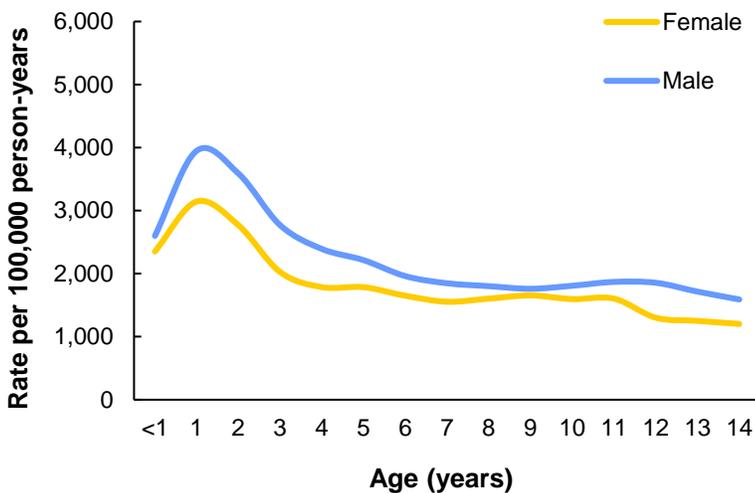


NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR INJURIES DUE TO FALLS AMONG CHILDREN ≤ 14 YEARS OF AGE

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 state poison control center, and the statewide EMS data system. 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 2017 ED visits with a diagnosis code for unintentional fall (as defined on ncdetect.org) among children ≤ 14 years of age.*

Rates of North Carolina ED visits due to falls among children ≤ 14 years of age, 2017



Missing: <15 visits missing sex or age.

- In 2017, there were 38,487 ED visits with codes for unintentional falls among children ≤ 14 years of age. Among the 179,915 ED visits due to injuries in this age group, 21% were due to falls.

- There were more falls-related ED visits among boys (21,645 visits) than among girls (16,817 visits).

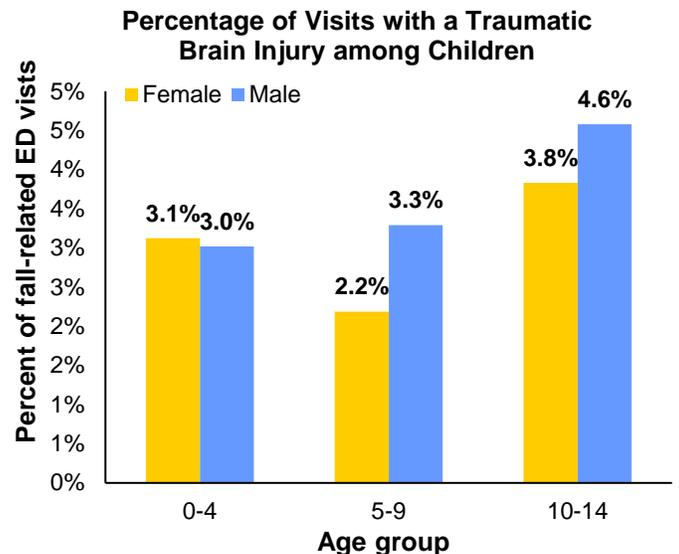
- Rates were higher among boys (2,232 ED visits per 100,000 person-years) than among girls (1,805 ED visits per 100,000 person-years). Rates were highest for children one year of age.

Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) among children ≤ 14 years of age with an unintentional fall, 2017

- TBIs are common fall-related injuries among children ≤ 14 years of age. Overall, about 3.3% of fall-related ED visits had a diagnosis code indicating a TBI.

- The percent of unintentional fall ED visits with TBIs was highest for both girls and boys 10-14 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.



Missing: <15 visits missing sex or age.

* An unintentional fall is defined following the case definition laid out on ncdetect.org. For questions about the methods used to generate this fact sheet, please email ncdetect@listserv.med.unc.edu.

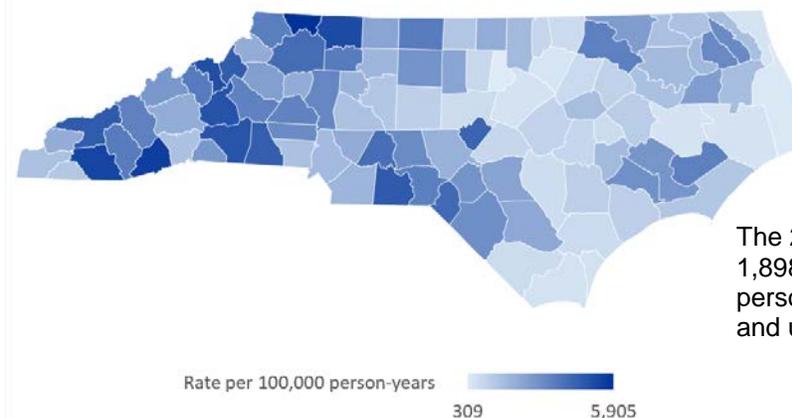
Most common activities associated with falls for children ≤ 14 years of age*

- In 2017, about 31% of ED visits contained a supplementary Y93 code indicating the activity that resulted in the child seeking health care for injuries sustained in a fall.
- The three most common activities among children were: 1) running, 2) trampolining, and 3) American tackle football.
- The NC counties with the highest rates of ED visits due to falls (visits per 100,000 person-years in parentheses) were, Alleghany (5,905), Transylvania (5,535), Macon (5,331), Surry (5,170), and Mitchell counties (5,042).

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

Activity	Number of ED visits
1. Running	1,653
2. Trampolining	718
3. American tackle football	700
4. Basketball	669
5. Other activity involving climbing and jumping off	621
6. Roller skating (inline), skateboarding	582
7. Walking, marching, and hiking	408
8. Soccer	359
9. Gymnastics	153
10. Rough housing and horseplay	152
Other/unspecified activity	5,776

Population-based rates of ED visits due to falls among children ≤ 14 years of age by North Carolina county, 2017



The 2017 rate for NC was 1,898 ED visits per 100,000 person-years for children 14 and under.

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 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 stairs.
- In order to prevent TBIs related to falls, encourage helmet use by children who are bicycling, roller skating, or 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.



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2015.
 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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