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2023

# Ohio Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Older Adults



Department of  
Health

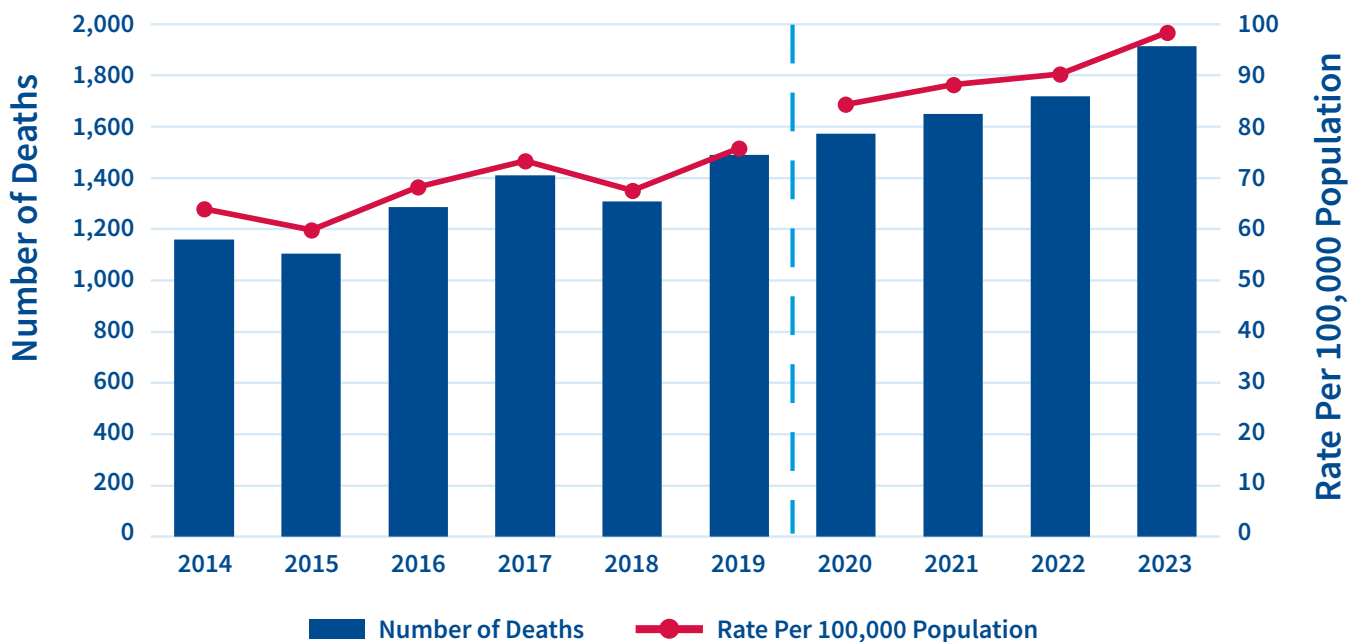
## FAST FACTS

- In 2023, 1,914 Ohioans aged 65 years and older died from an unintentional fall, an increase of 11% over 2022.
- The rate of unintentional fall deaths is higher among males. In 2023, the rate among males was 115.3 per 100,000 compared with 86.4 per 100,000 among females.
- Ohioans 85 years and older have the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths.
- White non-Hispanic Ohioans had the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths, which increased 17% from 2020 to 2023.
- For the majority of unintentional fall deaths among older adults, the injury occurred at home, regardless of sex and age.

## Unintentional Fall Deaths in Ohio

- Unintentional falls among older adults, aged 65 and older, are a leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries in the U.S. and Ohio. While older adults make up 19% of the Ohio population, they account for 90% of the unintentional fall deaths across the state.
- In 2023, 1,914 Ohioans 65 years and older died as a result of an unintentional fall or a health condition resulting or originating from a fall. This was a 11% increase over 2022 (1,717 deaths).
- From 2022 to 2023, the rate of unintentional fall deaths among older adults increased 9% (90.3 to 98.4 per 100,000 population).

**FIGURE 1. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Year, Ohio, 2014-2023\*\***



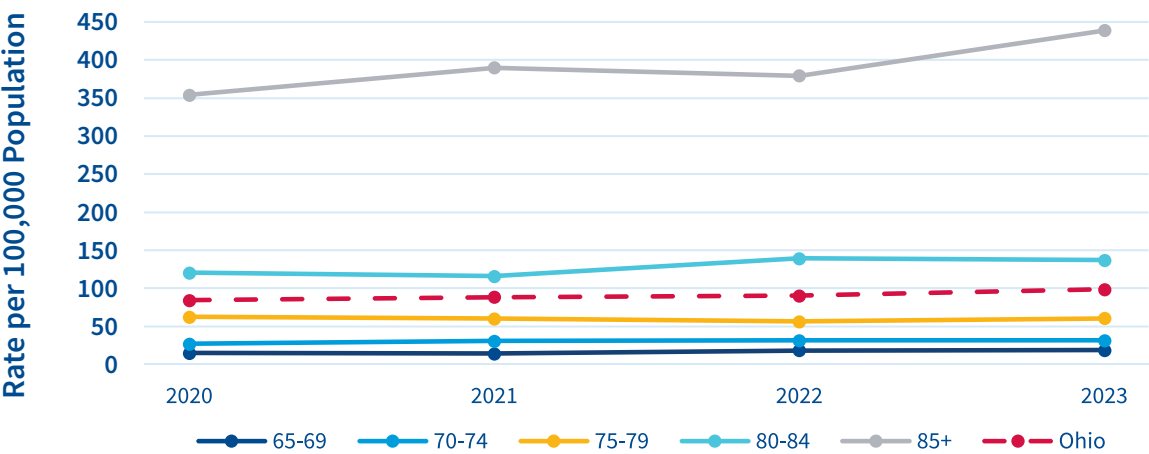
\*\*At the time of this report, population files from the federal government reflecting new national standards and methodologies were available for 2020 through 2023 only. Because of this change, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) advises caution in comparing these rates to those from years prior to 2020, as indicated by the segmented line in the graphic.

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section (VIESS). Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional fall (underlying cause of death International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision [ICD-10], codes W00-W19).

# Demographics: Age and Sex

- Ohioans aged 85 years and older had the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths in all years shown. The rate increased 16% from 379.5 deaths per 100,000 population in 2022 to 438.8 per 100,000 population in 2023.
- Adults 80-84 years of age had the only decrease in the rate of unintentional fall deaths from 2022 to 2023, a 1% decrease from 139.1 to 137.1 deaths per 100,000 population.
- From 2022 to 2023, the rate of unintentional fall deaths increased 3% among Ohioans 65-69 years of age, 1% among Ohioans 70-74 years of age, and 7% among Ohioans 75-79 years of age.

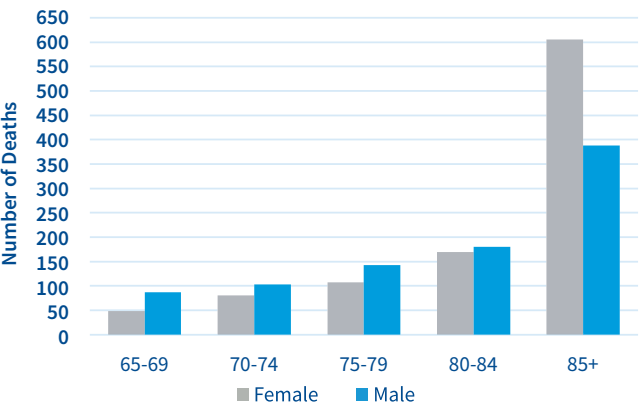
**FIGURE 2. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age Group, Ohio, 2020-2023**



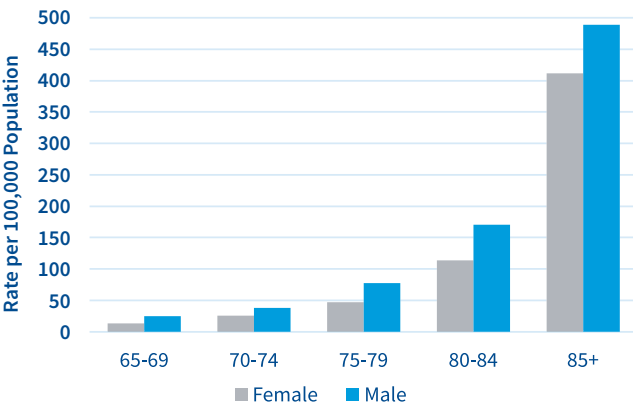
## In 2023:

- Females made up 53% (1,013 deaths) of unintentional fall deaths among older adults, while males made up 47% (901 deaths).
- The number and rate of unintentional fall deaths increased with age among both females and males.
- Adults aged 85 years and older were disproportionately burdened by unintentional fall deaths.
- Among adults 65-84 years, males had a higher number of unintentional fall deaths compared with females, while females had a higher number of deaths among those aged 85+ years.
- For each age group presented in Figure 4, males had a higher rate of unintentional fall deaths compared with females.

**FIGURE 3. Number of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age and Sex, Ohio, 2023**



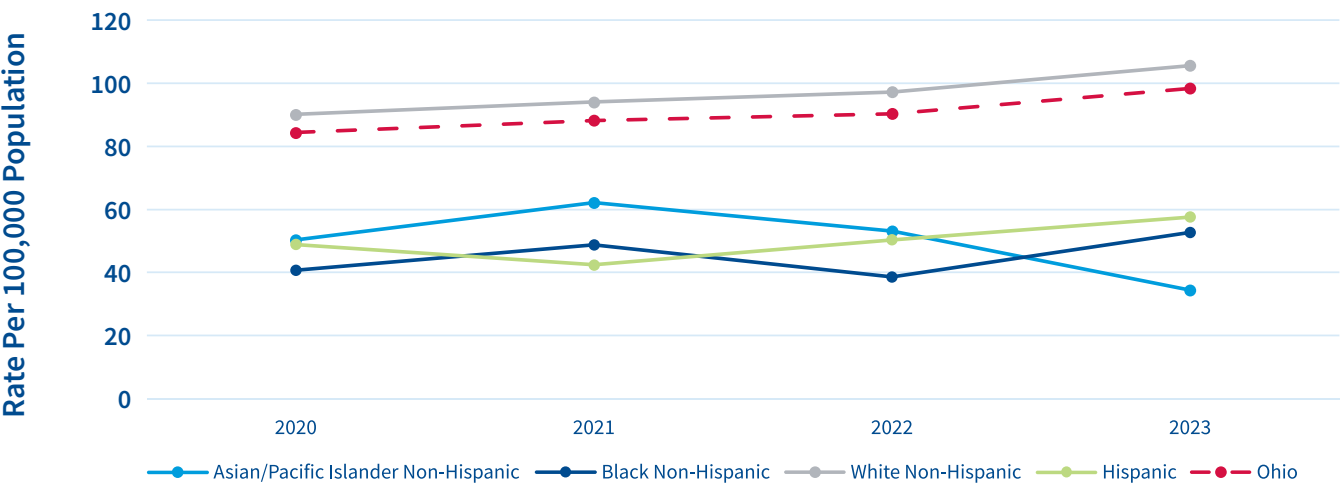
**FIGURE 4. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age and Sex, Ohio, 2023**



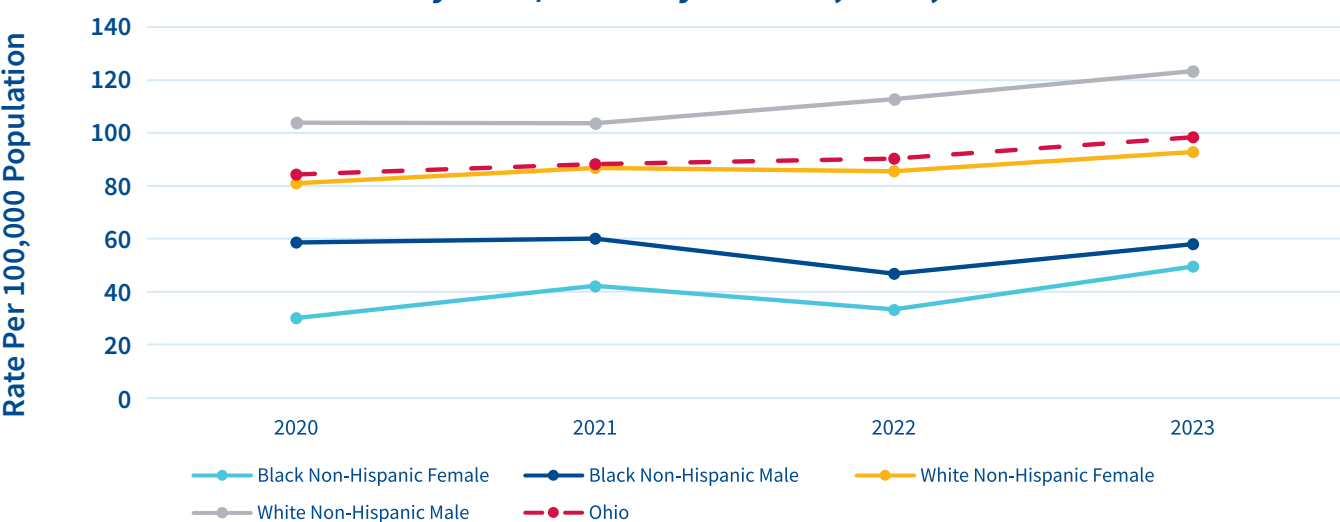
# Demographics: Race and Ethnicity

- White non-Hispanic Ohioans had the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths in all years shown. Of the race/ethnicity groups presented, the White non-Hispanic population was the only group for which the rate consistently increased from 2020 to 2023. During this period, the rate of unintentional fall deaths increased 17% from 90.1 to 105.6 deaths per 100,000 population.
  - The increase from 2020 to 2021 was driven by White non-Hispanic females, while the increase from 2021 to 2022 was driven by White non-Hispanic males. Both males and females had an increase in the rate of unintentional fall deaths from 2022 to 2023, accounting for a 9% increase among White non-Hispanic Ohioans.
- From 2022 to 2023, Black Non-Hispanic Ohioans had the largest percentage increase in the rate of unintentional fall deaths (37%). This was followed by a 14% increase among Hispanic Ohioans while the rate of deaths decreased among Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic Ohioans (-35%).

**FIGURE 5. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Race/Ethnicity, Ohio, 2020-2023**



**FIGURE 6. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Ohio, 2020-2023**



This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers.

# Demographic Summary

**TABLE 1. Number and Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Demographic, Ohio, 2019-2023**

Demographic	2019	2020		2021		2022		2023		2020-2023	
	Number	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Age</b>											
<b>65-69</b>	95	102	14.8	99	14.1	129	18.1	136	18.6	466	16.4
<b>70-74</b>	140	148	27.0	176	30.5	179	31.2	184	31.5	687	30.1
<b>75-79</b>	203	220	62.3	214	59.9	221	56.3	250	60.5	905	59.7
<b>80-84</b>	258	282	120.5	274	115.8	338	139.1	350	137.1	1,244	128.4
<b>85+</b>	794	821	354.1	886	389.9	850	379.5	994	438.8	3,551	390.4
<b>Sex</b>											
<b>Female</b>	816	847	74.6	916	80.6	906	79.4	1,013	86.4	3,682	80.2
<b>Male</b>	674	726	98.8	733	98.6	811	105.1	901	115.3	3,171	104.6
<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>											
<b>American Indian/ Alaska Native Non-Hispanic</b>	1	1	.	0	.	2	.	.	.	3	.
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic</b>	10	11	50.3	14	62.1	14	53.1	10	34.4	49	49.2
<b>Black Non-Hispanic</b>	74	69	40.8	84	48.7	66	38.6	94	52.7	313	45.2
<b>White Non-Hispanic</b>	1,398	1,475	90.1	1,537	94.0	1,614	97.2	1,787	105.6	6,413	96.8
<b>Multiracial, Non-Hispanic</b>	2	3	.	2	.	4	.	3	.	12	23.3
<b>Hispanic</b>	4	14	48.9	12	42.4	16	50.4	19	57.6	61	50.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity and Sex</b>											
<b>Black Non-Hispanic Female</b>	40	31	30.0	45	42.1	37	33.2	55	49.4	168	38.7
<b>Black Non-Hispanic Male</b>	34	38	58.6	39	60.0	29	46.8	39	58.0	145	55.8
<b>White Non-Hispanic Female</b>	768	805	80.9	859	86.7	850	85.6	944	92.8	3,458	86.5
<b>White Non-Hispanic Male</b>	630	670	103.9	678	103.7	764	112.7	843	123.3	2,955	111.0
<b>Hispanic Female</b>	0	5	.	6	.	7	.	9	.	27	39.2
<b>Hispanic Male</b>	4	9	.	6	.	9	.	10	69.7	34	64.2
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>6,853</b>	<b>90.3</b>

This data reflects updated national standards used in the creation of race categories. Caution should be used when comparing data to that of previous reports using a different methodology to categorize race. Other race and ethnicity groups are not presented due to small numbers.

1. The death rates presented for age groups are age-specific. The death rates presented for sex and race/ethnicity are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

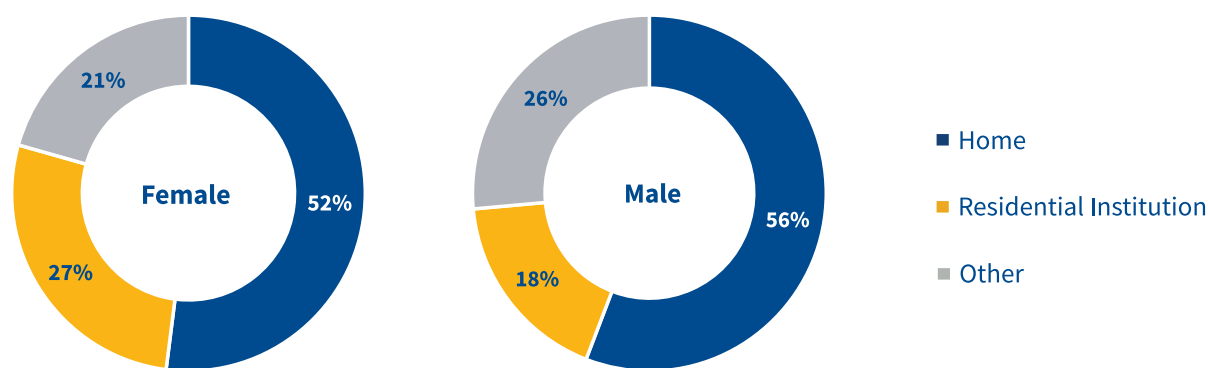
2. Total includes all unintentional fall deaths among Ohio residents.

# Location of Injury

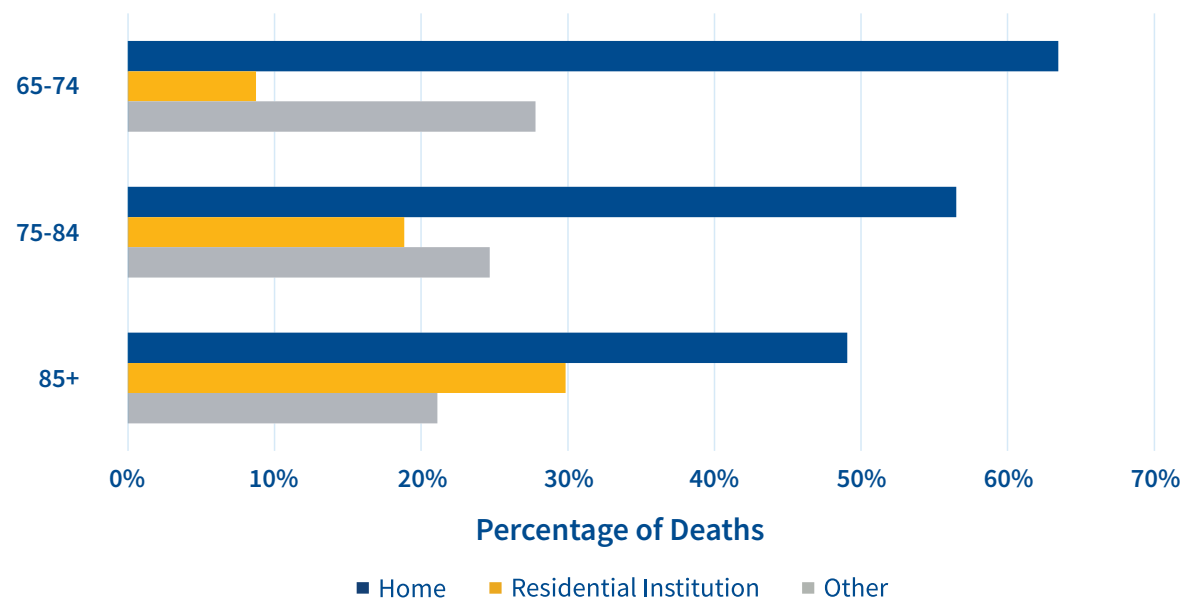
## In 2023:

- Home was the location of injury in a higher percentage of male deaths compared to female deaths (56% and 52%, respectively). In contrast, residential institution (e.g., nursing home, assisted living facility) was the location of injury for a higher percentage of female deaths compared with male deaths (27% and 18%, respectively).
- Other location of injury, which includes school, other institutions, and administrative area; sports or recreation area; street/highway; trade and service area; industrial and construction area; farm; and other specified and unspecified place, was the location in 21% of female fall deaths and 26% of male deaths.
- Home was the leading injury location among each age group shown in Figure 8.
- The percentage of unintentional fall deaths in which home was the injury location decreased with age, while the percentage of deaths in which residential institution was the location of injury increased with age.

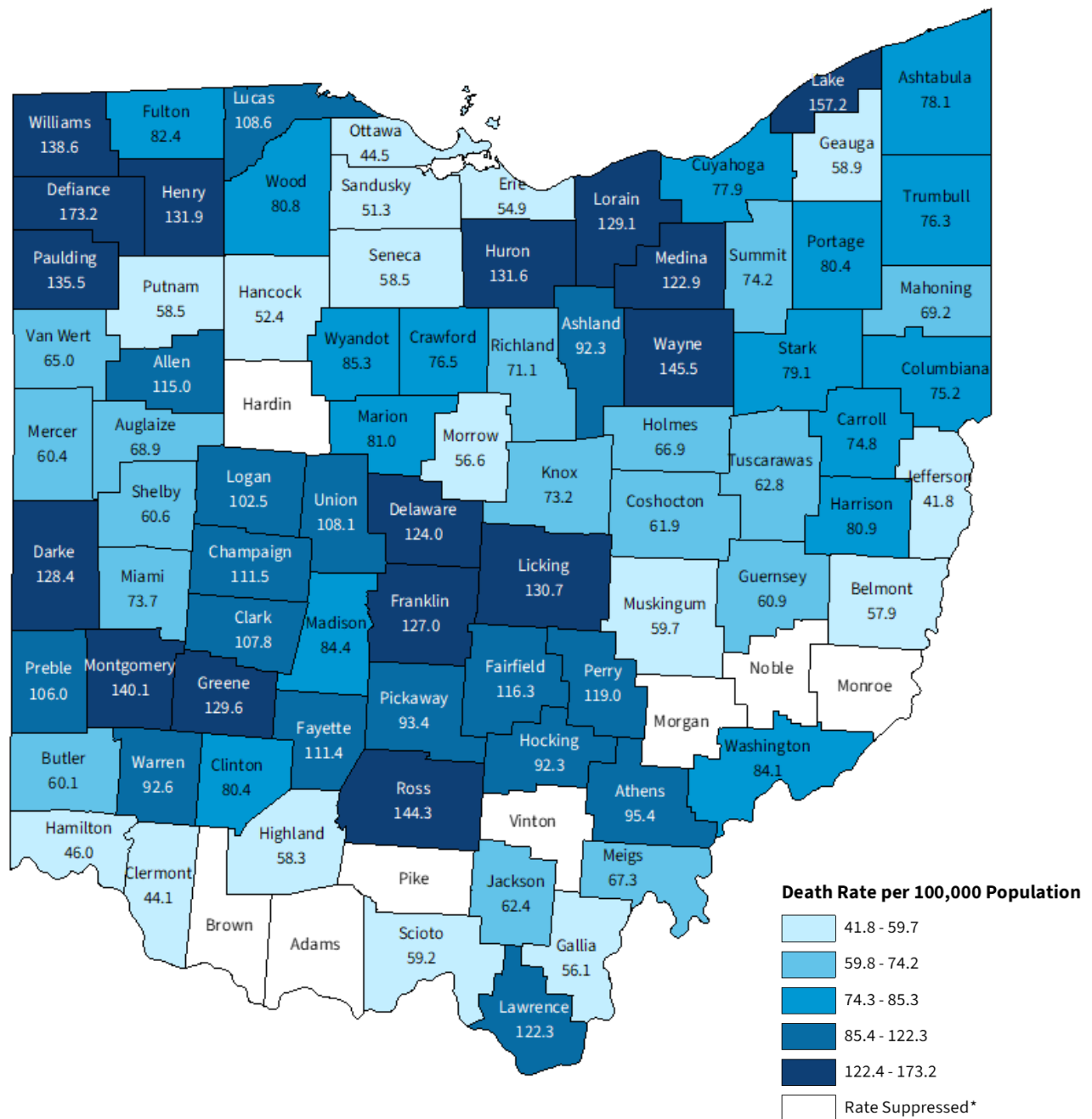
**FIGURE 7. Percentage of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Location of Injury and Sex, Ohio, 2023**



**FIGURE 8. Percentage of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Location of Injury and Age Group, Ohio, 2023**



**FIGURE 9. Average Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County, Ohio, 2020-2023**



- From 2020 to 2023, Defiance County had the highest rate of unintentional fall-related deaths. For every 100,000 older adult residents, 173 died from unintentional falls.

**Table 2. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County, Ohio, 2019-2023**

County <sup>1</sup>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>	2020-2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>
Ohio	1,490	1,573	1,649	1,717	1,914	98.4	90.3
Adams	1	1	4	3	1	.	.
Allen	16	27	23	15	15	84.1	115.0
Ashland	5	2	9	10	15	148.5	92.3
Ashtabula	5	11	8	15	20	111.0	78.1
Athens	11	6	11	3	9	.	95.4
Auglaize	4	14	2	3	4	.	68.9
Belmont	9	7	8	9	5	.	57.9
Brown	1	2	0	2	1	.	.
Butler	25	29	30	37	33	59.3	60.1
Carroll	3	4	3	2	7	.	74.8
Champaign	5	6	8	5	11	159.5	111.5
Clark	23	18	30	34	24	96.3	107.8
Clermont	14	12	15	18	13	36.7	44.1
Clinton	6	7	4	5	6	.	80.4
Columbiana	15	14	11	17	18	91.9	75.2
Coshocton	4	3	7	4	3	.	61.9
Crawford	7	4	5	7	9	.	76.5
Cuyahoga	206	193	160	163	191	82.7	77.9
Darke	10	15	15	16	6	.	128.4
Defiance	7	9	13	9	15	217.7	173.2
Delaware	15	31	26	34	40	137.9	124.0
Erie	10	14	7	6	8	.	54.9
Fairfield	30	25	29	25	29	120.8	116.3
Fayette	3	3	6	3	7	.	111.4
Franklin	114	150	173	161	240	161.8	127.0
Fulton	3	7	6	7	4	.	82.4
Gallia	2	4	0	2	5	.	56.1
Geauga	14	5	11	18	12	59.6	58.9
Greene	31	31	34	39	41	144.6	129.6
Guernsey	5	3	4	4	6	.	60.9
Hamilton	69	70	55	52	47	38.1	46.0
Hancock	4	3	9	7	7	.	52.4
Hardin	4	1	3	3	1	.	.
Harrison	0	2	4	2	2	.	80.9
Henry	2	7	10	5	3	.	131.9
Highland	6	6	2	5	4	.	58.3

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional fall (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes W00-W19).

1. County is determined by county of residence.

2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.



**Table 2. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County, Ohio, 2019-2023 (Continued)**

County <sup>1</sup>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>	2020-2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>
Ohio	1,490	1,573	1,649	1,717	1,914	98.4	90.3
Hocking	6	4	4	6	4	.	92.3
Holmes	0	4	1	2	9	.	66.9
Huron	6	15	10	15	7	.	131.6
Jackson	8	4	4	3	2	.	62.4
Jefferson	7	7	4	4	8	.	41.8
Knox	7	8	9	6	8	.	73.2
Lake	70	79	54	84	61	135.6	157.2
Lawrence	8	20	13	4	8	.	122.3
Licking	27	29	32	26	44	174.2	130.7
Logan	5	9	6	4	11	149.9	102.5
Lorain	61	57	64	68	94	166.4	129.1
Lucas	51	53	58	68	104	156.7	108.6
Madison	5	0	5	7	10	143.6	84.4
Mahoning	18	14	28	47	43	88.3	69.2
Marion	9	4	9	10	11	106.3	81.0
Medina	17	34	42	37	39	119.7	122.9
Meigs	2	1	1	5	3	.	67.3
Mercer	6	6	4	4	4	.	60.4
Miami	11	21	8	15	11	57.5	73.7
Monroe	5	2	1	1	2	.	.
Montgomery	135	121	135	130	133	142.9	140.1
Morgan	1	1	3	2	1	.	.
Morrow	2	2	3	4	4	.	56.6
Muskingum	7	13	4	12	5	.	59.7
Noble	0	1	2	2	1	.	.
Ottawa	2	1	5	8	2	.	44.5
Paulding	3	1	7	6	3	.	135.5
Perry	1	4	7	4	6	.	119.0
Pickaway	5	6	9	11	6	.	93.4
Pike	4	2	1	1	2	.	.
Portage	16	12	23	17	26	105.1	80.4
Preble	9	6	5	11	7	.	106.0
Putnam	3	2	5	6	1	.	58.5
Richland	9	12	17	19	18	75.0	71.1
Ross	22	14	18	15	19	156.4	144.3
Sandusky	7	3	5	6	7	.	51.3
Scioto	7	5	7	10	7	.	59.2
Seneca	6	2	3	9	8	.	58.5

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional fall (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes W00-W19).

1. County is determined by county of residence.

2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

**Table 2. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County, Ohio, 2019-2023 (Continued)**

County <sup>1</sup>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>	2020-2023 Rate <sup>2</sup>
Ohio	1,490	1,573	1,649	1,717	1,914	98.4	90.3
Shelby	6	6	2	3	7	.	60.6
Stark	66	58	45	58	60	83.8	79.1
Summit	38	66	70	69	73	76.5	74.2
Trumbull	19	16	36	32	42	103.1	76.3
Tuscarawas	10	14	16	8	6	.	62.8
Union	7	6	8	9	9	.	108.1
Van Wert	7	3	4	6	1	.	65.0
Vinton	2	2	3	1	3	.	.
Warren	30	26	33	21	37	112.0	92.6
Washington	4	4	8	11	17	138.9	84.1
Wayne	24	23	32	31	29	143.7	145.5
Williams	9	9	13	9	7	.	138.6
Wood	8	10	17	17	16	80.8	80.8
Wyandot	3	5	1	3	6	.	85.3

Source: ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics. Analysis: ODH Violence and Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Section. Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional fall (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes W00-W19).

1. County is determined by county of residence.

2. Death rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population to allow a comparison of the overall risk of dying between different populations. Rates are suppressed when there are fewer than 10 total deaths.

**Note:** Coroners have up to six months to complete death investigations. Due to reporting timelines and the processing of Ohio mortality records by ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, Ohio mortality data for 2023 was finalized Sept. 30, 2024.

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#### Resources:

Ohio Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/violence-injury-prevention-program/resources/older-adults-falls-prevention-coalition>

National Council on Aging: <https://www.ncoa.org/older-adults/health/prevention/falls-prevention/>