries where injury type known | League                  |                |              |              | Total %     |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | Premier/International % | Championship % | League One % | League Two % |             |
| Cut/laceration                                  | 35                      | 29             | 29           | 29           | 32          |
| Bruise  | 20                      | 17             | 29           | 28           | 21          |
| Sprain/strain                                   | 10                      | 9              | 4            | 11           | 9           |
| Fainting/dizziness                              | 4                       | 4              | 4            | 3            | 4           |
| Burn/scald                                      | 3                       | 5              | 4            | 4            | 4           |
| Head injury                                     | 4                       | 4              | 4            | 3            | 4           |
| Alcohol/Intoxication                            | 1                       | 4              | 2            | 2            | 2           |
| Broken/fractured bone                           | 2                       | 2              | 2            | 2            | 2           |
| Dislocation                                     | 1                       | 1              | 1            | 3            | 1           |
| Eye problem                                     | 1                       | 1              | 0            | 1            | 1           |
| Graze/abrasion                                  | <1                      | 1              | 0            | 1            | <1          |
| Asthma/trouble breathing                        | <1                      | 1              | 1            | 1            | <1          |
| Other   | 18                      | 22             | 19           | 14           | 19          |
| <b>Base</b>                                     | <b>558</b>              | <b>391</b>     | <b>181</b>   | <b>158</b>   | <b>1288</b> |

Source: SGSA Injury Data: 2023/24 (Tranche 1)

- The most common type of injury across all leagues was a ‘cut’ or ‘laceration’, accounting for 32% of injuries for which the injury type was known (Table 7).
- Bruising was the second most common injury type (21%).
- A large proportion of injuries (19%) were classified as ‘other’. Improving the accuracy of injury reporting, even for cases not defined by the existing categories, would improve the quality of spectator injury statistics.



**Figure F – Most common types of Injury across all leagues (percentage of all eligible injuries)**



Base: All eligible injuries including cause 'not known'  
Base size (2022/23 (Tranche 1)): 2434, Base size (2023/24 (Tranche 1)): 2561  
Source: SGSA Injury Data

- When including 'not known' cases, cuts and lacerations accounted for 30% of injuries in 2023/24 (Tranche 1), similar to 2022/23 (Tranche 1) (29%) (Table 7 and Figure F).
- Most categories saw a slight increase from 2022/23 to 2023/24 due to a reduction in the proportion of types of injury categorised as 'not known'.

### Eligible vs. non-eligible 'injuries'

- For the purposes of these statistics, an eligible injury is classed as a wound or trauma, hurt or harm, usually applied to damage inflicted on a spectator by an external force within the grounds on matchday.
- Eligible injuries must have occurred to spectators. Staff and players are excluded.
- Illnesses and pre-existing injuries are by their nature excluded. While these are, by definition, not injuries they are included in the figures reported for ineligible 'injuries'.
- Injuries which did not occur within the grounds, or on match day are excluded.
- The total number of 'injuries' (both eligible and ineligible) involving spectators, staff and others was 4,845 in 2023/24 (Tranche 1), a slight increase from 4,606 in 2022/23 (Tranche 1) (Table 8).
- The proportion of injuries classified as eligible stayed consistent, at 30% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1) and 29% in 2023/24 (Tranche 1).

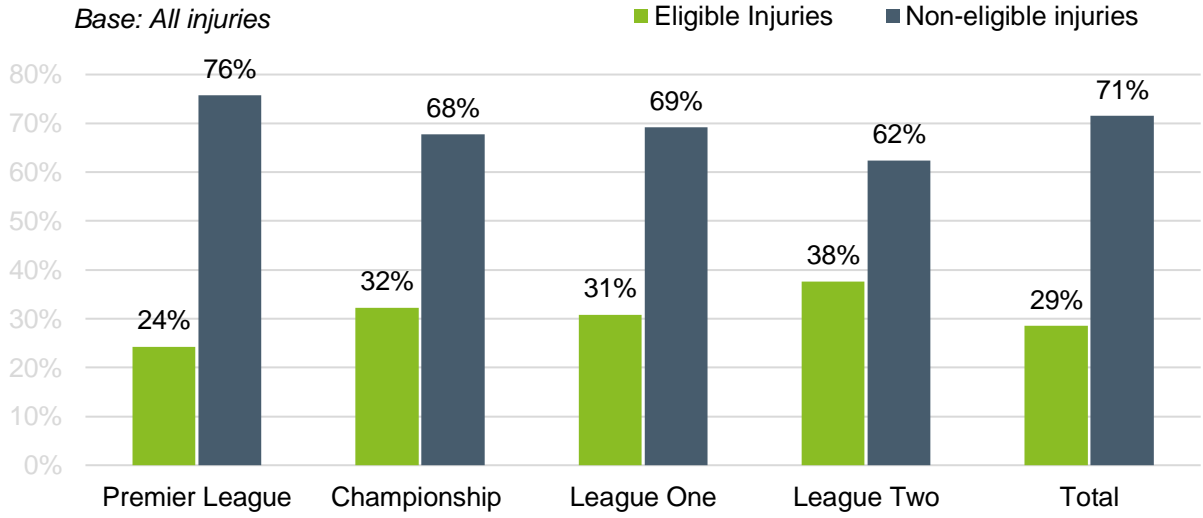


**Table 8: Eligible vs ineligible ‘injuries’, by year**

| Base: All ‘injuries’ <sup>10</sup> | 2022/23<br>(Tranche 1) | 2023/24<br>(Tranche 1) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Number of eligible injuries        | 1371                   | 1381                   |
| Number of ineligible ‘injuries’    | 3235                   | 3464                   |
| Total ‘injuries’                   | 4606                   | 4845                   |
|                                    |                        |                        |
| % reports that are eligible        | 30                     | 29                     |
| % reports that are ineligible      | 70                     | 71                     |

Source: SGSA Injury Data

**Figure G – Percentage of eligible injuries, by league, 2023/24**



Base: All injuries  
 Base size (2022/23 (Tranche 1)): 4606, Base size (2023/24 (Tranche 1)): 4845  
 Source: SGSA Injury Data

<sup>10</sup> The term injury is used here for consistency with the rest of the report and with previous years. Ineligible ‘injuries’ includes a high proportion of incidents excluded for being caused by a pre-existing condition or illness rather than an injury.



## 'Injury' cause, non-eligible 'injuries'

| <b>Table 9: 'Injury' cause, by year</b>   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Base: Injuries from all causes which meet all other eligibility criteria</b> | <b>2022/23 (Tranche 1)</b> | <b>2023/24 (Tranche 1)</b> |
|   | <b>%</b>                   | <b>%</b>                   |
| INELIGIBLE - General illness  | 20                         | 28                         |
| INELIGIBLE - Pre-existing condition   | 17                         | 16                         |
| Slip/trip/fall  | 15                         | 15                         |
| INELIGIBLE - Injury outside ground  | 12                         | 11                         |
| Alcohol/Intoxication  | 4                          | 4                          |
| Celebration   | 2                          | 3                          |
| Assault   | 2                          | 2                          |
| Hit/knocked (accidental)  | 2                          | 2                          |
| Hit by football   | 2                          | 2                          |
| Seat injury   | 2                          | 2                          |
| Crowd surge   | 1                          | 1                          |
| Hot food/drink/ liquid spillage   | 2                          | 1                          |
| Insect bite / sting   | 2                          | 1                          |
| Fire/smoke/flare  | 1                          | 0                          |
| Pushed (accidental)   | <1                         | 0                          |
| Turnstile   | <1                         | 0                          |
| Other   | 5                          | 2                          |
| INELIGIBLE - Other non-injury   | <1                         | 0                          |
| Not known   | 12                         | 9                          |
| Base  | 2690                       | 3023                       |

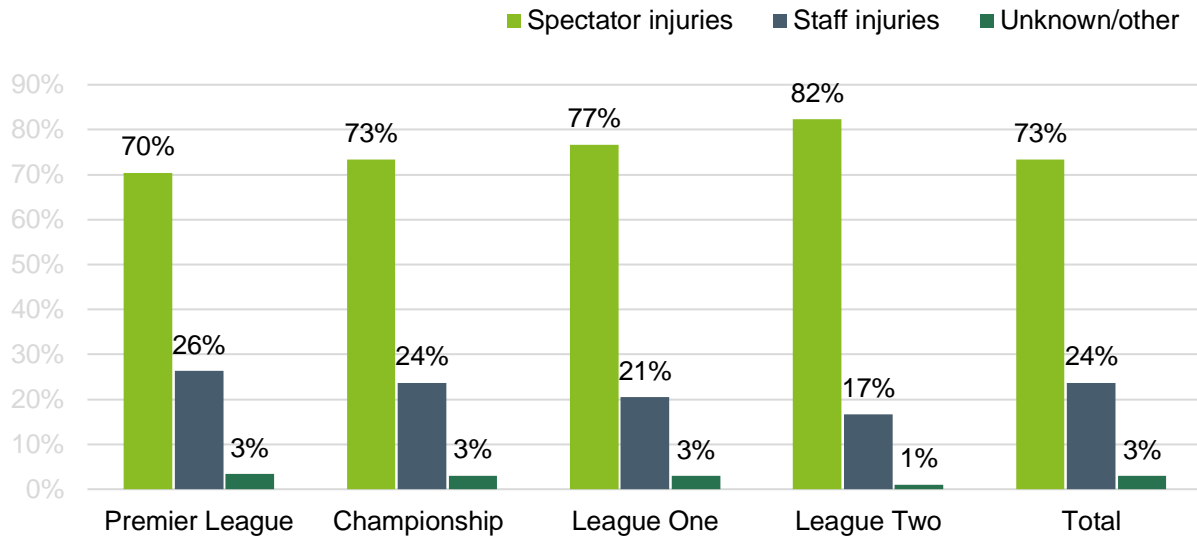
Source: SGSA Injury Data 2023/24

- Table 9 reports all causes of injury, including causes which are ineligible, that is medical reports rather than injuries, for 'injuries' that are otherwise eligible (i.e. meet the eligibility criteria for injury type, location and time period).
- General illness was the most common cause in 2023/24 (Tranche 1), accounting for 28% of all otherwise eligible 'injuries', followed by pre-existing conditions (16%). Slips, trips and falls – the most common cause of eligible injuries - is only the third most common injury type overall (15%).
- In 2023/24 (Tranche 1), 55% of all otherwise eligible 'injuries' had a non-eligible cause. This is an increase from 49% in 2022/23 (Tranche 1), mainly due to an increase in the proportion of 'injuries' recorded as 'general illness'.





**Figure H – Percentage of non-spectator vs spectator injuries, by league, 2023/24**



Base: All eligible injuries, excluding patient eligibility  
Base size (2023/24 (Tranche 1)): 1810  
Source: SGSA Injury Data

- As outlined above, injuries to staff are not considered eligible and not included in the findings outlined above. However, it is important that football grounds subject to SGSA licensing provide complete records of all injuries and illnesses. Figure H shows non-spectator injury rates for Tranche 1 of 2023/24.<sup>11</sup>
- The staff injury rate for 2023/24 (Tranche 1) was 24%, the same as Tranche 1 of 2022/23 season.
- The percentage of injuries involving staff decreased across the leagues. In the Premier League, 26% of reported injuries involved staff or players, compared with 24% in the Championship, 21% in EFL League One, and 17% in EFL League Two.

### Women's Matches

For the first time, grounds provided reports on matches in the women's leagues. However, since reporting is not mandatory, the numbers are low (and likely an incomplete picture) and a full breakdown of injuries has not been provided. Across all fixture types (Women's Super League, Women's International, and Women's Cup) a total of 36 eligible injuries were reported. With a recorded attendance of 519,531, this equals 1 injury per 14,431 spectators or 6.9 injuries per 100,000 spectators.

<sup>11</sup> In previous years the report has referred to injuries to staff/players. In practice player injuries are not included in the data clubs provide here. Only one player injury was reported in the 2023/24 and 2022/23 data returns.