

# Confidence of ambulance staff when attending older adults who have fallen: quantitative results from the AMBOFALL pilot survey

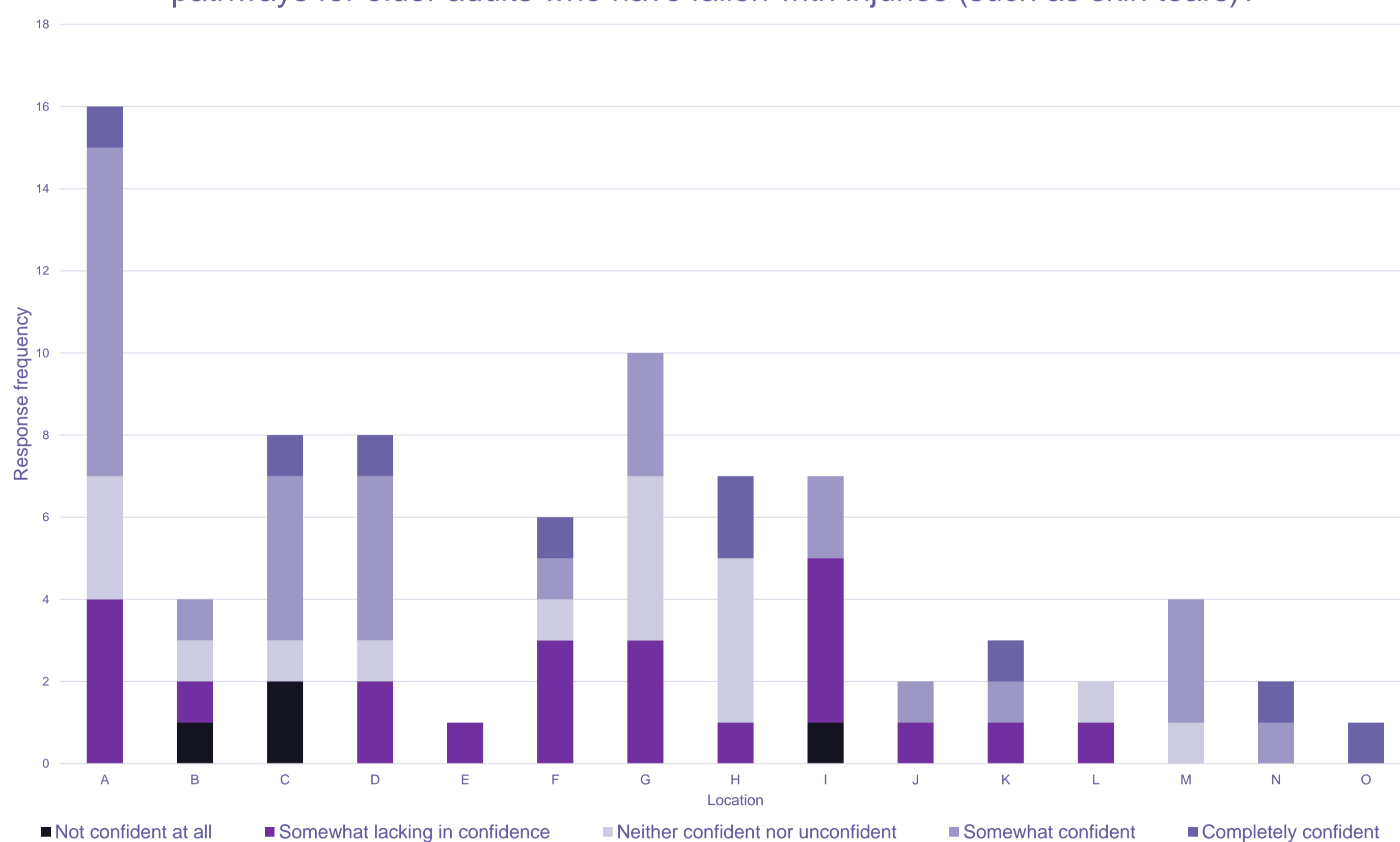
## Introduction

Around 10% of emergency ambulance calls in the UK are for older adults who have fallen. Service demand is only likely to increase in the future due to our ageing population. This single ambulance service pilot study aimed to determine frontline emergency staff confidence when attending this population.

### Objectives:

1. Assess recruitment rate.
2. Assess feasibility of online survey delivery.
3. Determine the experiences and confidence of frontline emergency clinicians in attending older adults who have fallen.

How confident do you feel in accessing emergency department avoidance pathways for older adults who have fallen with injuries (such as skin tears)?



## Methods

One English ambulance service participated in an online cross-sectional survey, disseminated via internal newsletters and posters during May 2023.

Participant demographics comprising role, years' experience, and base location were collected.

5-point Likert scales were used to rate participants confidence.

## Results

81 frontline emergency staff completed the survey results in approximately a 2% response rate.

Responses were received from across the region (n = 16), with one base providing 20% of these.

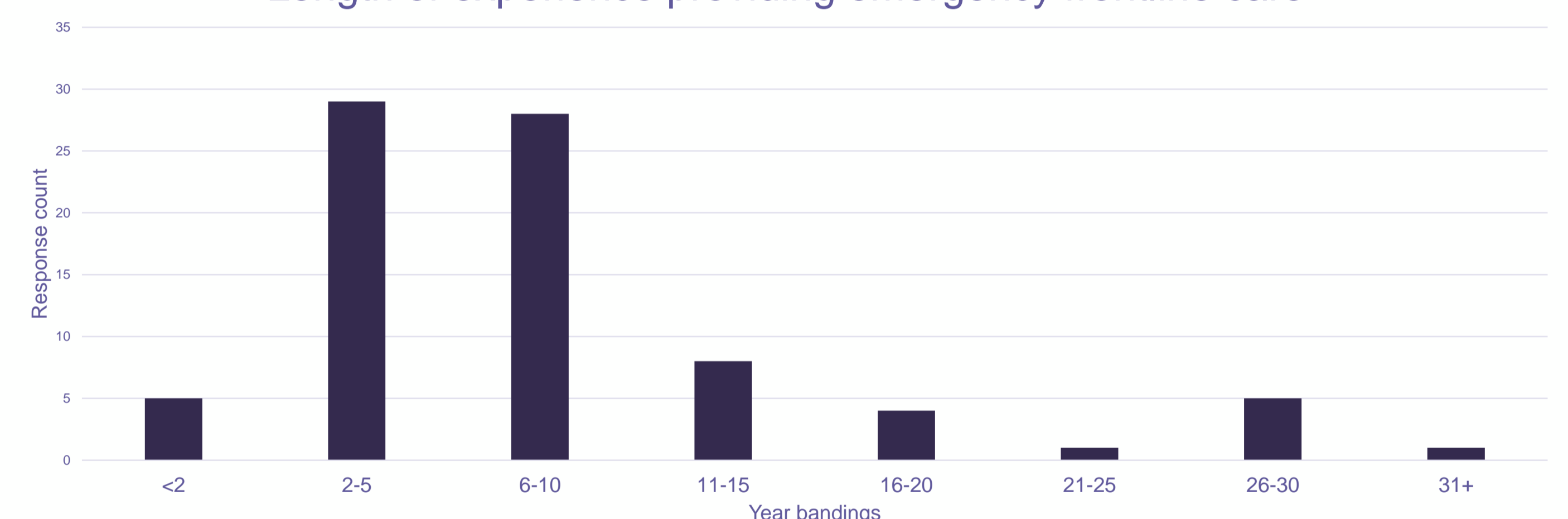
Over half the respondents (n=57) had 2-10 years' experience providing emergency ambulance care.

Confidence in patient assessment or decision-making in the management of older adults who have fallen did not vary significantly by experience, role, age or location.

Confidence in accessing Emergency Department avoidance pathways was seen to increase with increasing experience.

There were significant differences for how admission avoidance pathways were accessed between locations ( $p < .05$ ), ranging from 56% of one base being confident, to 71% of another lacking confidence in using pathways.

Length of experience providing emergency frontline care



## Conclusion

This pilot survey demonstrated an eSurvey is feasible with the population of frontline emergency ambulance staff, receiving an acceptable response rate comparable to other studies in this population.

Years of experience providing emergency ambulance care, or working in wider healthcare, does not seem to impact their confidence in assessing or managing older adults who have fallen.

Work location can impact your confidence in hospital avoidance pathways, with known variation in available hours and acceptance criteria.

This pilot study now being followed by a full UK-wide study.

## Further published findings:

I Gunson, L Bullock, T Kingstone, M Bucknall. (2024) 2005 How do emergency ambulance clinicians decide what to do for older adults who have fallen? An analysis of qualitative survey data, *Age and Ageing*. 53 (Issue Supplement 1). DOI <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad246.098>

I Gunson, L Bullock, T Kingstone, M Bucknall. (2024) 2004 How confident are we in decision making? The quantitative analysis of ambulance response to older adult fallers: A pilot survey, *Age and Ageing*. 53 (Issue Supplement 1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad246.096>

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