

2005-2009 Elder Falls Issue Brief

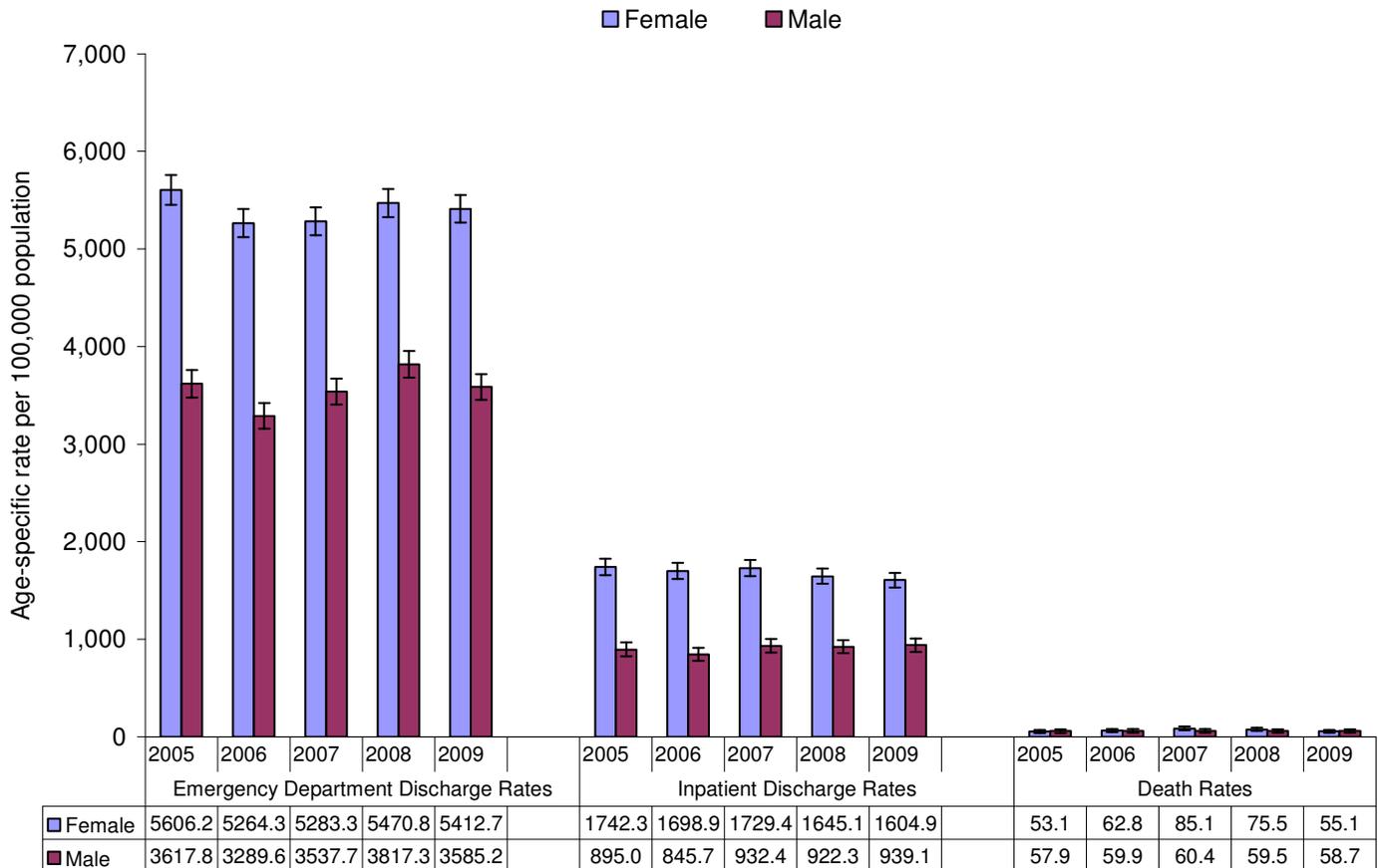
Two-thirds of NH residents over age 65 who suffer fall-related injuries are female. Within this elder age group, fatal falls occur most frequently in those 85 years old and older (48%). Among hospital discharges, patients in the 75 year and older age group comprise about 79% of the elder fall related injuries.

| Gender | Death Certificate Data | Emergency Department Discharges | Inpatient Hospital Discharges |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FEMALE | 58 (55%) | 5,693 (66%) | 1,688 (69%) |
| MALE | 47 (45%) | 2,871 (34%) | 752 (31%) |
| TOTAL | 105 (100%) | 8,564 (100%) | 2,440 (100%) |

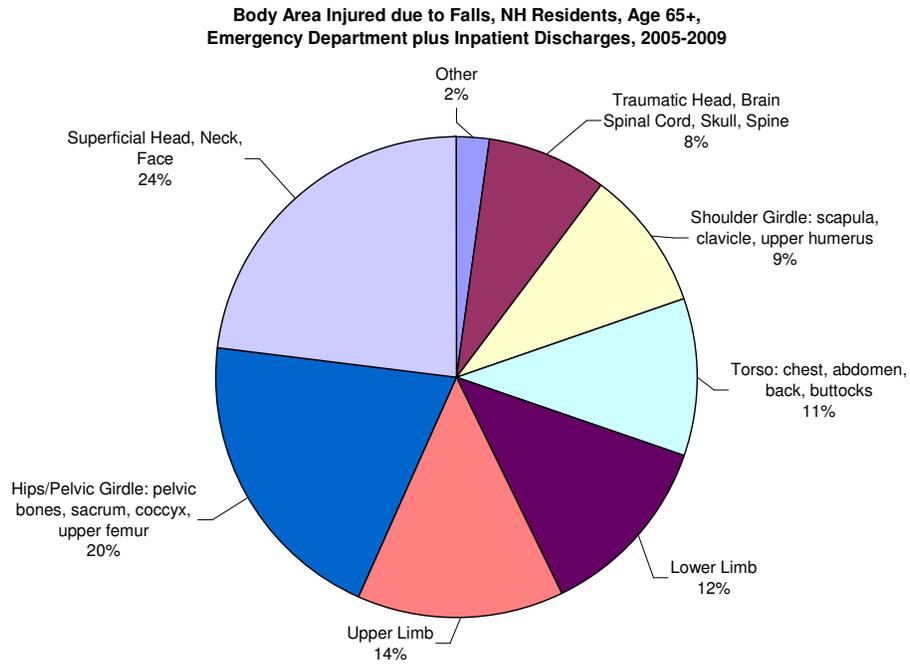
| Age Group | Death Certificate Data | Emergency Department Discharges | Inpatient Hospital Discharges |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 65 To 74 | 11 (10%) | 2,901 (34%) | 519 (21%) |
| 75 To 84 | 43 (41%) | 3,161 (37%) | 957 (39%) |
| 85 Plus | 51 (48%) | 2,502 (29%) | 964 (40%) |
| TOTAL | 105 (100%) | 8,564 (100%) | 2,440 (100%) |

Between 2005 and 2009 there were no statistically significant changes in emergency department or inpatient hospital discharge rates or death rates.

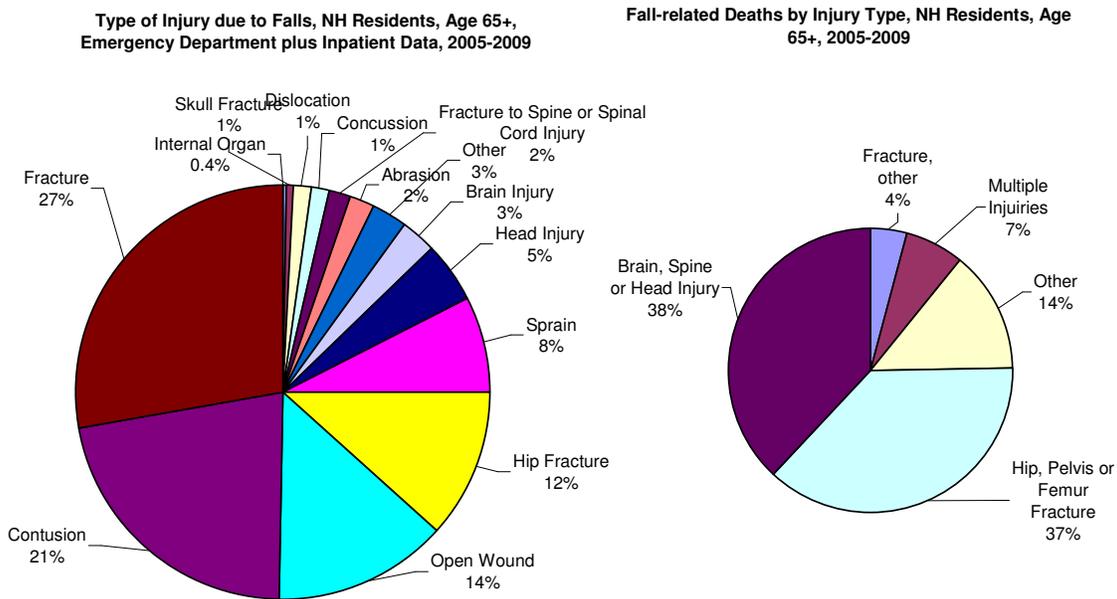
Fall-related Injury Rates, NH Residents, Age 65+, by Year and Gender, 2005-2009



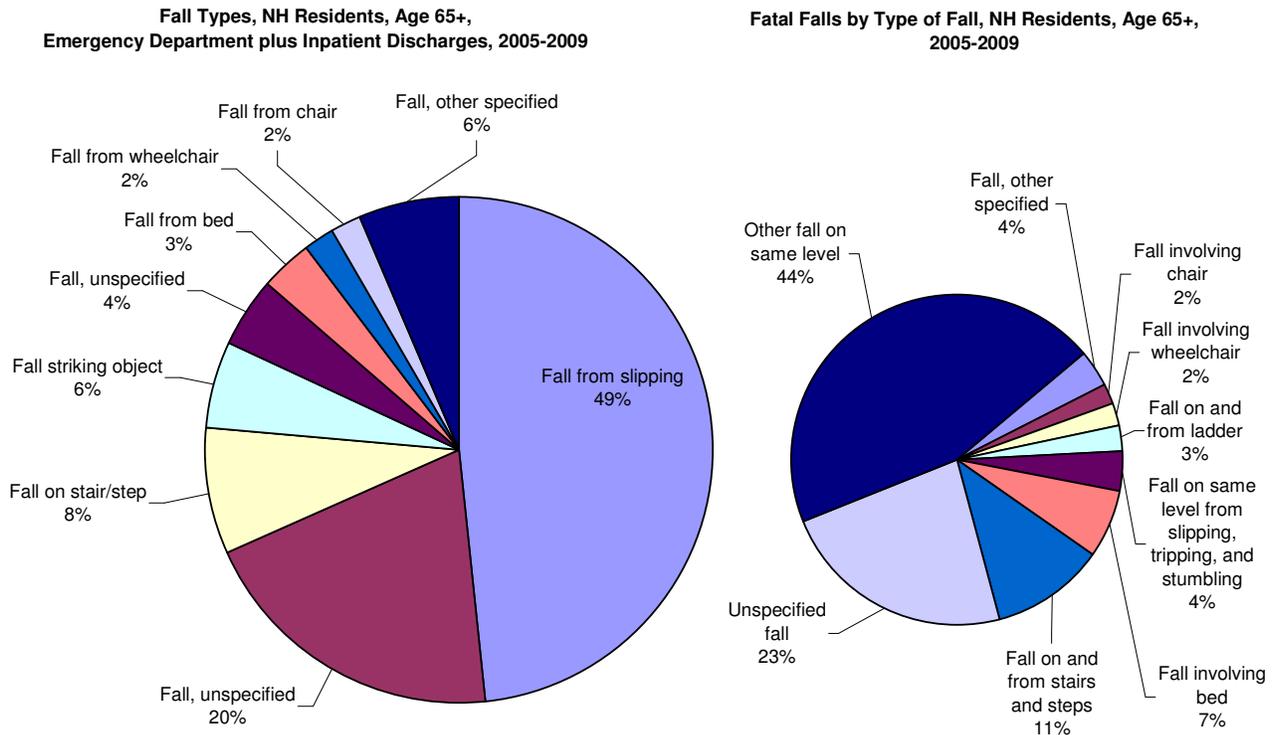
The most common area of the body injured during a fall on NH residents over 65 years old was superficial injuries to the head, face, and neck (24%) followed by the hip area, including the pelvic bones and upper leg at the hip joint (20%). (The data for this pie chart includes all fall events from inpatient and emergency department discharges.)



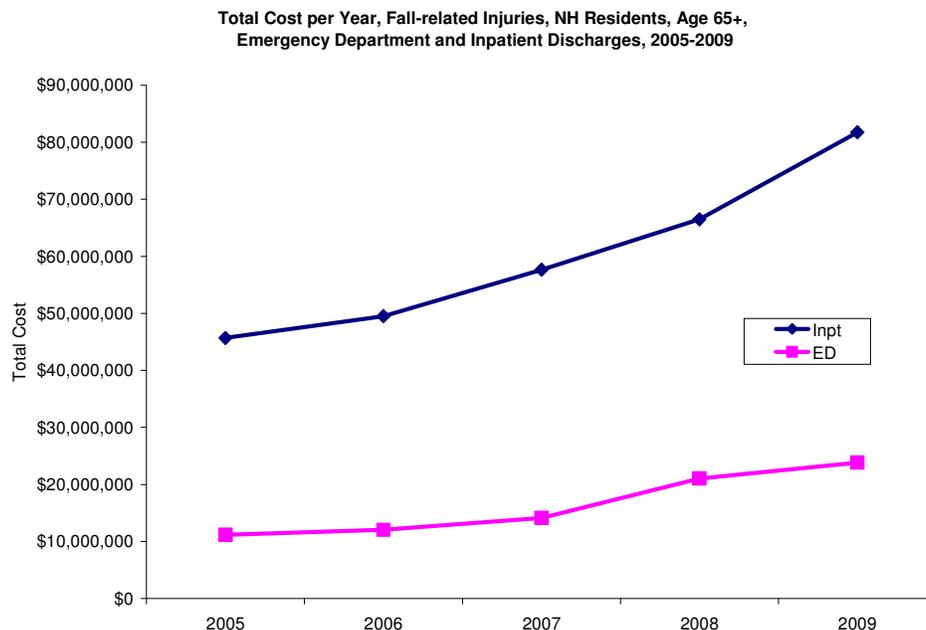
The most common type of non-fatal injury due to falls in the elder population is fractures (12% Hip Fracture and 27% other areas). Fall-related deaths involved 38% brain, spine and head injuries and 37% hip, pelvis or femur fractures.



Between 2005 and 2009, the most common type of fall that led to a hospital visit among the elder population was slipping (49%). The most common type of fatal fall was a fall on the same level (44%).



Total approximate costs for New Hampshire inpatient hospitalizations in 2009 were \$81.7 million dollars and for emergency department visits \$23.9 million dollars. Between 2005 and 2009, the average cost for a fall-related emergency department visit was \$1,959 per patient (range \$0 to \$58,018), and for an inpatient stay, the cost per patient was \$25,047 (range \$0 to \$705,415). It is important to keep in mind that these hospital fees may include treatment for other chronic diseases, such as diabetes or heart disease, which may have been the precipitator to the fall.



Data Source: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Maternal and Child Health Section (MCH), Injury Surveillance Program. For more information contact: JoAnne Miles, MPH, joanne.e.miles@dhhs.state.nh.us, 603-271-5384 or Rhonda Siegel, MEd, rsiegel@dhhs.state.nh.us, 603-271-4700.