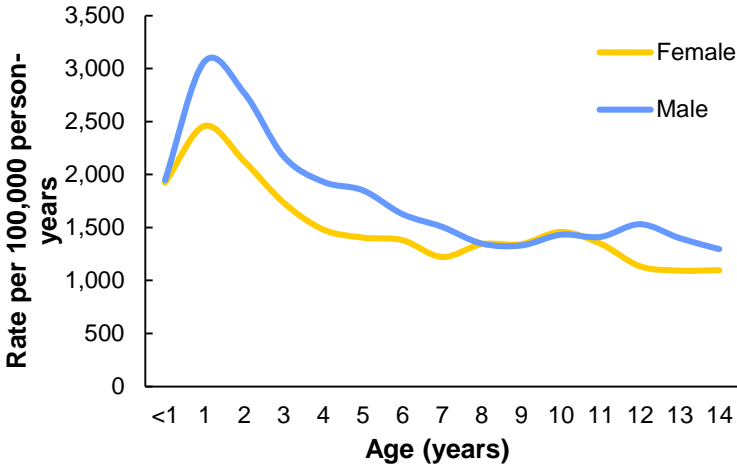


NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR INJURIES DUE TO FALLS AMONG CHILDREN ≤ 14 YEARS OF AGE

The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection tool (NC DETECT) provides public health officials and hospital users with the capacity for statewide early event detection and timely public health surveillance. Through NC DETECT, users can access near real-time data from North Carolina acute care emergency departments (EDs), the Carolinas Poison Center (CPC), and the Pre-Hospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). NC DETECT data from ED visits have become increasingly important for the surveillance of injury morbidity in North Carolina. NC DETECT is funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH). This document summarizes 2012 ED visits with an external cause of injury code (E-code) for an unintentional fall among children ≤ 14 years of age.

Rates of North Carolina ED visits due to falls among children ≤ 14 years of age, 2012



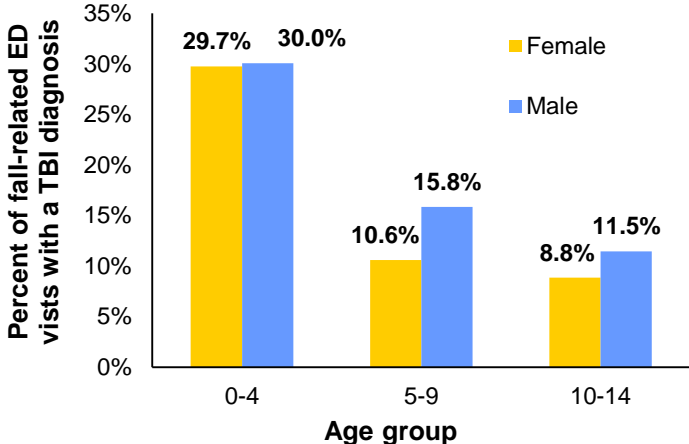
- In 2012, there were 31,204 ED visits with E-codes for unintentional falls among children ≤ 14 years of age. Among the 196,856 ED visits due to injuries in this age group, nearly 16% were due to falls.

- In 2012, there were 1,633 NC ED visits due to falls per 100,000 person-years among children ≤ 14 years of age. This rate was higher than the rates observed for the last two years.

- Rates were higher among boys (1,765 ED visits per 100,000 person-years) than among girls (1,495 ED visits per 100,000 person-years). Rates were highest for children one year of age.

Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) among children ≤ 14 years of age, 2012

- TBIs are common fall-related injuries among children ≤ 14 years of age. Overall, about 20% of fall-related ED visits had a diagnosis code indicating a TBI.
- The percent of ED visits with TBIs was highest for both girls and boys 0-4 years of age.
- Boys 5-14 years of age had a higher percentage of TBIs related to falls than girls in the same age group.



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.
 NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
 NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) / www.ncdetect.org / 919-843-2361
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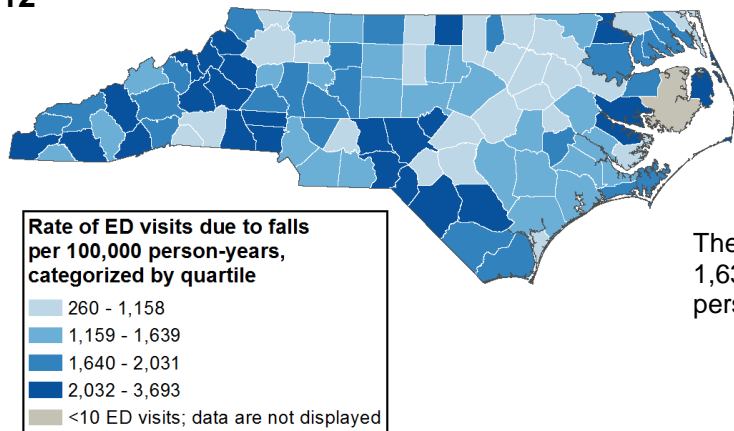
Most common activities associated with falls for children ≤ 14 years of age*

- In 2012, about 15% of ED visits contained a supplementary E-code indicating the activity that resulted in the child seeking health care for injuries sustained in a fall.
- The three most common activities were: 1) running, 2) roller skating and skateboarding, and 3) trampoline.
- The NC counties with the highest rates of ED visits due to falls (visits per 100,000 person-years in parentheses) were Mitchell (3,693), McDowell (3,602), Avery (3,561), Caldwell (2,837), and Transylvania counties (2,789).

*For ED visits with multiple E-codes for activities, the first-listed code was selected

| Activity | Number of ED visits |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Running | 659 |
| 2. Roller skating and skateboarding | 527 |
| 3. Trampoline | 344 |
| 4. Walking, marching, and hiking | 338 |
| 5. Basketball | 293 |
| 6. American tackle football | 219 |
| 7. Bathing and showering | 155 |
| 8. Soccer | 152 |
| 9. Other activity involving climbing and jumping off | 144 |
| 10. Rough housing and horseplay | 132 |
| Other specified activity | 1,585 |

Population-based rates of ED visits due to falls among children ≤ 14 years of age by North Carolina county, 2012



The 2012 rate for NC was 1,633 ED visits per 100,000 person-years.

Prevention Strategies

- Close supervision of young children and infants by their parents and caregivers is an important means of preventing falls and other injuries. Pay attention to children when they are playing on or near elevated surfaces (such as porches and balconies), windows, or playground equipment.
- Make sure that your stairs and walkways are safe for young children. Stairways should have handrails on both sides, be well lit, and free from clutter. If there is a toddler in the home, install safety gates to prevent access to the stairs.
- In order to prevent TBIs related to falls, encourage helmet use by children who are roller skating and skateboarding.

For more information on preventing injuries due to falls please visit the NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website at www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov or visit www.injuryfreenc.org.



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