

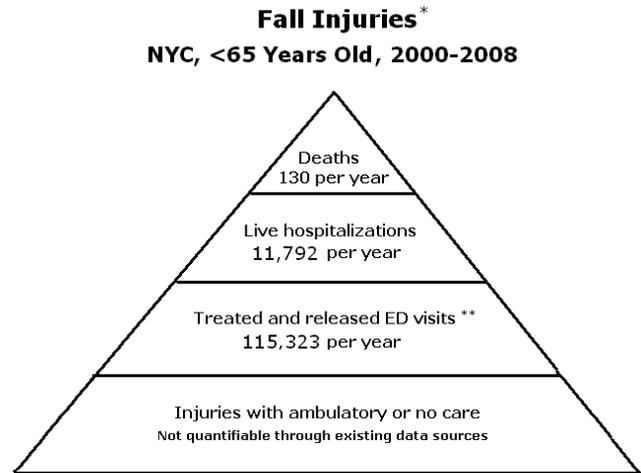


New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Injury Statistics Brief

Falls among New Yorkers Under the Age of 65 Years Old

I. Fall Injuries

Falls are a major source of injury among all age groups nationwide. While falls among older adults (65+) receive a great deal of attention due to their frequency and outcomes such as hip fractures and long-term disability, New Yorkers under the age of 65 are also at risk for fall-related injuries. Among this age group, an average of 130 deaths per year in NYC are directly attributable to falls. Falls are also the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for people less than 65: almost 12,000 inpatient hospitalizations and over 115,000 emergency department visits take place annually in NYC hospitals for falls.



II. Gender and Age Distribution

Among New Yorkers under the age of 65, fall-related deaths are more likely among males than females (3.0 per 100,000 vs. 0.7 per 100,000). This gender difference is the same for live hospitalizations (203.4 per 100,000 males vs. 127.5 per 100,000 females).

The rate of fall-related deaths and hospitalizations varies most by age group with adults age 55-64 years old having the highest rate, followed by infants <1, and adults 55-64 years old. Rates among child age groups 1-4, 5-9, and 10-14 are similar to each other.

**Percent Distribution and Rate of Unintentional Falls
NYC, <65 Years Old, 2000-2008**

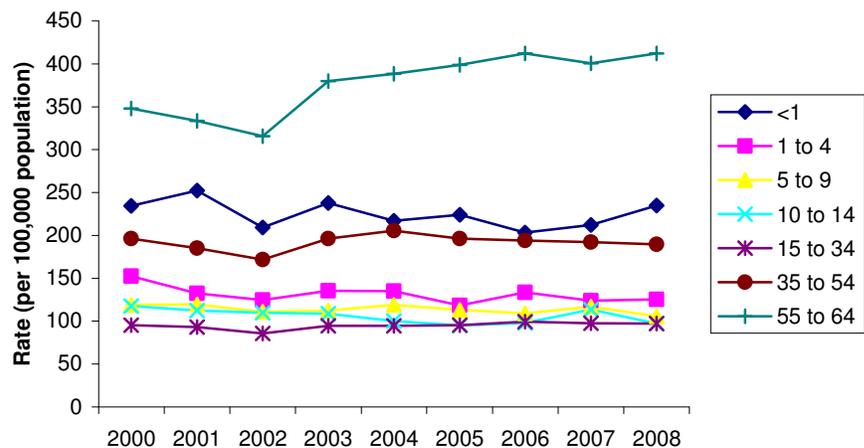
	Deaths		Live Hospitalizations	
	%	Rate*	%	Rate*
Gender				
Male	82%	3.0	60%	203.4
Female	18%	0.7	40%	127.5
Age group				
<1	<1%	0.5	2%	224.8
1 to 4	1%	0.4	5%	131.1
5 to 9	1%	0.2	5%	114.0
10 to 14	1%	0.2	5%	105.9
15 to 34	19%	1.0	19%	94.7
35 to 54	46%	2.5	39%	191.8
55 to 64	31%	5.2	25%	378.8
65+**	--	29.8	--	1662.9

* Rate per 100,000 population; ** Provided for comparison only.

III. Trend

Since 2000, adults ages 55-64 experienced the greatest change in rate of fall-related hospitalizations, increasing 18% from 348 per 100,000 in 2000 to 412 per 100,000 in 2008. Decreases in hospitalizations occurred among children ages 1-4, 5-9, and 10-14 by 18%, 11%, and 17% respectively.

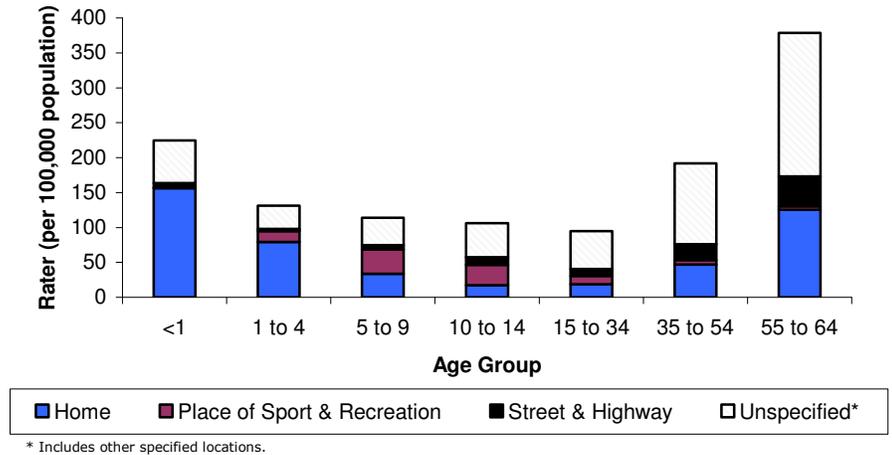
**Trend in Live Hospitalizations for Unintentional Falls
NYC, <65 Years Old, 2000-2008**



IV. Location of Fall

Falls can occur in many environments, but in NYC almost half of those that required hospitalization (46%) occurred in potentially modifiable locations such as homes, places of recreation and sport, and streets. Places of occurrence varied according to age. The vast majority of fall-related hospitalizations among infants and children 1-4 years old were due to falls at home (69% and 60%, respectively) while places of sport and recreation were most commonly specified among children ages 5-14 (29%). Home was again the most common place of occurrence for falls among adults 35-54 (24%) and 55-64 (33%).

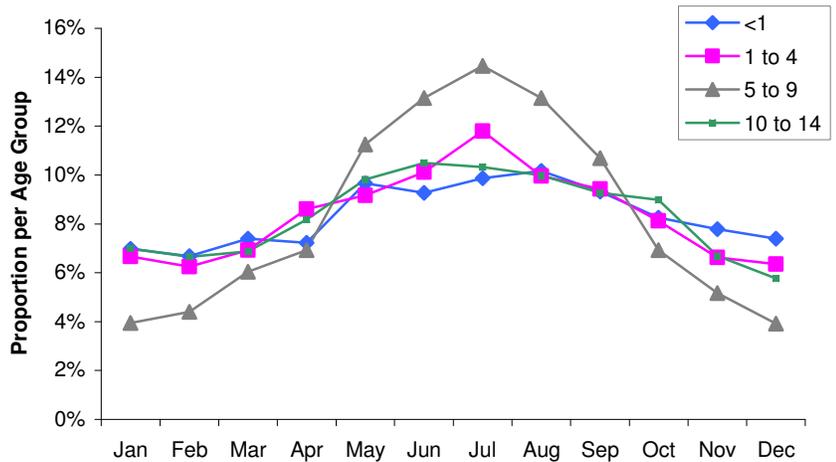
Location of Fall, Fall-Related Live Hospitalizations NYC, <65 Years Old, 2000-2008



V. Seasonality

Patterns in fall-related hospitalizations are observed among children 14 years old and younger with peak hospitalization rates between May and September.

Month of Admission for Fall-Related Live-Hospitalizations among Infants and Children NYC, 0-14 Years Old, 2000-2008



IV. Outcomes

Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and fractures are common type of injuries sustained from all types of falls. The rate of TBIs among fall-related hospitalizations occurring from 2000-2008 was highest among infants <1, while the fracture rate was highest among adults ages 55-64.

There was also an upward trend in the rates of TBI-fall hospitalizations from 2000 to 2008 (+29%, from 15.5 to 19.9 per 100,000). Age groups with the largest increases were 15-34 year olds (+59%, from 7.2 to 11.5 per 100,000) and 55-64 year olds (+66%, from 22.1 to 36.8 per 100,000). It is still unclear whether this is due to an increase in incidence or reporting.

Rate of Fractures and Traumatic Brain Injuries NYC, <65 Year Olds, 2000-2008

	Rate*	
	TBIs	Fractures
Total	17.3	78.8
Age group		
<1	126.9	28.9
1 to 4	25.9	68.3
5 to 9	14.6	73.2
10 to 14	12.7	67.0
15 to 34	8.8	46.9
35 to 54	16.0	87.3
55 to 64	30.5	175.8

* Rate per 100,000 population.