

The Costs of Falls for Older Adults

the PROBLEM

In the United States

Older adults are hospitalized five times more often for fall-related injuries than any other injury.¹

Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries.²

In 2013 alone, about 25,000 older adults died from unintentional fall injuries.²

Each year, emergency departments treat about 2.5 million nonfatal fall injuries among older adults; more than 734,000 of these patients have to be hospitalized.²

In the United States

One out of three adults age 65 and over falls each year.

In New York

Every day because of a fall:
2 older New Yorkers die³

140 older New Yorkers are hospitalized³

223 older New Yorkers are seen in emergency departments³

Fall injuries among older adults are increasing!

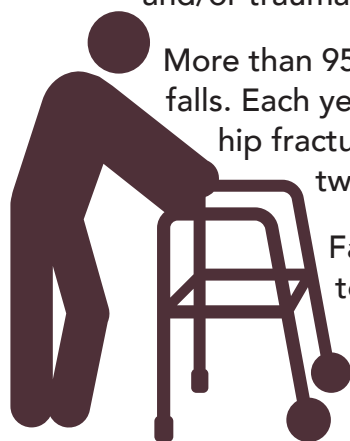
In New York State from 1999 to 2008:

Rate of fall-related deaths increased 15%³

Rate of fall-related hospitalizations increased 19%³

the IMPACT

Falls can result in injuries like cuts and bruises, fractures and/or traumatic brain injuries.⁴



More than 95% of hip fractures are caused by falls. Each year, there are more than 258,000 hip fractures. The rate for women is almost twice the rate for men.⁴

Falls are the leading cause of a move to skilled-care facilities.⁴

Falls involving a hip fracture lead to a 10-15% reduction in life expectancy.⁴

A person who falls has a greater chance of:

- Falling again
- Feeling less confident
- Becoming depressed and socially isolated
- Experiencing a loss of quality of life and physical function



In New York, among adults 65 and older who are hospitalized due to a fall:

60% end up in a nursing home or rehabilitation center⁵

11% suffer a traumatic brain injury⁵

27% experience a hip fracture⁵

the COST

In New York, falls account for:

\$1.7 billion in annual hospitalization charges³

\$145.3 million in annual outpatient emergency department charges³



Falls cost Americans about \$100 billion every year.⁶

Falls related injuries are one of the 20 most expensive medical conditions for older adults.⁷

In 2013, the total direct medical costs of fall injuries for people 65 and older was \$34 billion.⁷

65% of direct medical costs were for inpatient hospitalizations.⁷

On average, the hospitalization cost for a fall injury is \$35,000.⁷



Sources:

¹http://www.indiana.edu/~bioofag/module2/kw_unit3_HAA2/falls/content/01_03_impact.htm ²<http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/falls/adult-falls.html> ³https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/falls_in_older_adults_nys.htm ⁴http://www.indiana.edu/~bioofag/module2/kw_unit3_HAA2/falls/content/01_03_impact.htm ⁵https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injury_prevention/falls_in_older_adults_nys.htm ⁶http://www.indiana.edu/~bioofag/module2/kw_unit3_HAA2/falls/content/01_03_impact.htm ⁷<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/fallcost.html>