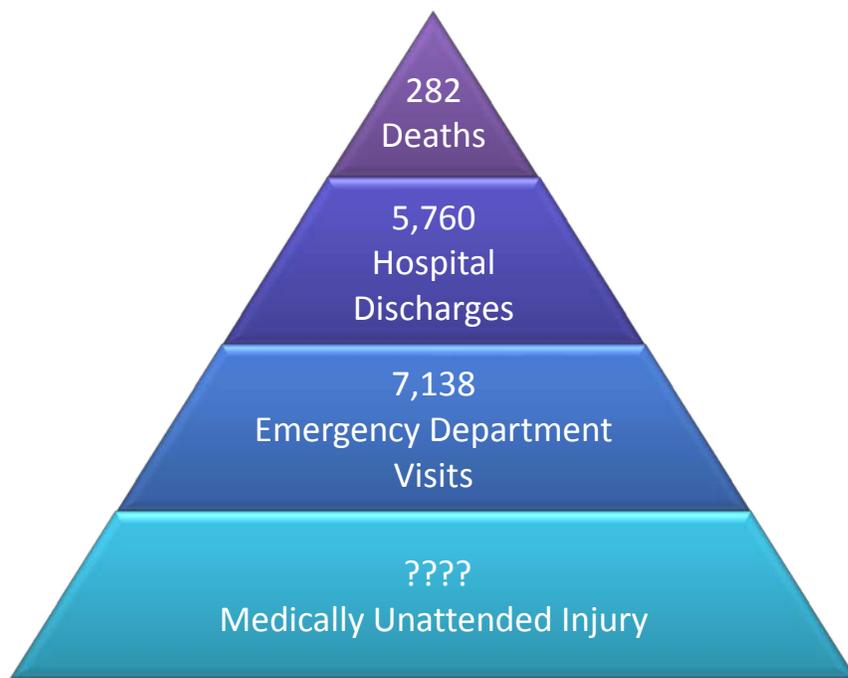




Kansas Falls Facts

- In Kansas in 2009 falls led to 7,822 hospital discharges (a stay of longer than 24 hours in a hospital).
 - Seniors (65 Years and older) made up 74% (5,760) of the fall related hospital discharges
 - Women made up 66% of all falls related hospital discharges
 - **The rate of hospital discharges due to falls among seniors, 1,567 fall related hospital discharges per 100,000 population, was more than 53 times higher than those who were 15-24 years of age (30 fall related hospital discharges per 100,000 population).**
- There were 321 deaths in Kansas in 2009 that were due to falls
 - Seniors (65 years and older) made up 88% of all fall related deaths
- In 2009, hospital discharges due to falls were more than those for motor vehicle, poisonings, burns, and drownings combined

Fall Deaths Among Seniors (65 years and older) are Only the Tip of the Iceberg



Fall injuries that cause death in Kansas are only the tip of the injury iceberg...

The largest numbers of people with fall injuries are those who do not go to see a doctor, receive no medical care, or treat themselves.

Deaths: 2009 in those ages 65+
Hospital Discharges: 2009 in those ages 65+
Emergency Department Visits: 2009 Fiscal Year in those ages 65+

As the population ages, the impact and cost of fall-related deaths and injuries will increase dramatically unless funding is increased to address the issue. In 2009, there were over 360,000 Kansas residents ages 65 years and older.



Kansas Responds

Falling is NOT an inevitable result of aging. Through evidence-based interventions, practical lifestyle adjustments, and community partnerships, we can substantially reduce the number of falls. Kansas is taking action to prevent falls through the following initiatives:

- The Kansas Fall Prevention Coalition first met in January 2009.
- The first Older Adult Fall Prevention Symposium was held in Salina, Kansas on June 24, 2009 and brought together 60 interested stakeholders from across the state to develop recommendations for older adult fall prevention.
- Since the Symposium, the Kansas Trauma Program and the Kansas Injury Prevention Program have funded several programs across the state to work to prevent falls in their communities.

Contact Information

Lori Haskett

Director, Injury Prevention and Disability Programs

Bureau of Health Promotion

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

1000 SW Jackson, Ste 230

Topeka, KS 66612-1274

Phone: 785-296-8163

Mobile: 785-925-1018

LHaskett@kdheks.gov

Website: http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/older_adult_falls.htm

Kansas Injury Prevention Program Data Book:

http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/download/state_injury_plan.pdf

Sources:

Falls: Kansas Fall Prevention Symposium. (2009). http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/download/Falls_symposium_2009.pdf

Kansas Department of Health and Environment. (1996-2011). Older Adult Falls. http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/older_adult_falls.htm

Recommendations for Older Adult Fall Prevention in Kansas. (200?). http://www.kdheks.gov/idp/download/Older_Adult_Fall_Prevention_Symposium_Report.pdf

Developed by the National Council on Aging The National Council on Aging is a nonprofit service and advocacy organization with headquarters in Washington, DC. The NCOA is a national voice for older Americans – especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged – and the community organizations that serve them. For more information, please visit www.ncoa.org