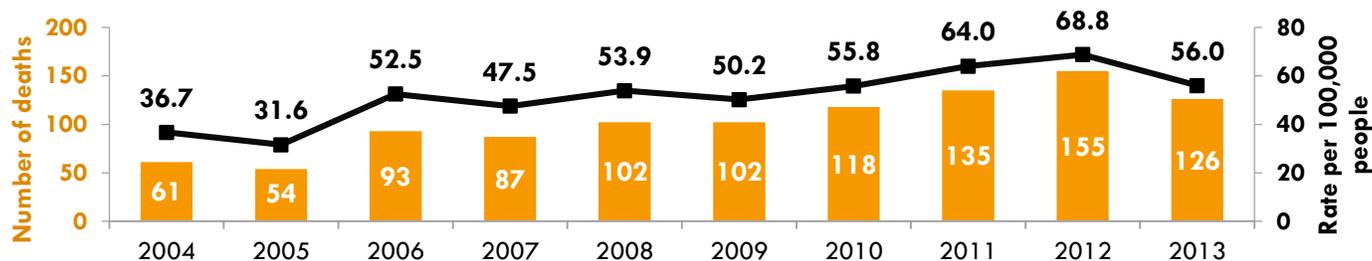


Santa Clara County: Unintentional falls among older adults

Key findings

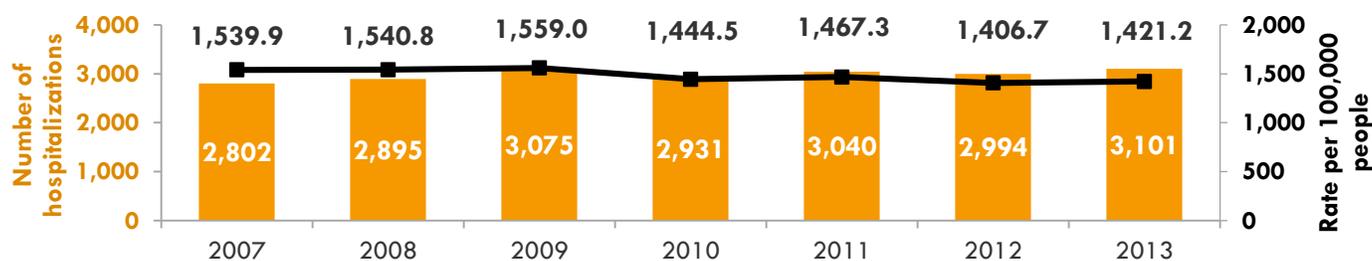
- In 2013, unintentional falls was the leading cause of injury deaths for adults ages 65 and older and the second leading cause of injury death among all ages. Falls accounted for 59% of injury deaths among adults ages 65 and older.
- The number and death rate from falls among older adults increased from 2004 to 2012 and decreased in 2013. The number and rate of hospitalizations for falls among older adults have been stable since 2007 but have increased for emergency department (ED) visits.
- The death rate from falls is higher among male older adults but rates of hospitalization and ED visits are higher among female older adults.
- The rate of deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits for falls increase with age and are highest among the oldest adults (ages 85 and older).
- The rate of deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits for falls are highest among White older adults.

Number and age-adjusted rate of deaths from falls among adults ages 65 and older, 2004-2013



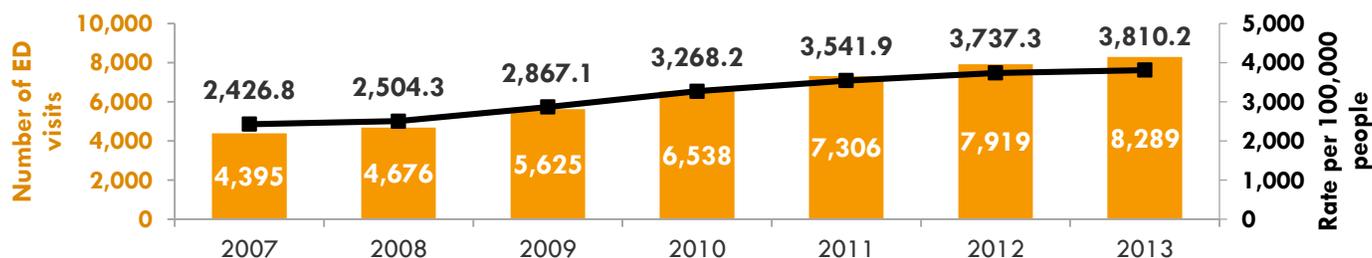
Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2004-2013 Death Statistical Master File¹

Number and age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations for falls among adults ages 65 and older, 2007-2013



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2007-2013 Patient Discharge Data¹

Number and age-adjusted rate of emergency department (ED) visits for falls among adults ages 65 and older, 2007-2013



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2007-2013 Emergency Department Data¹

Note: In each graph above, the colored bars represent the number and the black line represents the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 people.

Santa Clara County: Unintentional falls among older adults

Number, percentage, and age-adjusted/age-specific rates of deaths from falls among adults ages 65 and older by demographic characteristics, 2009-2013

		Deaths		
		Average annual number of deaths	% of deaths from falls*	Rate per 100,000 people ⁺
Santa Clara County		127	N/A	59.0
Gender	Male	56	44	66.5
	Female	71	56	53.7
Age group	65-74	15	11	11.8
	75-84	32	25	48.5
	85+	81	63	269.3
Race/ethnicity	African American	2	1	45.5
	Asian/Pacific Islander	21	16	38.3
	Latino	10	8	41.2
	White	93	73	71.6

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2009-2013 Death Statistical Master File¹

Number, percentage, and age-adjusted/age-specific rates of hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits for falls among adults ages 65 and older by demographic characteristics, 2009-2013

		Hospitalizations			ED visits		
		Average annual number of visits	% of hospitalizations for falls*	Rate per 100,000 people ⁺	Average annual number of visits	% of visits for falls*	Rate per 100,000 people ⁺
Santa Clara County		3,028	N/A	1,461.7	7,135	N/A	3,469.6
Gender	Male	1,012	33	1,199.1	2,311	32	2,712.4
	Female	2,016	67	1,645.7	4,824	68	4,040.3
Age group	65-74	605	20	542.7	2,092	29	1,875.5
	75-84	1,108	37	1,740.6	2,593	36	4,071.7
	85+	1,314	43	4,568.2	2,450	34	8,516.3
Race/ethnicity	African American	38	1	1,180.7	108	2	2,998.5
	Asian/Pacific Islander	501	17	940.7	1,035	15	1,904.4
	Latino	332	11	1,276.8	1,012	14	3,823.4
	White	2,063	68	1,696.2	4,694	66	3,945.8

Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2009-2013 Emergency Department Data and 2009-2013 Patient Discharge Data¹

Note: *Represents the percentage of deaths, hospitalizations, or ED visits in each category, e.g., the percentage of deaths or visits for falls that were male or female. ⁺Rates for age groups are reported as age-specific rates per 100,000 people. All other rates are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 people. Numbers and percentages may not sum to county totals or 100% because some categories are not presented (race/ethnicity), due to missing data, or due to rounding. N/A indicates fields where data are not applicable. (--) indicates not reportable due to small number of deaths, hospitalizations, or ED visits.

Santa Clara County: Unintentional falls among older adults

Annual economic cost of falls among adults ages 65 and older

Costs	Deaths (N=126)	Hospitalizations (N=2,991)	ED visits (N=8,282)
Medical	\$3,122,000	\$121,136,000	\$26,526,000
Work loss	\$14,629,000	\$88,248,000	\$11,451,000
Combined	17,750,000	\$209,383,000	\$37,977,000

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013 Death Statistical Master File; Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2013 Emergency Department Data and 2013 Patient Discharge Data; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2013

Note: For annual economic costs, data are for non-fatal hospitalizations and non-fatal treat and release ED visits only and so may not match numbers reported in other tables and graphs. Costs are indexed to 2013 U.S. prices for hospitalizations and ED visits and in 2013 California prices for deaths.

Self-reported falls and fall-related injury among adults ages 65 and older

		% reporting one or more falls in the last 3 months	% reporting one or more falls that resulted in an injury in the last 3 months
Santa Clara County		17	6
Gender	Male	15	4
	Female	19	7
Age group	65-74	15	4
	75-84	19	6
	85+	21	7
Race/ethnicity	African American	6*	4*
	Asian/Pacific Islander	13	3
	Latino	17	8*
	White	19	6

Note: * indicates estimate is statistically unstable due to a relative standard error of greater than 30% or less than 50 respondents in the denominator. These estimates should be viewed with caution and may not be appropriate to use for planning or policy purposes

Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department, 2013-14 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

Technical notes

A fall is defined as an injury received when a person descends abruptly due to the force of gravity and strikes a surface at the same or lower level.² This fact sheet includes data only on unintentional falls among older adults (i.e., falls resulting from an accident). Intentional falls or falls resulting from an act of violence (e.g., suicide, assault) are not included.

Injury data are presented as counts and rates:

- Counts represent the total number of events (e.g., deaths, hospitalizations) that occur in a defined period of time, such as one year.
- Rates consist of the count divided by the number of people in the population at risk (e.g., Latinos in Santa Clara County), multiplied by a standard number (e.g., 100,000). When comparing data over time or between different populations, rates are often used instead of counts to make it possible to compare outcomes between populations that differ in size.
- Rates are “age-adjusted” to account for differences in the age profiles in populations over time or between different populations, in this case using weights corresponding to the 2000 U.S. population.
- Age-specific rates are similar to overall rates. Age-specific rates represent the number of cases in a specific age group, divided by the number of people in Santa Clara County in that age group and multiplied by a standard number (e.g., 100,000) to enable comparison between age groups that differ in size.
- Trends are generally presented as single-year estimates over time. However, in some Quick Facts, a “moving average” is presented, which consists of combining data for overlapping three-year periods. Moving averages stabilize fluctuations that can be misleading when counts from a specific type of injury are low from year to year.

¹Denominator is based on the following sources: State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000–2010. Sacramento, California, September 2012 (years 2000-2009); State of California, Department of Finance, State and County Population Projection, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, January 31, 2013 (years 2010-2013)

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Center: 4.0 Definitions for WISQARS™ Nonfatal.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/nonfatal/definitions.htm>. Last modified 3/27/2007. Accessed 7/29/2014.