

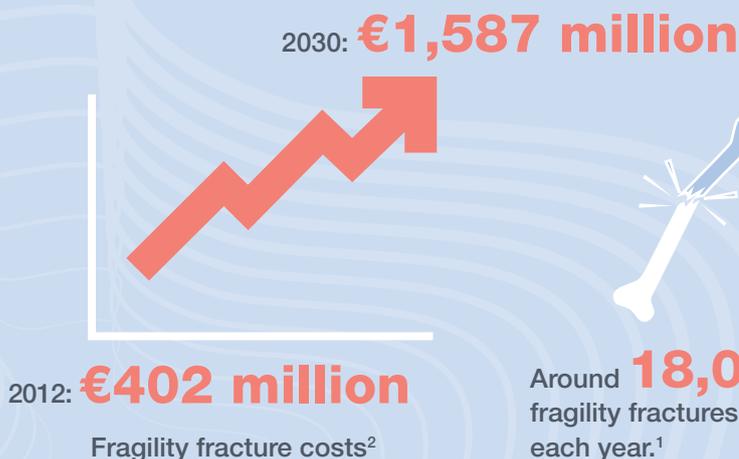
Osteoporosis and fragility fractures in Ireland



Osteoporosis is a chronic disease which weakens bones and leaves people at risk of a fragility fracture. These fractures are often life-changing events, bringing pain, isolation and dependency.



Approximately **20%** of women and **6%** of men over 50 in Ireland are living with osteoporosis.¹



Around **18,000** fragility fractures occur each year.¹



36% of women who have been prescribed osteoporosis medication stop taking it within one year.³



Hip fracture care met all national quality standards in only **7%** of cases in 2018.⁴

As populations age, osteoporosis and fragility fractures will become more prevalent. This issue is under-recognised at policy level. If governments are to take seriously their commitments to gender equality, healthy ageing and healthcare sustainability, they must recognise the critical importance of addressing osteoporosis and fragility fractures as an immediate priority.

We are calling on policymakers to take action in five key areas:



Building a system that works: policies for scrutiny, accountability and investment



Catching it early: detection and management in primary care



Getting people back on track: facilitating multidisciplinary care post-fracture



Supporting quality of life as part of healthy and active ageing: prevention of falls and fractures in later life



Engaging patients and public: awareness, activation and self-management

Find out more at: hpolicy.co/Osteo

References

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3. Hilligsmann M, McGowan B, Bennett K, et al. 2012. The Clinical and Economic Burden of Poor Adherence and Persistence with Osteoporosis Medications in Ireland. *Value Health* 15(5): 604-12
4. National Office of Clinical Audit. 2019. *Irish Hip Fracture Database national report 2018*. Dublin: NOCA