



FLHealthCHARTS.com Statistical Brief

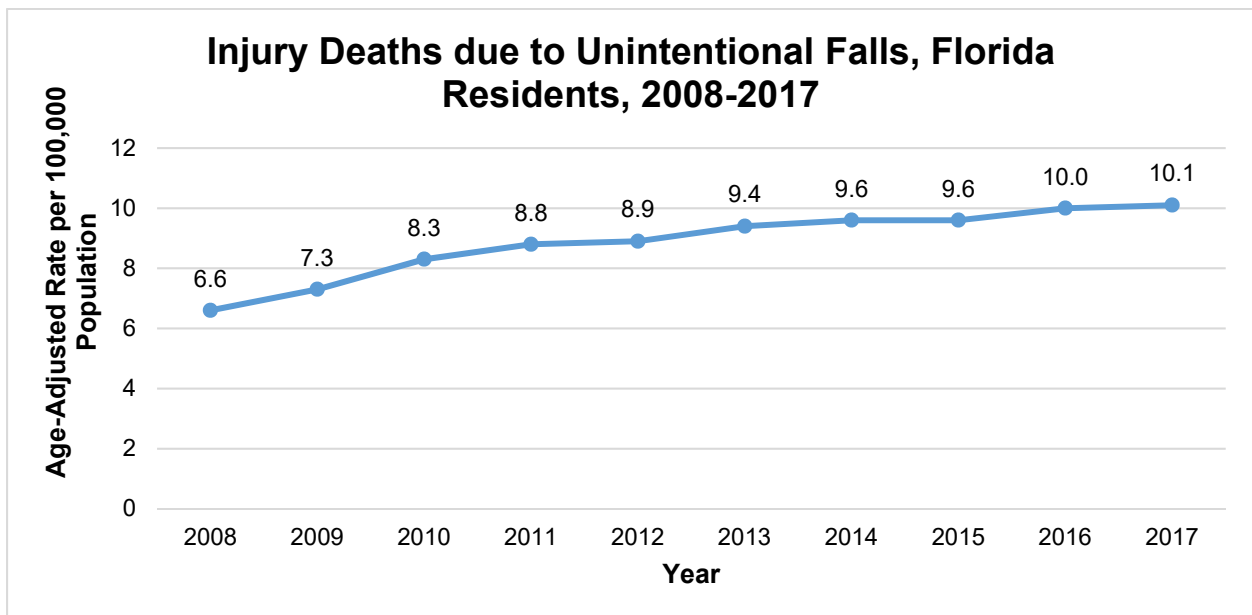
Trends in Unintentional Fall-Related Death and Injury in Florida

Description

In 2017, there were 3,183 deaths, 72,650 non-fatal hospitalizations, and 537,752 non-fatal emergency department (ED) visits due to unintentional falls in Florida. While unintentional falls are a significant cause of injury and death among older adults, they are also a significant cause of injury overall and among all ages.

Data in Graph 1 from the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics¹, shows that unintentional falls resulting in fatal injuries have increased from 6.6 to 10.1 per 100,000 population (age adjusted death rate) from 2008 to 2017.

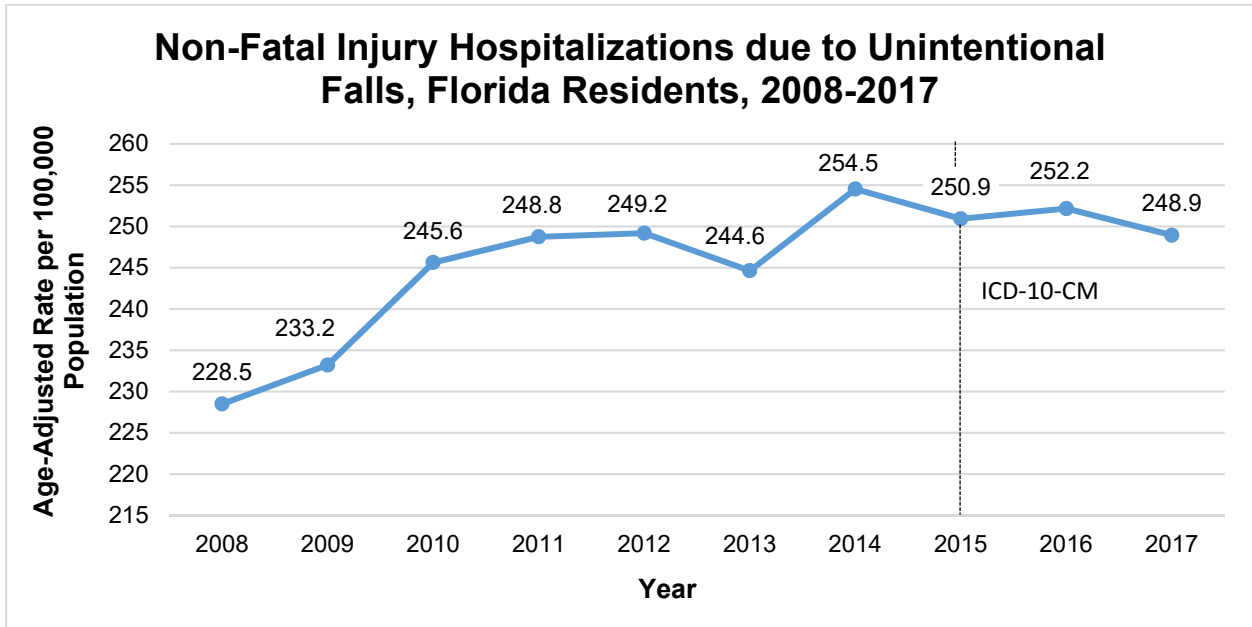
Graph 1



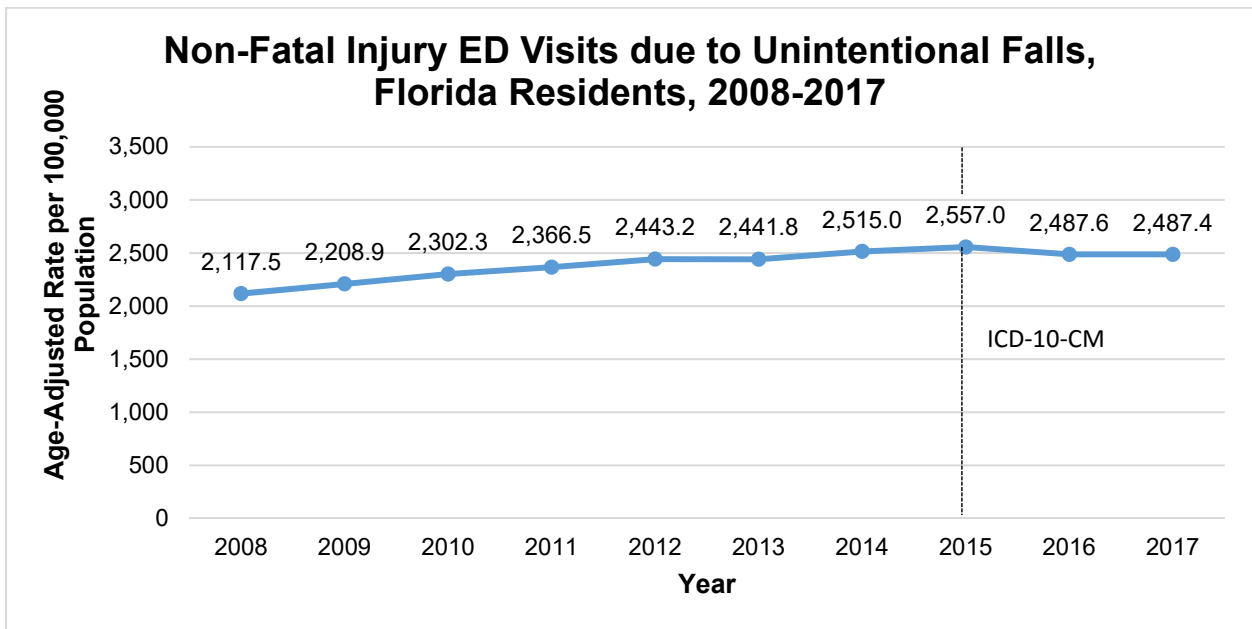
Data from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration shows that non-fatal injury hospitalizations² due to unintentional falls increased from a rate of 228.5 in 2008 to 248.9 per 100,000 population in 2017 (Graph 2), and emergency department (ED) visits³ increased from a rate of 2,117.5 to 2,487.4 per 100,000 population (Graph 3) during the same period.

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Graph 2



Graph 3



** Note: Effective October 1, 2015, hospital record coding system transitioned from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) transitioned to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM). Increases or decreases starting in 2015 could be a result of the coding change and not an actual difference in the number of events. Results may be subject to change.*

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Among external causes of death, unintentional falls were the leading cause of death for those 35 to 85+ years of age in 2016-2017⁴. Unintentional falls were the leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations and ED visits for those ages 0-14 and 45-85+ years of age and 0-14 and 35-85+ years of age, respectively. ED visit rates for those 85+ years of age (10,065.7 per 100,000 population) were higher compared to the other age groups during 2016-17 (Table 1).

Table 1

Unintentional Fall-Related Deaths, Hospitalizations, and ED Visits
Crude Rates per 100,000 Population, 2016-2017

Age Group	Death Rate	Hospitalization Rate	ED Visit Rate
<1	0.0	123.0	4,420.9
1-4	0.1	47.6	5,201.6
5-9	0.0	41.6	3,375.7
10-14	0.0	37.3	3,000.5
15-19	0.2	33.3	1,783.6
20-24	0.4	39.2	1,372.3
25-34	0.7	53.7	1,541.6
35-44	1.3	75.1	1,614.7
45-54	3.1	140.8	1,861.2
55-64	7.7	304.2	2,235.2
65-74	16.8	587.0	2,620.9
75-84	66.5	1,529.3	4,696.0
85+	290.2	4,067.1	10,065.7

Discussion

Data for years 2008 through 2017 show an increase in the rate of hospitalizations and ED visits due to unintentional falls. Death rates from unintentional falls continue to increase as well. Unintentional falls are a significant cause of morbidity across all age groups. While many interventions focus on falls prevention for older adults, given the increasing rate of falls in Florida, interventions for other age groups are also warranted.

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References

1. FLHealthCHARTS Unintentional Falls Death Indicator:
<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/DeathViewer.aspx?indNumber=0103>
2. FLHealthCHARTS Profile of Non-Fatal Hospitalizations:
<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.NonFatalInjuryHospitalizationsProfileDASHBOARD>
3. FLHealthCHARTS Profile of Non-Fatal Emergency Department Visits:
<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.NonFatalEDVisitsProfileDASHBOARD>
4. FLHealthCHARTS Death Count Query System:
<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/FLQUERY/Death/DeathCount.aspx>

Hospitalization and ED visit data for 2016-2017 were used in this analysis so that results would not be confounded by the change in International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding which occurred during 2015. Due to anticipated changes in the injury surveillance definitions used to analyze data for hospitalizations and ED visits, counts and rates may be subject to change.