

# TX Injury Data Brief

May 2017



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

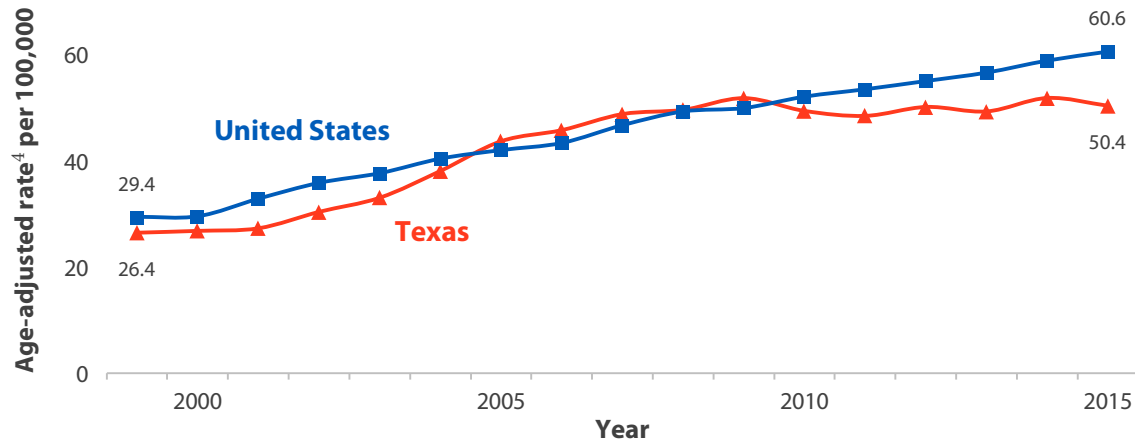
Texas Department of State  
Health Services

Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Branch

## Unintentional falls among adults aged 65 years and older in Texas

Unintentional falls are a leading cause of injury in Texas and the United States. Among adults in Texas aged 65 years and older, nearly one-third have fallen in the last year.<sup>1</sup> The following brief summarizes the burden of unintentional falls (“falls”) for the 3.2 million Texans in the 65 and older population, using the most recent data available<sup>2</sup> for fall deaths and hospitalizations.

### Fall death trends - Texas vs. United States, 1999-2015



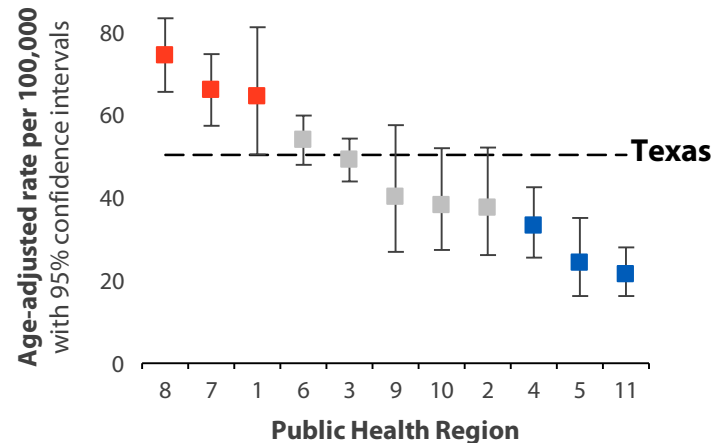
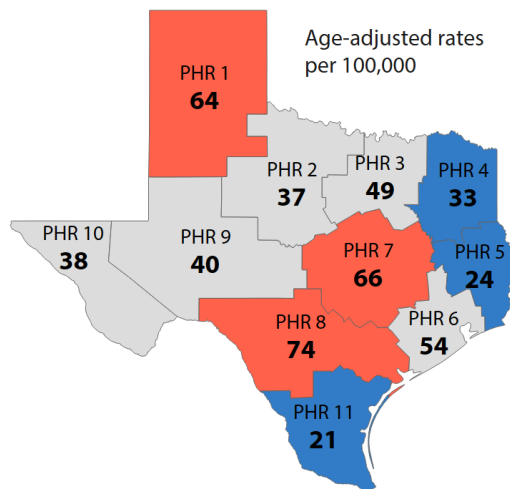
### Rates of fall-related deaths have increased over time

Fatal falls have increased significantly over time in both Texas and the United States. Since 2006, the annual percent increase in Texas has slowed to less than 1%, one-third the national annual percent increase of 3%.<sup>3</sup>

### Texas fall facts

- Death rates due to falls among Texans 65 years and older varied among Public Health Regions. Regions 8, 7, and 1 had rates **higher** than the state while regions 4, 5, and 11 had rates **lower** than the state as a whole.
- In 2015, 48% of fall-related deaths indicated a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Men had a TBI rate twice that for women.
- In 2014, 16% of fall-related hospitalizations (5,732) were for a TBI.

### Fall death rates by Texas Public Health Region, 2015

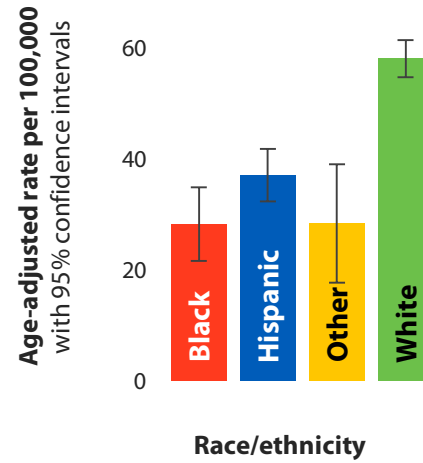
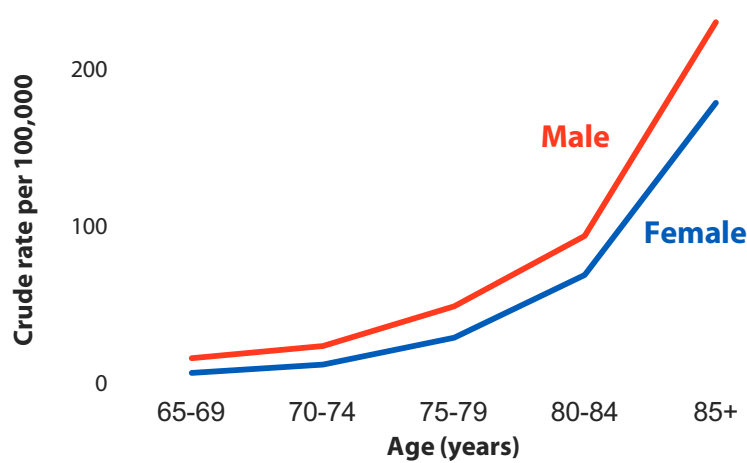


#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>CDC 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. <sup>2</sup>Fatal injury data: CDC WISQARS; Fall hospitalizations: Texas hospital inpatient public use data file. <sup>3</sup>JoinPoint Regression Program, Version 4.4.0.0 - January 2017; Statistical Methodology and Applications Branch, Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute. <sup>4</sup>The 2000 US Standard Population was used to calculate age-adjusted rates.



### Fall death demographic characteristics - Texas, 2015



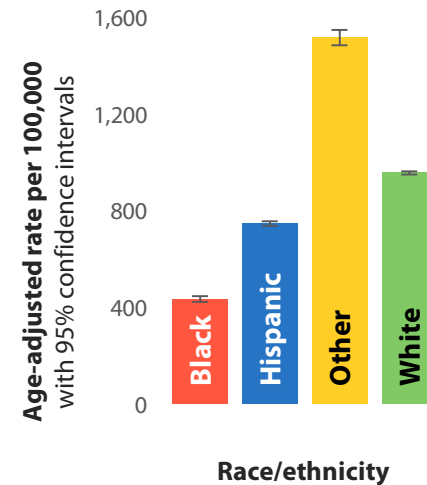
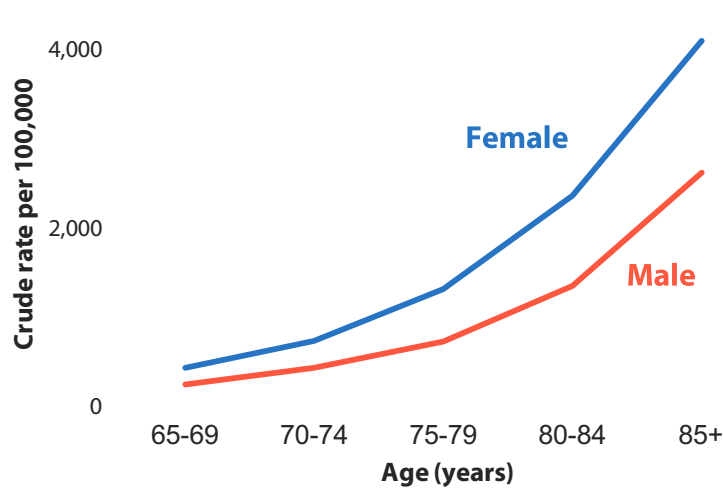
### Fall-related death rates increase with age and are greater among males

In 2015, there were 1,495 unintentional fall-related deaths among Texans 65 years and older. For every age group, men had higher rates of fatal fall injuries than women. The fall death rate among Whites was higher than for other groups.

#### Race/ethnicity abbreviations

**Black:** Non-Hispanic Black or African-American; **Hispanic:** Hispanic of any race; **Other:** Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native or Asian/Pacific Islander; **White:** Non-Hispanic White

### Fall hospitalization demographic characteristics - Texas, 2014



### Fall-related hospitalization rates increase with age and are greater among females

In 2014, there were 36,337 unintentional fall-related inpatient hospitalizations among Texans 65 years and older; 999 (3%) of these hospitalizations resulted in a confirmed death. For each age group, women had higher rates of hospitalization due to falls than men. For both men and women, the rate of hospitalization due to falls increased with increasing age. Blacks had the lowest rate of fall hospitalizations, followed by Hispanics.