

## Unintentional Fall Injuries, All Ages, 2007-2009

Unintentional falls can result from stairs or ladders, from buildings, into holes, from one level to another, or on the same level from tripping or collisions. Fall-related injury is the leading cause of hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits for Miami-Dade Co. residents.

Between the years 2007-2009:

- 428 Miami-Dade County residents died as a result of unintentional falls.
- 19,932 residents were hospitalized as a result of unintentional falls.
- 126,725 were treated in the emergency department as a result of unintentional falls.

<b>Injury Severity</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Total</b>
Deaths	148	127	153	428
Hospitalizations	6,387	6,624	6,921	19,932
ED Visits	40,037	41,904	44,784	126,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,572</b>	<b>48,655</b>	<b>51,858</b>	<b>147,085</b>

- The leading causes of nonfatal falls were tripping or stumbling (38%), falling from bed (5%) and falls that resulted in striking another object (5%).

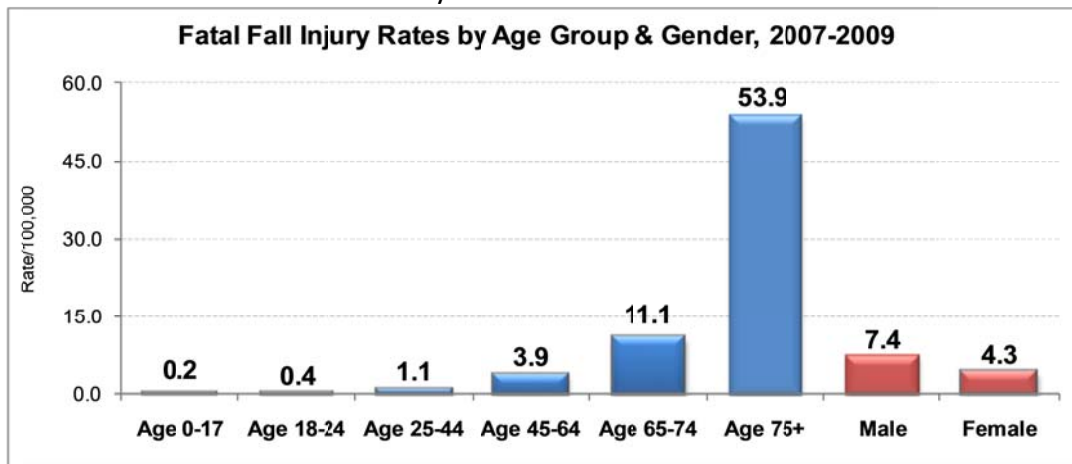
<b>Type of Fall</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Nonfatal</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fall due to slip, trip, stumble	21	55,534	38
Fall from bed		7,640	5
Fall resulting in striking object, person	55	7,222	5
Fall from one level to another	4	5,287	4
Fall from stairs, step, escalator	11	5,065	3
Fall from furniture	32	4,149	3
Fall from skates, skateboard, scooter	8	3,090	2
Fall from ladder or scaffold		2,366	2
Fall from playground equipment	1	2,159	1
Fall in sports or recreation		958	< 1
Fall from building, structure	18	455	< 1
Fall: all other & unspecified	278	52,732	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>146,657</b>	<b>100</b>

- Falls were one of the most costly injuries. During the year 2009, nonfatal fall injuries were estimated to cost more than one-half billion dollars in medical charges; \$376 million dollars in hospital charges and more than \$158 million dollars in ED charges (Table).

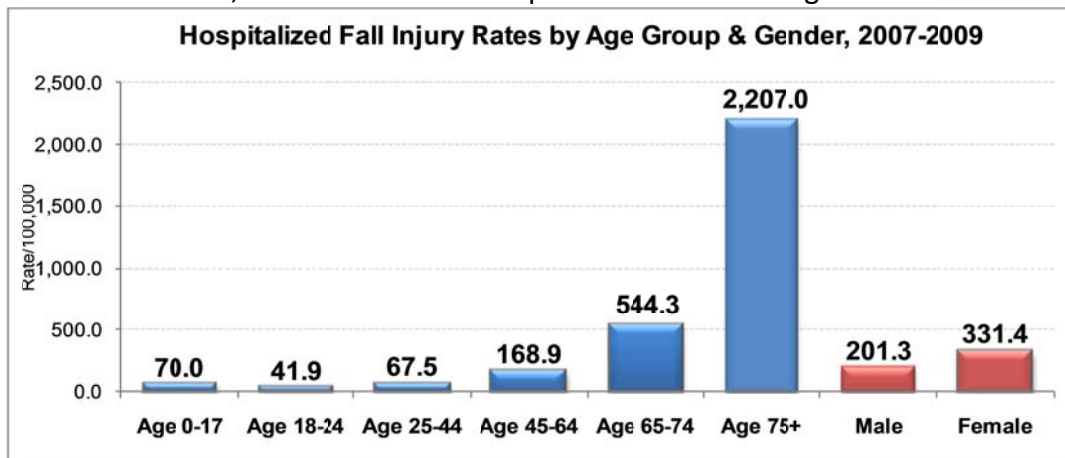
<b>2009 Hospital &amp; ED Charges for Fall-Related Injuries to Miami-Dade Co. Children Age 0-17</b>			
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total Charges</b>	<b>Median Charge</b>
Hospitalizations	6,921	\$376,351,874	\$42,558
ED Visits	44,784	\$158,154,171	\$2,185
All Nonfatal Falls	51,705	\$534,508,045	\$2,569

The figures below display unintentional fall injury rates by age and gender.

- Residents over age 75 were most at-risk for fatal falls, with a mortality rate nearly 5-times greater than persons aged 65-74 years.
- Males were more 72% more likely to suffer a fatal fall than females.



- Residents aged 75+ years were most likely to be hospitalized due to a fall. The hospitalization rate for this group was at least 4-times larger than any other age group.
- Unlike fall deaths, females had a fall hospitalization rate 65% greater than males.



- Children age 0-1 and elderly aged 75+ were most likely to be treated in the ED due to a fall. After age 44, the risk for fall-related ED visits increased significantly with age.
- Males and females were equally at-risk for ED visits that resulted from falls.

