

*The work of PACTS
Using hospital records
to inform road safety policy*

MARGARET WINCHCOMB

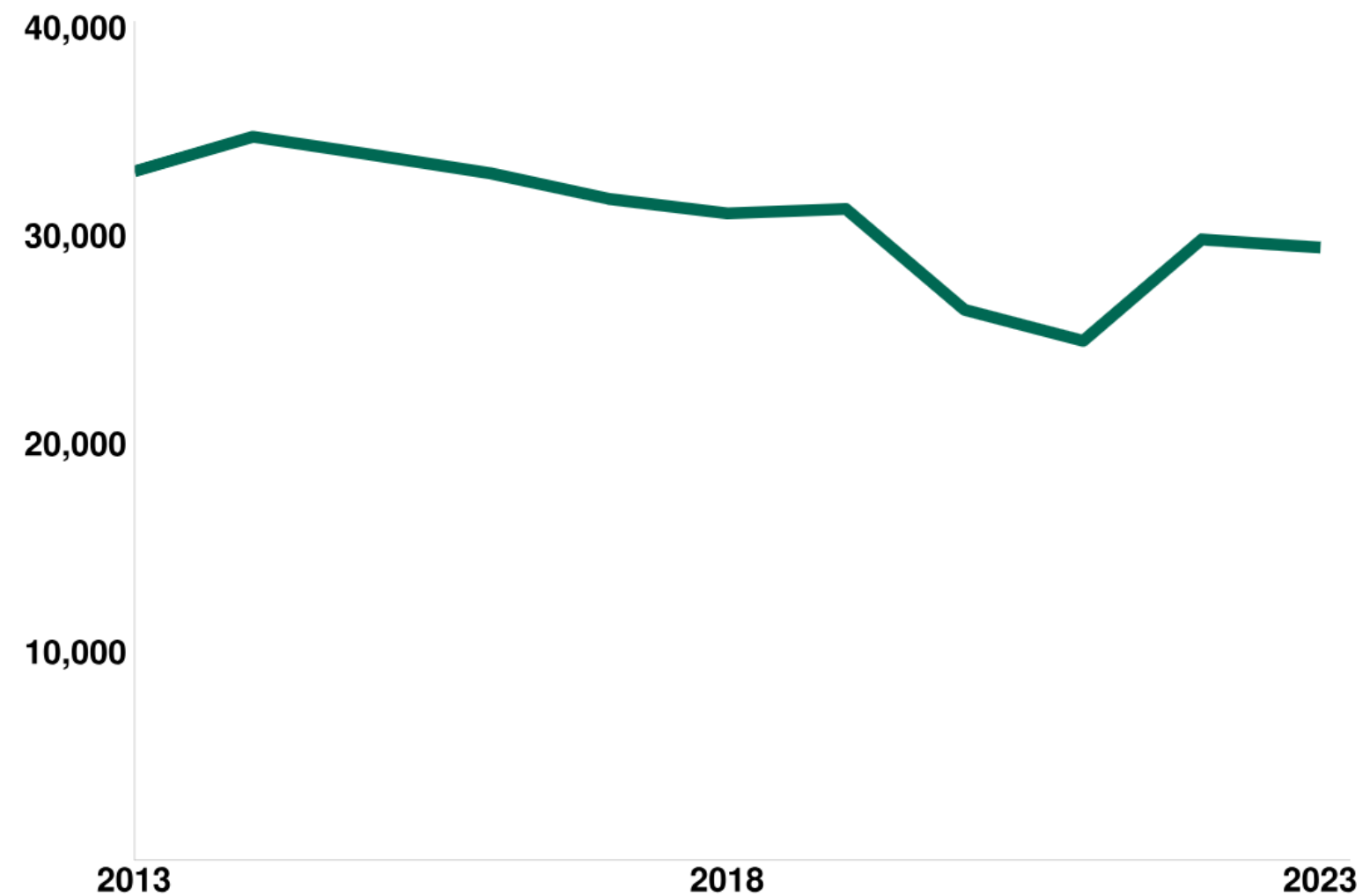
Deputy Executive Director, PACTS



Road traffic casualties

Over the last decade, on average, 1,700 people died on UK roads each year, more than twice the number of deaths from homicides and terrorism combined.

Reported road fatalities, in Great Britain, year ending June 13- end June 23 (provisional)



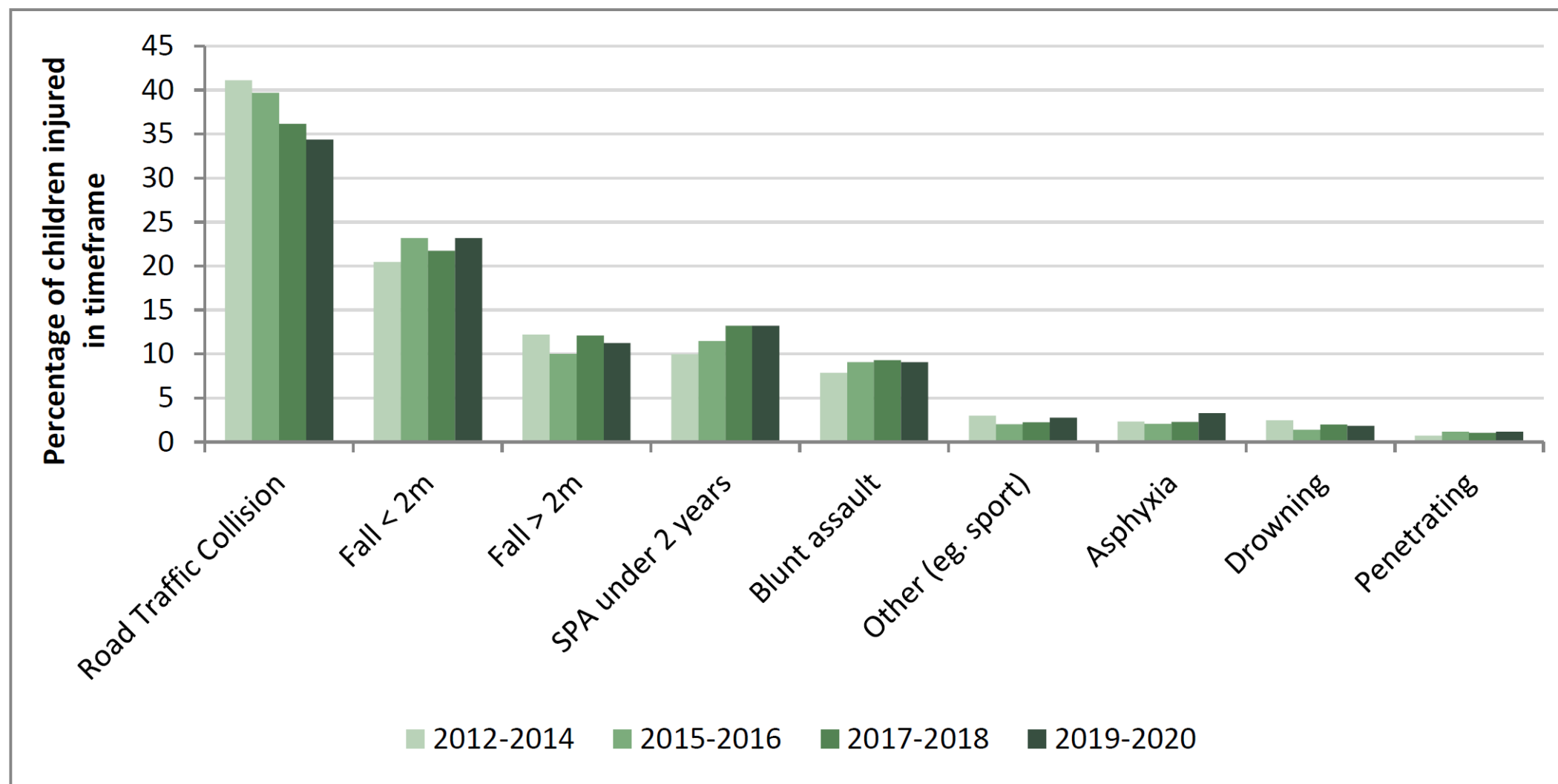
TARN Severe Injury in Children report include road traffic casualties

20 12

“During 2012 there were 737 severely injured children treated in England & Wales.”

Jan 20 19- Dec 20 20

“Pedestrian injury resulting in traumatic brain injury is still the commonest cause of severe injury and mortality after the age of 1 year”



Source: TARN Severe Injury in Children Jan 19-Dec 20, England and Wales

PACTS

A charity with over 40 years of influence. The only
NGO which:

- addresses transport safety (road, rail and air) across the UK;
- focuses on parliament, government and stakeholders;
- provides the secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Transport Safety;
- believes strongly in evidence-based policy;
- has no commercial or sectional interests.

PACTS vision

A transport system free from death and life-changing injury, in which all users feel safe





Safe System


The best practice approach for preventing deaths and life-changing injuries on roads

- People sometimes make mistakes
- All elements of the road system contribute to safe outcomes
- The magnitude of crash forces on the human body needs to be managed
- The needs of all road users must be considered

e-scooters

A novel form of transport in the UK

Their presence came to prominence after a fatal collision

A screenshot of the top navigation bar of The Guardian website. The background is dark blue. On the left, the word "Guardian" is written in yellow. To its right, there are links for "Search jobs", "Sign in", and "Search". Further right, it says "UK edition" with a dropdown arrow. The main logo "The Guardian" is in white, with "News website of the year" in yellow below it. A navigation menu below the logo includes "on", "Sport", "Culture", "Lifestyle", and "More" with a dropdown arrow.

edia

and

🕒 This article is more than 2 years old

Television presenter Emily Hartridge dies in electric scooter crash

Lifestyle adviser, with a large YouTube following, was killed in collision in south London

PACTS e-scooter research

The safety of private e-scooters

Published three reports (Oct 21, March 22 and February 23) drawing together evidence to inform the understanding of the safety of private e-scooters

Casualties involving e-scooters

Conducted research into the under-recording of e-scooter casualties and maintain a register of fatalities from collisions involving e-scooters

Recommendations for future regulations

Formed 14 recommendations for the safe construction and use of private e-scooters, with suggestions for their application to rental use



Making Roads Safer

e-scooter characteristics

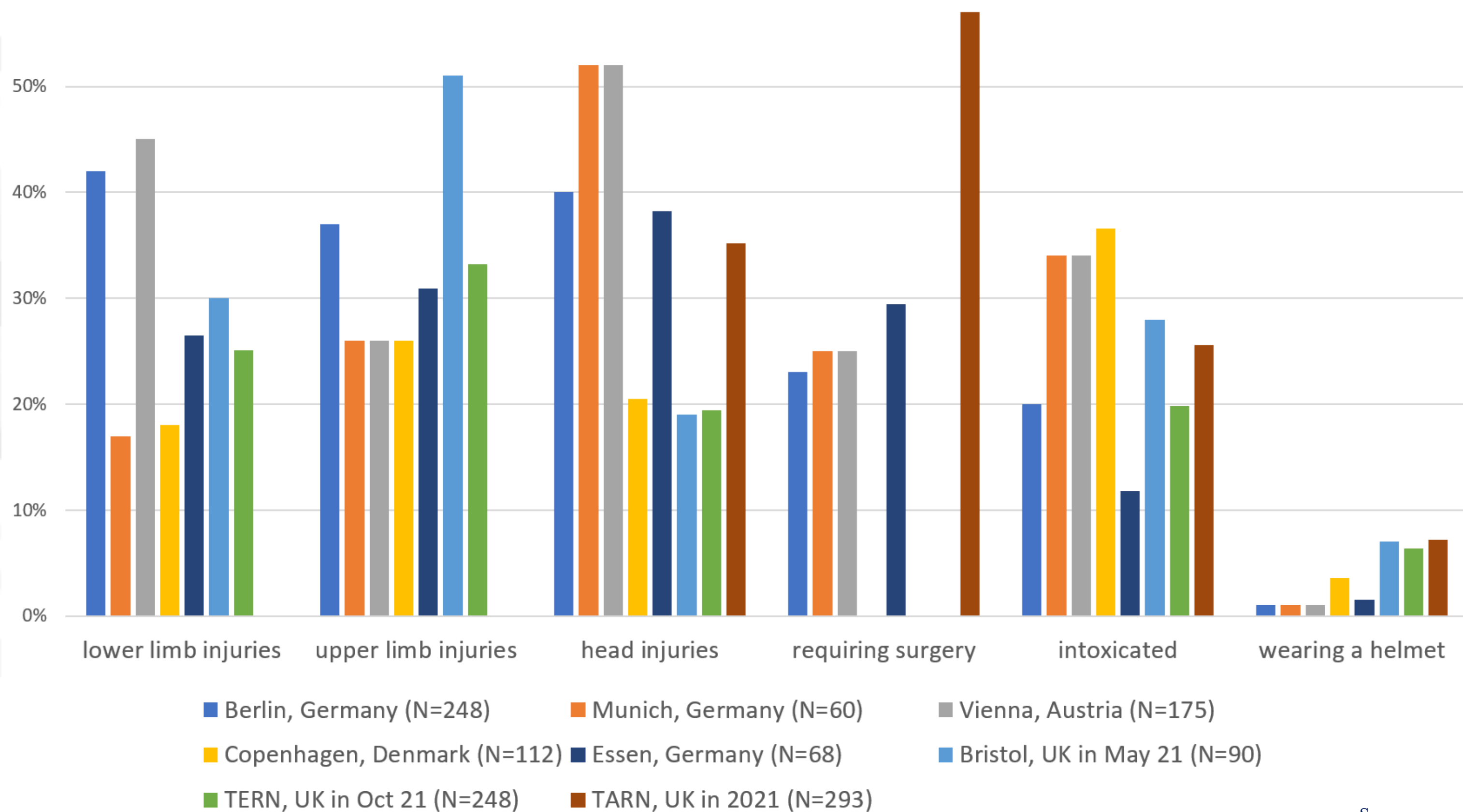
“e-scooter users are one of the vulnerable user groups. They are not protected by a vehicle body in the same way car users are...They are, therefore, particularly susceptible to injuries.”

National statistics, Reported road casualties Great Britain
e-Scooter factsheet 2022, Published 24 May 2023

- two wheels. directly behind one another
- two axles
- feet stand between the wheels
- may or may not have a seat
- usually has handlebars



Hospital studies of e-scooter casualties



It is well known that road casualties are under-reported

Under-recording differs between

- Types of road user
- Severity of injury
- Hospital location



e-scooter casualty data is collected by...

01

**Police,
STATS 19**

02

**Hospitals,
TARN and
SEED-UK**

03

**Operators,
situation
reports**

Matching casualties between datasets

Factors used to make matches included:

- date and location of collision
 - age and gender of casualty
 - type of casualty and
 - severity of injury
-
- 9% of all casualties presenting at hospitals matched police records
 - 26% of the most seriously injured matched police records

Patients' head, face and spine injuries were more likely to be recorded by the police than other injuries

Matches were not possible from the situation reports

The study also revealed ...

Data collection methods for some police forces are improving

Situation reports provide a narrative rather than casualty data

There is a concern over the number of children being injured

e-scooter regulation

PACTS has made 14 recommendations including

- Minimum front wheel size of 12" (30.5cm)
- Maximum possible speed of 12.5mph (20km/h)
- Helmet wearing to be mandatory
- Drink driving to be prohibited





What next for legislation?

Timeline for e-scooters

- July 2020 Rental trials open
- May 2022 The Queen's speech
- ? Consultations to run
- ? e-scooters legalised?
- May 2026 Rental trials due to end

Other smaller, lighter, zero-emission vehicles

- ?



Data collection is important

Data about road casualties helps:

- develop and monitor road safety policy,
- develop and evaluate legislative changes,
- target road safety publicity, road and vehicle engineering, and
- identify public health issues

to save lives and reduce injury on the roads
as part of the Safe System

THANK YOU

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