

Unintentional Falls

In Kansas, unintentional falls are the leading cause of injury related to hospitalizations. In FY 2006, unintentional falls were the second leading cause of injury deaths.

- In 2006, 217 people were killed and approximately 7,500 were hospitalized due to fall related injuries.
- Women are approximately 2 times more likely to be hospitalized due to unintentional fall related injuries than are men.
- In 2006, older adults were at highest risk for fatal unintentional falls.
 - Kansans ages 85 years and above had the highest rates of unintentional fall related deaths with approximately 140 deaths per 100,000 population.
 - Kansans ages 75-84 years had the second highest rates of unintentional fall related deaths with approximately 55 deaths per 100,000 population.
 - Kansans ages 65-74 years and above had the third highest rates of unintentional fall related deaths with approximately 15 deaths per 100,000 population.
- Unintentional falls killed older adults ages 65 years and above more than any other cause of injury.

Prevention Notes

Risk Factors include: muscle weakness, prior history of falls, difficulties with gait and balance, visual impairment, arthritis, functional limitations, depression, and the use of psychotropic medications.

Older adults: Stay active, have regular eye exams, keep clutter out of home, and wear proper footwear.

Babies and Young Children: Watch all children closely; keep all close windows locked; consider installing window guards; choose safe play equipment for children; and install gates at the top and bottom of stairs.

***Mission:** Build Solid Infrastructure to Improve the Health of Kansans by Increasing Awareness & Action to Reduce Unintentional and Intentional Injuries.*