



Defiance County General Health District

Epidemiology Assessment

1st Quarter Report

April 5, 2021

Senior Falls by Month

Table 1. Number of fall-related ED visits by month for Defiance County residents 65 years and older¹

Month	2021	5-Year Average (2014-2019)
January	35	37
February	42	39
March	37	35
April		30
May		37
June		37
July		38
August		38
September		39
October		40
November		38
December		44
Total		451

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 estimated number of emergency department (ED) visits coded as falls from all Defiance County hospital ED records.

In the fourth quarter, there were 95 emergency medical service (EMS) runs, where an EMS team was dispatched to a resident's home and assisted an individual that was 65 years or older that fell in Defiance City². Fifty-three percent of the falls were transported to the hospital for further assessment².

Facts about Falls in Ohio³

- While residents age 65 and older make up 18% of our population, they account for more than 87% of fatal falls.
- In 2019, on average, four adults age 65 and older died each day as the result of a fall.
- From 2010 to 2019, the annual number of fall-related deaths among older adults increased by 55%.
- In 2019, the rate of fall-related deaths among Ohioans age 65 and older was 75.7 falls per 100,000 residents.
- In 2019, women made up 55% of fall-related deaths, compared to 45% for men. However, men had a higher rate of fall-related deaths than women (87.4 deaths per 100,000 men vs. 67.4 deaths per 100,000 women).

1. ED visits coded as falls are derived from data in the ESSENCE 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 4/5/2021. 2. Defiance Fire and Rescue Division, EMS. 3. Ohio Department of Health, 2019 Facts about Falls in Ohio