

## Majority of injury claims from women in middle age

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MIDDLE-aged women received the lion's share of the €33m awarded in public liability claims last year, new figures reveal.

And seven out of 10 of the successful claims went to women, according to the Injuries Board.

And those aged between 35 and 64 got 62.7pc of the 1,443 public liability awards made in 2009.

This is a reversal of data for workplace accidents where females account for just over a quarter (26pc) of awards.

The average award was for €23,143, up marginally from awards of €22,865 made in 2007 and 2008.

The most common accidents were slips, trips and falls, accounting for 65pc of cases, followed by 9pc of claimants injured after being struck by falling or flying objects.

Accidents caused by food poisoning and adverse reactions were the least common, accounting for just 1pc of awards made.

Sprains, fractures and bruising were the most common type of injuries suffered.

This was followed by cuts and superficial injuries.

Injuries sustained as a result of burns and crushing were the least common, accounting for just 2pc of cases. Just over half of all accidents (51pc) took place at privately owned establishments such as shopping centres, pubs, nightclubs and restaurants.

Almost a quarter of all claims (24pc) stemmed from accidents taking place at public places which were owned by local authorities.

More than a quarter of all awards (28pc) were for between €20,000 and €38,000 and just over 14pc of awards were for between €38,000 and €100,000.

However, the majority of awards (57pc) were for less than €20,000, according to the Injuries Board.

The highest percentage of awards were given to people

living in Dublin, followed by the rest of Leinster, Munster, Connacht and Ulster.

The figures are in keeping with those in previous years since the board was established in 2004, an Injuries Board spokesman said.

Patricia Byron, chief executive of the Injuries Board, said: "These reviews provide a significant insight into the causes of accidents and sectors or locations which pose the greatest risk."

"The findings are especially valuable to health and safety professionals in their risk assessments and will enable scarce resources to be focused on the most critical areas," she added.