



Fall-Related Injuries in Allegheny County

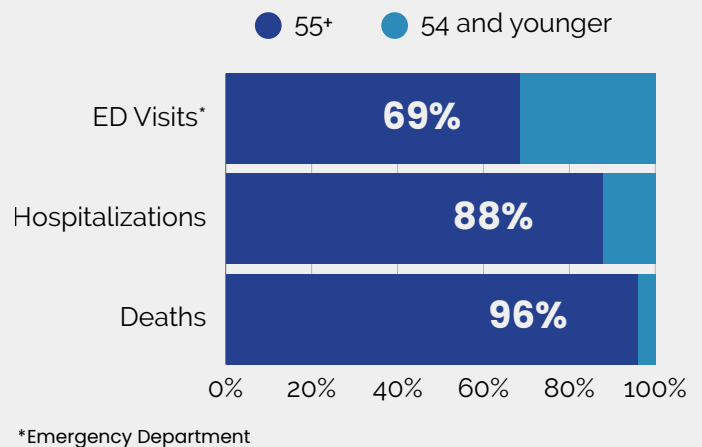
Introduction

Unintentional injuries are injuries that often can be prevented, like motor vehicle crashes, drowning, and falls. Allegheny County ranks #2 in the oldest average population age when compared to similar-sized counties, and aging is a common risk factor for fall-related injuries, providing the rationale for this data brief. This brief's goal is to increase awareness of local injury rates and to highlight rate disparities in vulnerable populations to inform target audiences: public health professionals, caregivers, and the public.

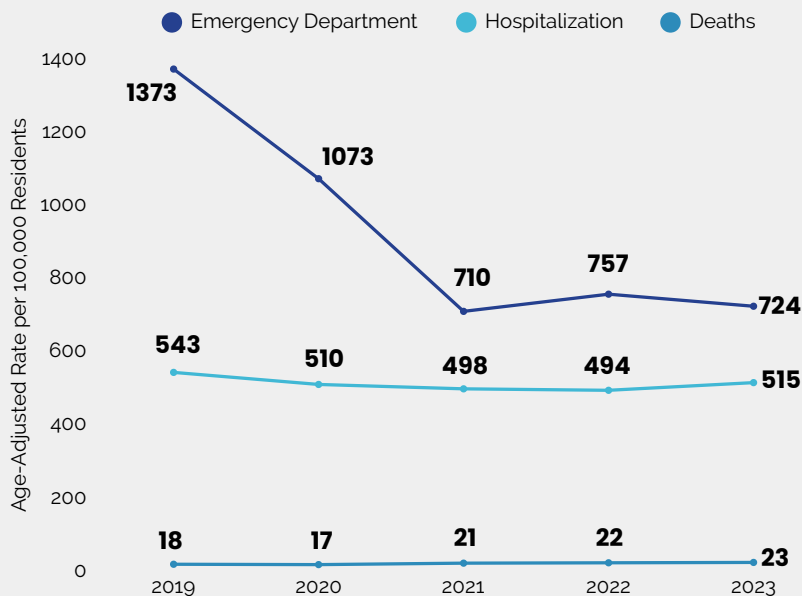
Fall-Related Injuries Among Older Adults

According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 4 U.S. older adults (55+) report falling at least once a year. Nearly 37% of reported injuries required medical treatment or restricted normal activity for more than 1 day. **The figure to the right shows that the majority of fall-related injuries requiring emergency medical intervention, inpatient hospitalization, and/or resulting in death occurred among Allegheny County residents ages 55 and older.**

Percent of fall-related injury burden among Allegheny County residents 55 and older, 2019-2023



Fall-Related Injury Rate by Data Source per 100,000 Allegheny County Residents



Trends Over Time

Fall-related hospitalization and death rates have remained consistent from 2019-2023. Emergency department (ED) visit rates were predictably higher than hospitalization and death rates; however, ED rates have significantly decreased since 2019. One possible explanation for this decrease is a shift in utilization from the ED to outpatient services, like Urgent Care centers.

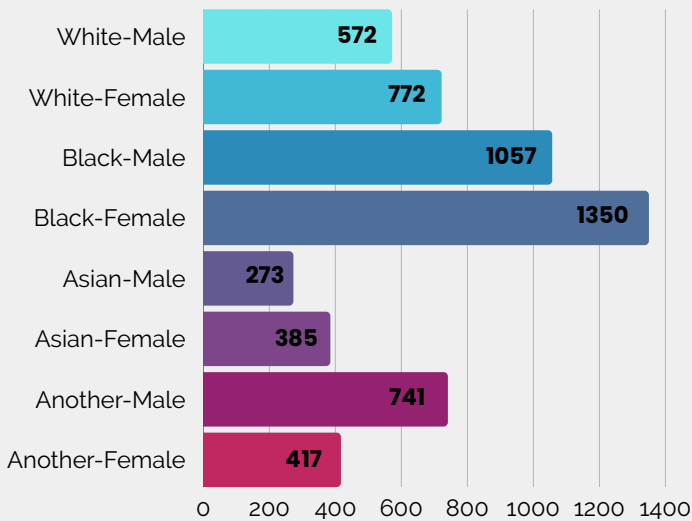
Where possible, rates were compared to state-level estimates (not pictured). Hospitalization and death rates in Allegheny County were significantly higher compared to Pennsylvania.

Surveillance Demographics

The following figures show 2023 fall-related injury rates by sex and race for each data source. The “another” racial group includes multiracial residents and anyone not identified as White, Black, or Asian. Groups with too few observations to calculate reliable rates are excluded from the figures.

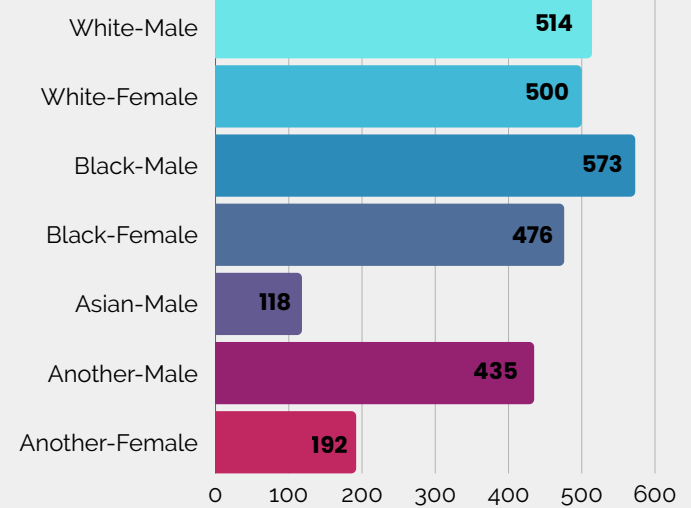
Emergency Department Visits

Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Residents



Inpatient Hospitalizations

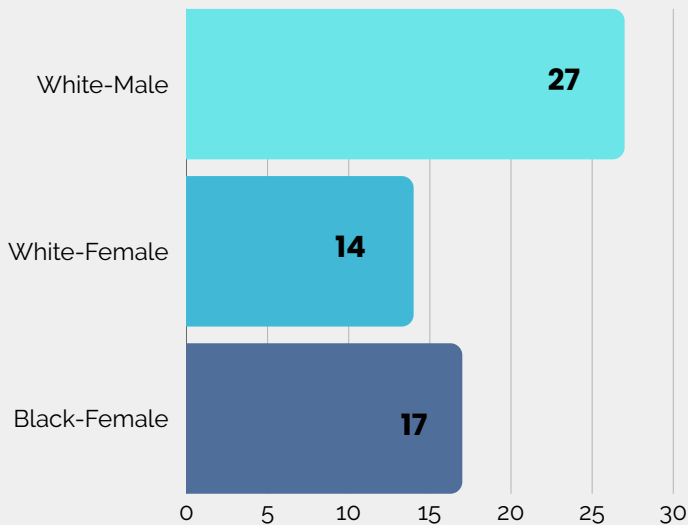
Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Residents*



*There were insufficient counts to calculate reliable death rates for Asian females in the data source.

Deaths

Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Residents*



*There were insufficient counts to calculate reliable death rates for all other race-sex combinations available in the data source.

Demographics Summary

- Female residents had higher ED visit rates compared to male residents for all racial groups except those of another race
- Male residents of all races had higher hospitalization rates compared to female residents
- Black residents had the highest fall-related ED visit rates
- White male residents had the highest rate of fall-related deaths
- Asian male residents had the lowest rates of fall-related ED visits and hospitalizations compared to all other groups with rates available

References

- [Common Injuries as We Age | Still Going Strong | CDC](#)
- [Older Adult Falls Data | Older Adult Fall Prevention | CDC](#)
- [Area Agency on Aging Annual Report](#)

Find Out More About Fall-Related Injuries

[StoryMap Link](#)

[Injury Prevention](#)