



Defiance County General Health District Epidemiology Assessment

2nd Quarter Report
July 20, 2017

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		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total	208	197

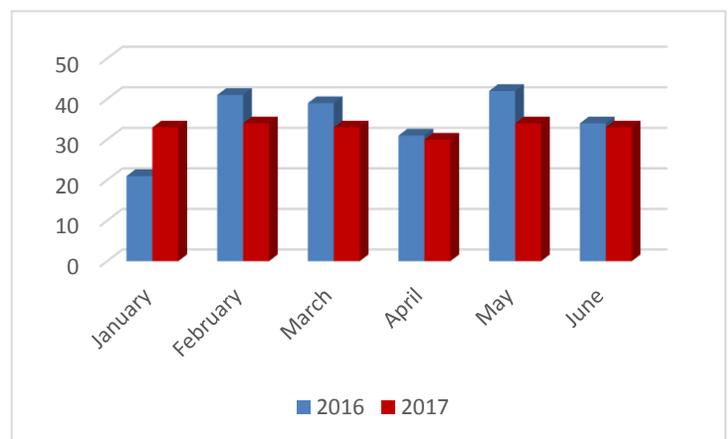
Falls and Physical Activity

Many elder adults are afraid of falling. This fear may lead individuals to avoid activities such as exercising, gardening, and attending social activities. Starting in 2016, Defiance County Public Health facilitated their first Matter of Balance (MOB) class. MOB is a program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. At the beginning of the program, an entry questionnaire is completed by all participants. One question assesses, *“to what extent has your concern about falling interfered with your normal social activities with family, friend, neighbors or groups”*. Eleven out of nineteen seniors reported their concern for falls was extremely, quite a bit or moderately interfering with their social activities.

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. During the second quarter in 2016 compared to 2017, there were no significant difference in the number of fall-related ED visits. In 2017, in the second quarter, there were 49 emergency medical service (EMS) runs, where a EMS team was dispatched to a resident’s home and assisted an individual that fell². In the second quarter of 2017, the total known senior falls in Defiance County including both ED visits and EMS runs are 146 falls.

Table 2. Comparisons of ED Visits for Falls ages 65+, 2016-2017



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 4/5/2017.

² Defiance Fire and Rescue Division, EMS

³ National Institute of Health, Falls and Older Adults. 2017