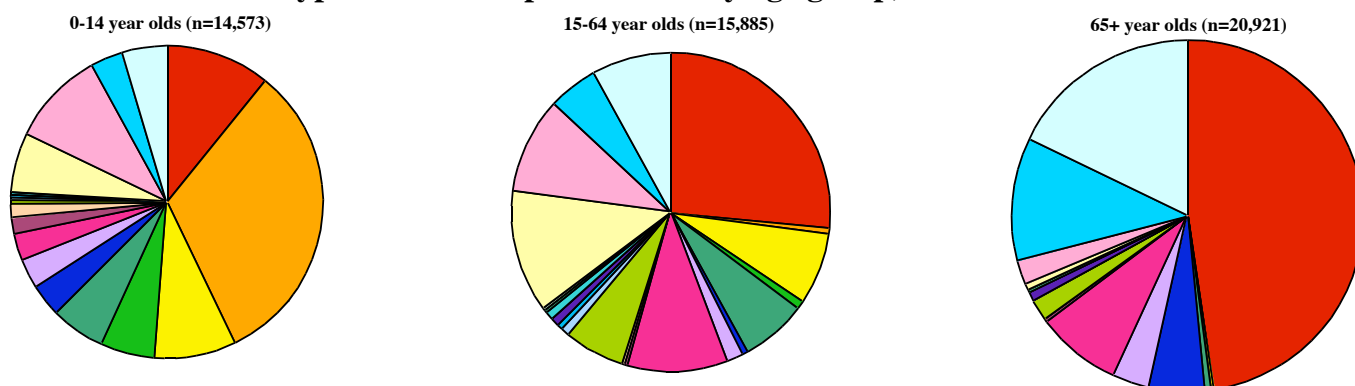


Falls are the leading cause of injury hospitalisations among all age groups in New Zealand.¹ This fact sheet provides a summary of key information on injury resulting in hospitalisation from falling for the years 2000 to 2002.

Hospitalised falls were considered in three age groups, 0-14 year olds, 15-64 year olds, and 65+ year olds. The distribution of the type of fall was similar within each age group, but different between them.

Type of Fall: Hospitalisations by age group, 2000-2002²

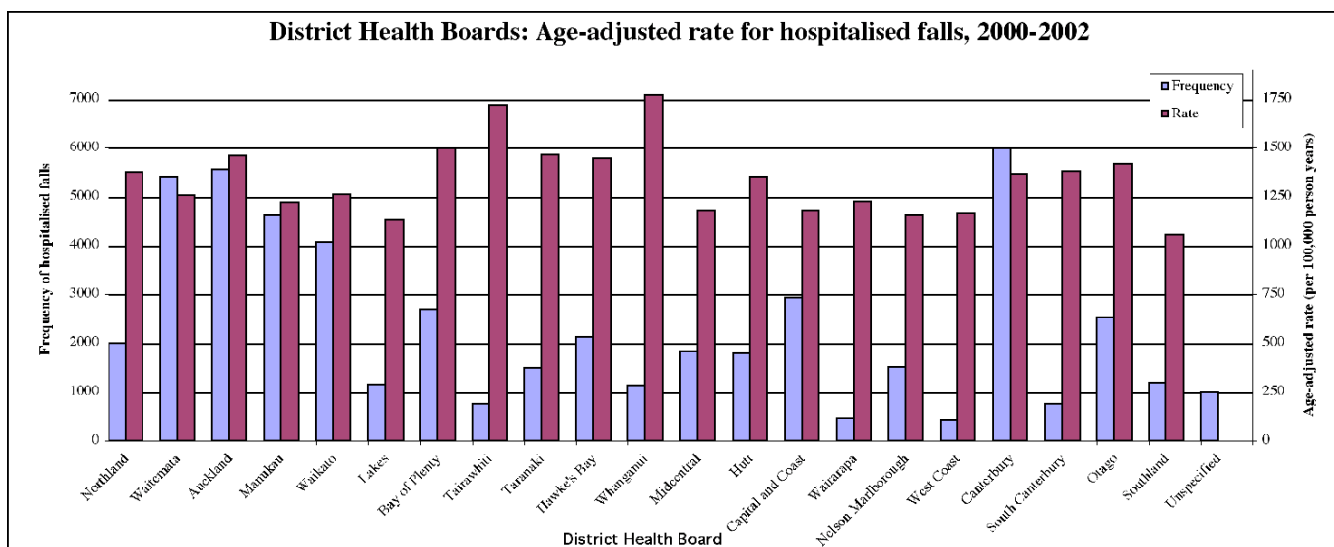


- The most common type of fall resulting in hospitalisation among 0-14 year olds was falls from playground equipment. Among 65+ year olds it was slips, trips and stumbles.
- Falls from stairs and steps were a significant proportion of hospitalised falls in the 15-64 and 65+ year age groups, but not in the 0-14 year age group.
- The proportion of hospitalised falls where the fall type was unspecified increased with each subsequent age group.

Key: Types of falls

- Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling
- Fall involving playground equipment
- Fall involving ice-skates, skis, roller-skates or skateboards
- Fall from tree
- Fall from, out of or through building or structure
- Fall involving bed
- Fall involving chair
- Fall on and from stairs and steps
- Fall involving other furniture
- Fall while being carried or supported by other person
- Fall on and from ladders
- Diving or jumping into water causing injury other than drowning or submersion
- Fall from cliff
- Fall involving wheelchair
- Falling, jumping or pushed from a high place, undetermined intent
- Fall on and from scaffolding
- Fall on same level involving ice and snow
- Assault by pushing from high place
- Intentional self-harm by jumping from a high place
- Other fall on same level due to collision with, or pushing by, another person
- Other fall from one level to another
- Other fall on same level
- Unspecified fall

District Health Boards: Age-adjusted rate for hospitalised falls, 2000-2002

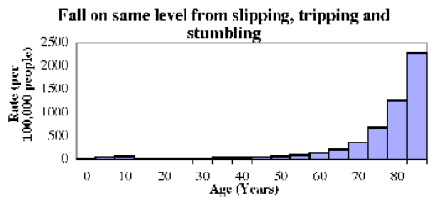
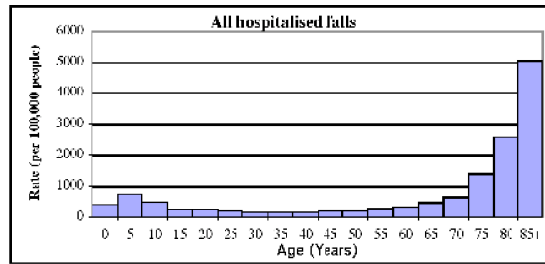


- In the 21 District Health Boards (DHBs), hospitalised falls occurred with higher frequencies in the larger population centres such as Canterbury, Waitemata, Auckland, Manukau and Waikato.
- The age-adjusted rate of hospitalised falls was highest in Tairāwhiti and Whanganui DHBs. The lowest age-adjusted rate occurred in Southland DHB.

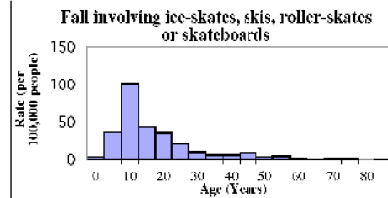
Distribution and Type of Fall: Hospitalisations by age group, 2000-2002

The following graphs present examples of the distributions of age-specific hospitalised fall rates for different fall types.

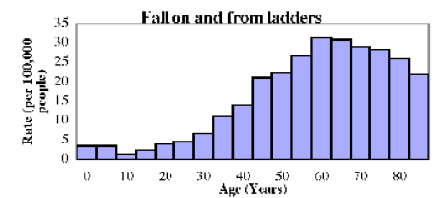
Fall types with similar age distributions are listed below each graph. Note that the scale range for the y-axis (i.e. rates) differs between graphs.



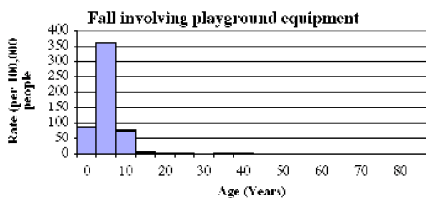
Fall types with similar distributions: Fall from bed; from chair; from wheelchair; on and from stairs and steps; and other falls on the same level.



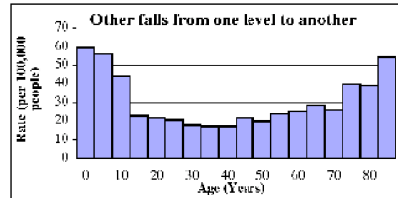
Fall types with similar distributions: Fall from cliff; intentional self harm by jumping from a high place; falling jumping or pushed from a high place; undetermined intent; and other fall on same level due to collision with, or pushing by, another person.



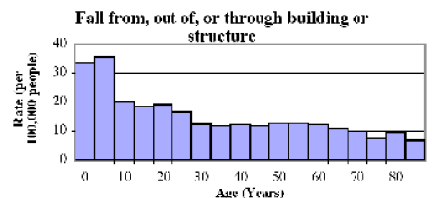
Fall types with similar distributions: Fall on and from scaffolding; and assault by pushing from a high place.



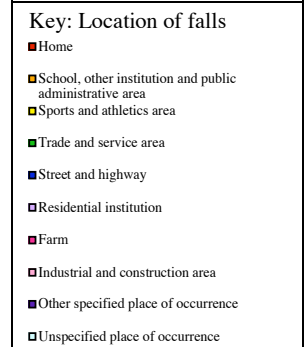
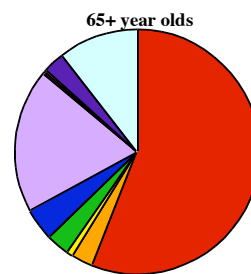
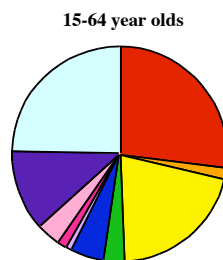
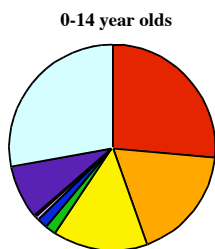
Fall types with similar distributions: Fall from tree; and fall while being carried or supported by other person.



Fall types with similar distributions: Fall from furniture.



Location of Fall: Hospitalisations by age group, 2000-2002²



- The highest frequency of hospitalised falls is in the home across all age groups.
- 0-14 year olds have a high number of hospitalised falls in schools or other institutions (excluding residential institutions), and on sports and athletic areas.
- 15-64 year olds have high numbers of hospitalised falls in sports and athletic areas.
- Approximately one quarter of locations are unspecified in the 0-14 and 15-64 year age groups.
- 65+ year olds experience a large number of hospitalised falls in residential institutions as well as at home.

1 See IPRU Factsheet 29.

2 Pie graph areas on this factsheet are scaled relative to the number of falls they represent.

Data Source: Morbidity Data (2000-2002), New Zealand Health Information Service, Ministry of Health, Wellington.

Falls were identified using the International Classification of Disease External Cause Codes, 10th edition (W00-W19, X80, Y01, Y30).

For further details on injury data visit our website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/ipru/Stats/>

Prepared by: MJ Trotter, SCR Stephenson, JC Simpson, DM Casey, January 2005