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Quick Facts & Stats

Falls and Elderly People

Among people 65 years and older, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.

1.8 million

seniors ages 65 and older who were treated in emergency departments (EDs) for fall-related injuries in 2003.

421,000

seniors ages 65 and older who were hospitalized as a result of a fall in 2003.

\$179 million

in direct medical costs for fatal falls in 2000.

\$19.3 billion

direct medical costs for nonfatal fall injuries in 2000.

10-15 times

increased likelihood of sustaining a fall-related hip fracture for people ages 85 years and older compared with people ages 60 to 65.

13,000

people ages 65 and older who died from fall-related injuries in 2002.

33%

of adults ages 65 years and older fall each year.

80%

of all hip fractures are sustained by women.

~338,000

hospital admissions were for hip fractures in 1999.

Reference

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Preventing falls among older adults. NCIPC Web site: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/preventadultfalls.htm. Updated August 26, 2006. Accessed November 8, 2007.