



Defiance County General Health District Epidemiology Assessment

4th Quarter Report

January 3, 2018

Senior Falls by Month (2016-2017)

Table 1. Number of fall-related ED visits by month for Defiance County residents¹

Month	2016	2017
January	21	33
February	41	34
March	39	33
April	31	30
May	42	34
June	34	33
July	40	38
August	29	42
September	34	36
October	33	49
November	25	55
December	41	38
Total	410	455

Figure 1. Trend of fall-related ED visits, ages 65+, 2013-2017¹

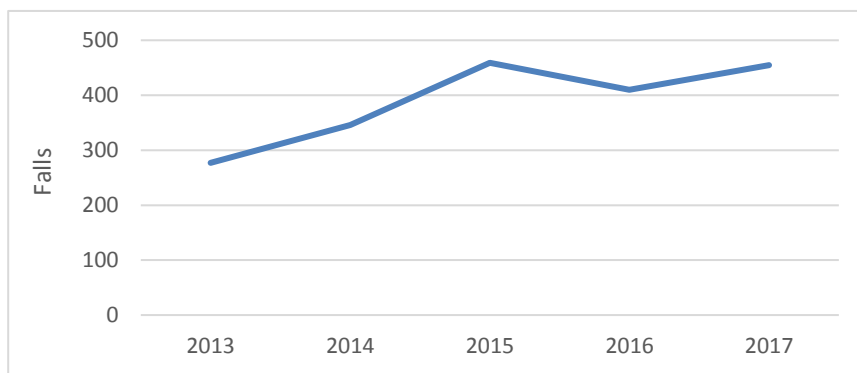
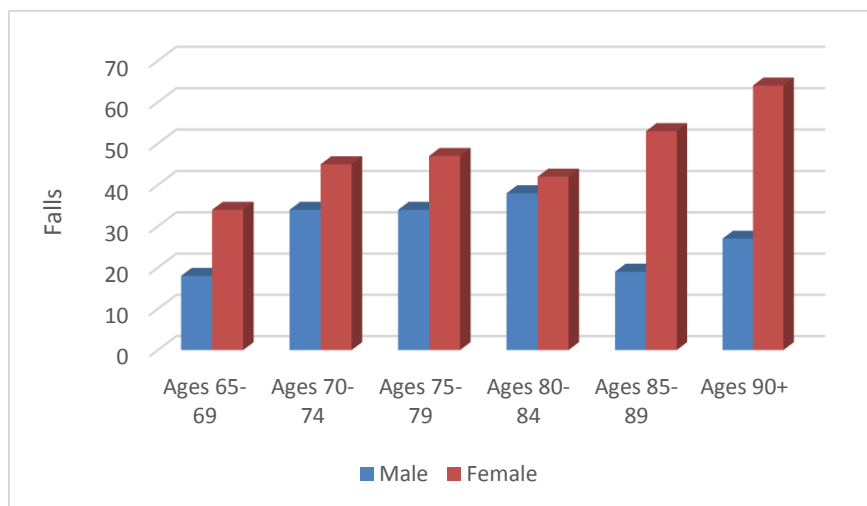


Figure 2. Falls by Age Group and Gender, 2017¹



Falls Among the Elderly

This report was created as a surveillance effort to help understand the needs of the community concerning senior falls. A fall can occur due to one of or a combination of risk factors such as decline in physical fitness, impaired vision, use of certain medications, and environmental hazards³. Seniors are defined in this report as adults ages 65 years and older. Table 1 displays the total number of emergency department (ED) visits coded as falls from all Defiance County hospital ED records. Overall, the number of fall related ED visits were higher in 2017 than 2016. There were on average 38 falls related ED visits each month, with eighty-four percent being females. The month with the highest number of falls were in November. In 2017, there were 285 emergency medical service (EMS) runs, where a EMS team was dispatched to a resident's home and assisted an individual that fell². In the same year, the total known senior falls in Defiance County including both ED visits and EMS runs were 740 falls^{1,2}.

1. ED visits coded as falls are derived from data in the Epicenter and represent only those reported in the system. These data are provisional and subject to change when additional data are reported. All data is on Defiance County residents, including residents who may have sought medical help at a hospital outside of Defiance County. Falls are selected based on codes at diagnosis. Data reported as of 1/2/2018. 2. Defiance Fire and Rescue Division, EMS 3. CDC. (2017) Important Facts about Falls. Retrieved <https://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationsafety/falls/adultfalls.html>