

Unintentional Fall Injuries, Age 0-17 Years, 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. children.

Between the years 2007-2009:

- Four Miami-Dade County children age 17 and under died as a result of unintentional falls.
- 1,253 children were hospitalized as a result of unintentional falls.
- 52,558 children were treated in the emergency department as a result of unintentional falls.

Injury Severity	2007	2008	2009	Total
Deaths	2	0	2	4
Hospitalizations	401	425	427	1,253
ED Visits	16,652	17,395	18,511	52,558
Total	17,055	17,820	18,940	53,815

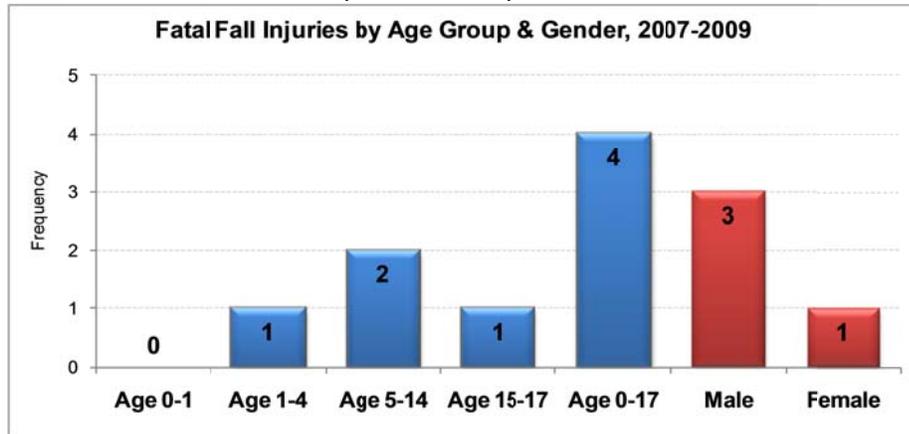
- The leading causes of nonfatal falls were tripping or stumbling (19%), falling from bed (10%) and falls that resulted in striking another object (10%).

Type of Fall	Fatal	Nonfatal	Percent
Fall due to slip, trip, stumble		10,472	19%
Fall from bed		5,321	10%
Fall: resulting in striking object	1	5,092	10%
Fall from one level to another		2,844	5%
Fall from furniture		2,655	5%
Fall from skates, skateboard, scooter		2,278	4%
Fall from playground equipment	1	2,117	4%
Fall from stairs, step, escalator		1,279	2%
Fall in sports or recreation		736	1%
Fall from building, structure	2	67	< 1%
Fall: all other & unspecified		20,950	40%
Total	4	53,811	100%

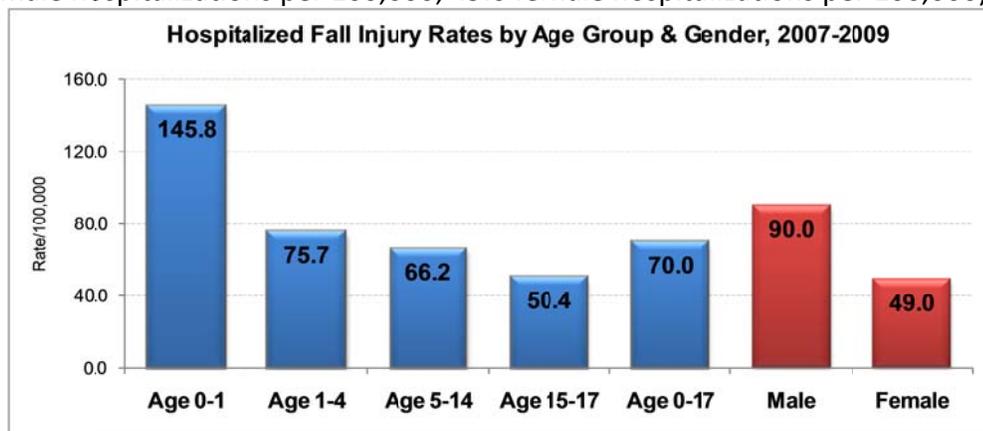
- Falls were one of the most costly injuries. During the year 2009, nonfatal fall injuries were estimated to cost more than \$8 million dollars in hospital charges and more than 32 million dollars in ED charges (Table).

2009 Hospital & ED Charges for Fall-Related Injuries to Miami-Dade Co. Children Age 0-17			
	Number	Total Charges	Median Charge
Hospitalizations	427	\$8,305,176	\$15,462
ED Visits	18,511	\$32,404,959	\$1,260
All Nonfatal Falls	18,938	\$40,710,135	\$1,298

The figures below display unintentional fall injury rates by age and gender. Because there were only 4 deaths as a result of falls, death frequencies are presented instead of rates.



- The youngest children (under age 1) were most likely to be hospitalized due to a fall. The hospitalization rate for this group (145.8 per 100,000) is almost 2-times larger than that for any other age group.
- Males were nearly 2-times more likely than females to be hospitalized as a result of falls (90.0 male hospitalizations per 100,000; 49.0 female hospitalizations per 100,000).



- Children age 0-4 were most likely to be treated in the ED due to a fall. The ED visit rate for this group was more than 50% larger than the rate for any other age group.
- Males were 45% more likely than females to be treated in the ED as a result of falls (3,453.0 male ED visits per 100,000; 2,389.6 female ED visits per 100,000).

