

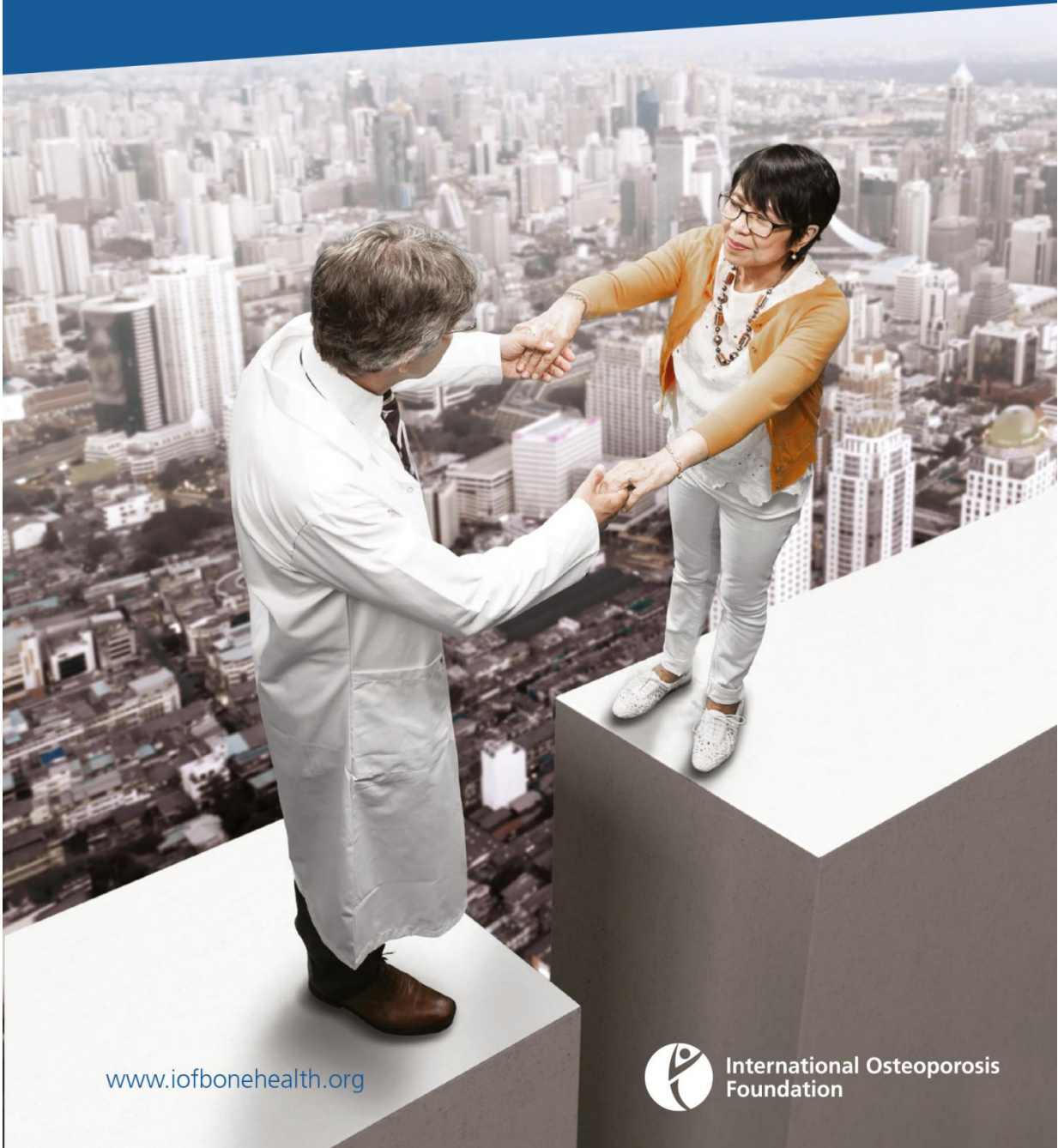
# **Report reveals why millions of people with osteoporosis remain undiagnosed and untreated**

October 10 2016

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# GAPS AND SOLUTIONS IN BONE HEALTH

A Global Framework for Improvement



[www.iofbonehealth.org](http://www.iofbonehealth.org)



International Osteoporosis  
Foundation

The new report "Gaps and Solutions in Bone Health: A Global Framework for Improvement" was published by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF). Credit: © International Osteoporosis Foundation

Nyon, Switzerland - Approximately 80% of those who have already suffered a broken bone due to osteoporosis remain unprotected against the risk of further disabling fractures, according to a new report issued by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) in anticipation of World Osteoporosis Day.

The report finds that, despite the global threat posed by fragility fractures, and the availability of safe and cost-effective therapies that could reduce the number of fractures, gaps in care are preventing millions of at-risk individuals from being diagnosed and treated worldwide.

"This report is a necessary and urgent call to action," said co-author Professor Eugene McCloskey, Director of the MRC ARUK Centre for Integrated Research in Musculoskeletal Ageing, Metabolic Bone Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, UK.

"A 'fracture tsunami' is approaching, and the resulting human and socioeconomic burden will have an enormous impact on all countries with ageing populations. The result of fragility fractures can be profoundly debilitating, with chronic pain and disability leading to reduced mobility and quality of life. Fewer than half of seniors who survive a hip fracture will walk unaided again, and up to 20% will become residents of care homes in the year following the fracture."

The report identifies the following ten major care gaps that are preventing early assessment and treatment, and outlines possible solutions that could be implemented by national health authorities worldwide:

- **Poor case finding and management** is found in regard to (1) secondary fracture prevention, (2) osteoporosis induced by medicines, (3) diseases associated with osteoporosis, and (4) primary fracture prevention for individuals at high risk of fracture;
- **Suboptimal communication and low public awareness** is identified in regard to (5) the importance of staying on prescribed treatment, (6) public awareness of the serious impact of osteoporosis and fracture risk, (7) knowledge of the benefits versus the risks of osteoporosis treatment;
- **Neglect by national governments and healthcare systems:** (8) impeding access and reimbursement to osteoporosis assessment and treatment, (9) failing to prioritize fragility fracture prevention in national healthcare policy;
- **Lack of epidemiological data** (10) particularly in the developing world, is needed to help inform policy development. This is of special urgency given that projections indicate that the burden of fragility fractures will shift to the developing world over the next four decades.

IOF President Professor John A. Kanis added,

"The care gaps described in this report, together with their associated solutions, outline a Global Framework for tackling the devastating burden of osteoporotic fractures around the world. We urge national policymakers and healthcare professional organizations to work together to identify local gaps in the provision of best practice for the populations that they serve. One important step, among others, is the systematic

implementation of Fracture Liaison Services to address the need for secondary fracture prevention within the most high risk patients."

"It is clear that the time for optimal management of bone health is now - not in 10 or 20 years' time when it will already be too late."

**More information:** The report 'Gaps and Solutions in Bone Health; A Global Framework for Improvement' is authored by Professors N.C Harvey and E.V McCloskey. It can be downloaded at [worldosteoporosisday.org/thematic-report-2016](http://worldosteoporosisday.org/thematic-report-2016)

Provided by International Osteoporosis Foundation

Citation: Report reveals why millions of people with osteoporosis remain undiagnosed and untreated (2016, October 10) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-10-reveals-millions-people-osteoporosis-undiagnosed.html>

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