



# Austin Public Health

## Data Brief

### Fall-related Deaths and Hospitalizations due to Falls, Travis County



#### A Growing Concern

Unintentional falls, especially among the elderly, are a growing public health concern in Travis County. Injuries from unintentional falls are preventable. This data brief summarizes deaths by falls and hospitalizations due to falls among Travis County residents.

Between 2006 and 2015, there were over 1,000 deaths by falls in Travis County (figure 1). Those adults older than 64 years of age have the highest mortality rate from unintentional falls (*2017 Critical Health Indicators Report*). The mortality rate increases with age, with those 85 years and older having the highest death rates.

Figure 1. Fall-related Mortality by Year, Travis County, 2006 - 2015

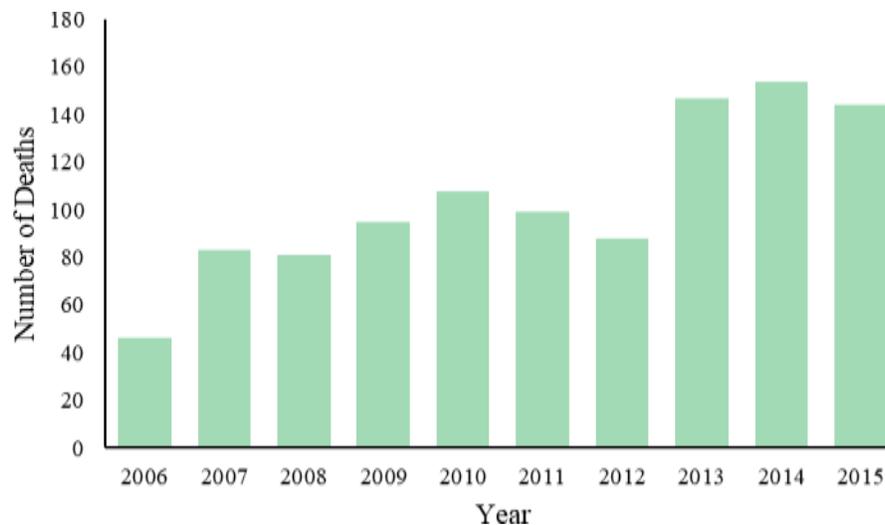


Table 1. Fall-related Mortality by Gender and Age Group, Travis County, 2006 - 2015

Characteristics	Number	Percent	
<b>Gender</b>	Male	483	46%
	Female	562	54%
<b>Age Group (in years)</b>	< 24	10	1%
	25-34	11	1%
	35-44	16	2%
	45-54	44	4%
	55-64	77	7%
	65-74	114	11%
	75-84	275	26%
85 and older	498	48%	



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Data on hospitalizations for Travis County residents for the years 2010 – 2014 were obtained and analyzed. For the five year period, there were 6,716 hospitalizations due to falls.

Table 2. Hospitalizations due to Falls, Travis County, 2010 - 2014

Characteristics		Number	Percent
<b>Total Count</b>		6,716	
<b>Sex</b>	Male	2,207	38%
	Female	3,662	62%
<b>Age Group (in years)</b>	0-17	285	4%
	18-44	824	12%
	45-64	1,441	21%
	65-74	972	14%
	75 and older	3,194	48%
<b>Patient Status on Discharge</b>	To home or self-care (routine discharge)	2,566	39%
	To skilled nursing facility	1,595	24%
	To inpatient rehabilitations facility	1,432	22%
	To home health service	590	9%
	Died	132	2%
	Other	329	5%
<b>Charges</b>	Total (for years 2010-2014)	\$397,044,305	
	Average	\$59,119	
<b>Average Length of Stay</b>		4.7 Days	
<b>Payment Sources</b>	Medicare	4,266	64%
	Uninsured	678	10%
	Private Health Insurance	862	13%
	Medicaid	293	4%
	Other	612	9%

Data source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data.

Missing frequency: sex (847), discharge status (72), payment sources (5).

### Fall Prevention Resources:

Austin-Travis County EMS Fall Prevention Program: 512-972-SAFE (7233)  
 Email: [EMSPubEd@austintexas.gov](mailto:EMSPubEd@austintexas.gov)  
[www.austintexas.gov/EMS](http://www.austintexas.gov/EMS)

CDC Injury Center: <https://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/falls/adultfalls.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/falls/programs.html>  
 For clinicians: STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents Deaths & Injuries): [www.cdc.gov/steadi](http://www.cdc.gov/steadi)