



# Defiance County General Health District Epidemiology Assessment

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report  
April 5, 2018

## Senior Falls by Month (2017-2018)

Table 1. Number of fall-related ED visits by month for Defiance County residents 65 years and older<sup>1</sup>

Month	2017	2018	% Change (+/-)
January	33	42	
February	34	49	
March	33	39	
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	100	130	+30

## Falls Among the Elderly

This report was created as a surveillance effort to help understand the needs of the community concerning senior falls. 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. In the first quarter of 2018, there were approximately 130 fall-related ED visits in residents 65 years and older. Sixty-five percent of the falls were females.

There were 98 emergency medical service (EMS) runs, where an EMS team was dispatched to a resident's home and assisted an individual that fell in Defiance City<sup>2</sup>. Seventy-six percent of the falls were transported to the hospital for further assessment.

## Costs Associated with Falls Among Older Adults, Ages 65+, Ohio 2014

Falls are one of the leading causes of fatal and nonfatal unintentional injuries in Ohio. Most fatal and non-fatal injuries occur among adults age 65 or older.

	# of Injuries	Medical Cost	Work Loss Cost
Deaths <sup>3</sup>	1,160	\$29,861,000	\$132,340,000
Hospitalizations <sup>4</sup>	19,461	\$799,676,000	\$587,105,000
ED Visits <sup>4</sup>	81,275	\$26,411,000	\$114,898,000
Total	101,896	\$1,093,648,000	\$834,343,000

The death rates and ED visit rates for falls have been increasing in the past ten years in Ohio. The lifetime costs associated with unintentional fall injuries in 2014 among Ohio residents ages 65 and older are estimated to be nearly 2 billion dollars<sup>3,4</sup>. Most of the costs were associated with injuries requiring hospitalization<sup>4</sup>. In 2017, in Defiance County there were 8 fall related deaths<sup>3</sup>. Eighty-eight percent of the fall deaths were females.

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 4/2/2018. 2. Defiance Fire and Rescue Division, EMS 3. ODH Vital Statistics 4. Ohio Hospital Association