

Falls-related injury hospitalisations in Queensland public acute hospitals: 01 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2022

INTRODUCTION

Falls are Australia's number one cause of injury hospitalisation (42%) and injury deaths (40%), with falls requiring hospitalisation more common in older people (AIHW, 2022).

Between 01 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, 248,653 falls-related injury hospitalisations occurred in Queensland public acute hospitals. 131,347 (53%) of these hospitalisations occurred among older and senior adults aged 65 years and over. The data insights in this snapshot are divided into two sections for reporting purposes:

- Falls-related injury hospitalisations among infants, children, young adults, and the general working age population (people aged 0-64 years old)
- Falls-related injury hospitalisations among the elderly and senior adults aged 65 years old and over (65+)

Falls-related injury hospitalisations: people aged 0-64 years old

KEY FINDINGS: 0 – 64 years old

Between 01 January 2018 and 31 December 2022:

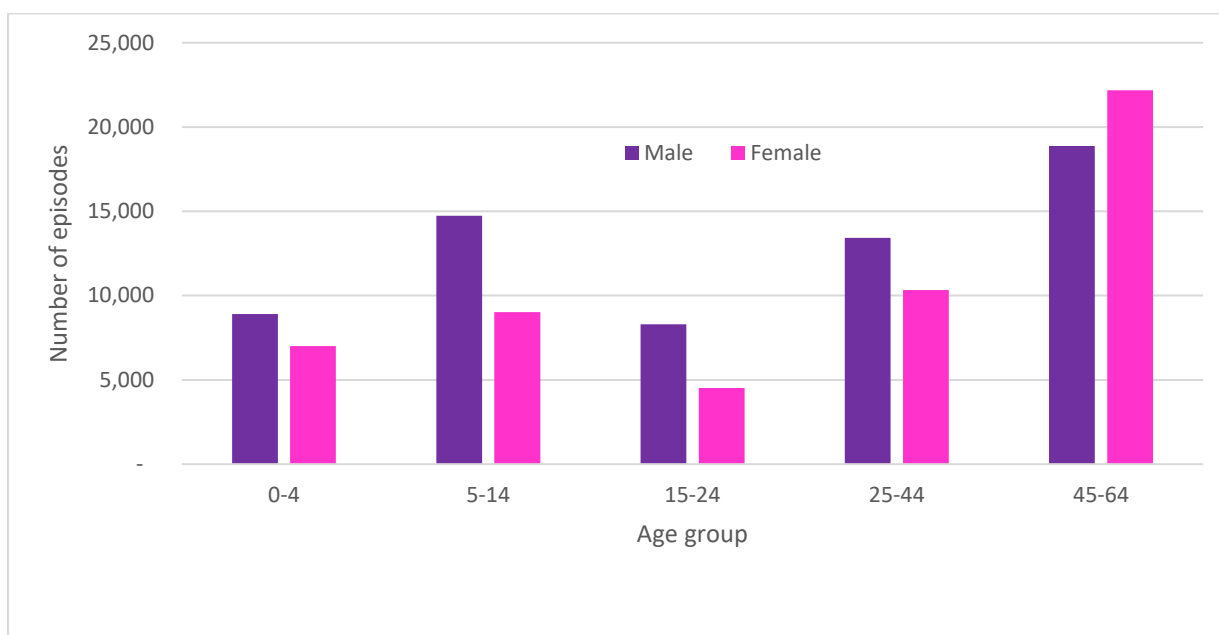
- 117,306 falls-related injury hospitalisations in those aged 0-64 years occurred in Qld public acute hospitals.
- Falls on the same level from tripping, slipping, and stumbling were the leading cause of falls-related injuries accounting for 30.2% of hospitalisations (n=35,469).
- Falls involving furniture were the leading cause of falls-related injuries among children aged 0-4 years old.
- Falls involving swings, slides, other playground equipment or playground climbing apparatus were the leading cause of falls-related injuries among children aged 5-14 years old.
- Females aged 45-64 years had the highest incidence of falls-related hospitalisations (N=22,188, 19%).
- Fractures were the main injury sustained accounting for over half of all hospitalisations (N=59,897, 51%).
- The hip, leg and foot followed by head injuries were the most common body regions injured.
- Homes, sports areas and schools were the most common places where injury occurred.

KEY FIGURES: 0 – 64 years old

Trends over time: 0 – 64 years old

Activity/Outcome	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Episodes of care	23,040	23,212	23,733	24,899	22,422	117,306
Patient days	43,478	42,994	43,800	46,071	45,547	221,890
Average length of stay (days)	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
Died in hospital	24	28	22	24	27	125

Age and sex breakdown: 0 – 64 years old



Top 15 causes of falls by age group: 0 – 64 years old

Cause/Mechanism of fall ¹	Episodes					Total
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	0-64
Fall on same level from tripping, slipping, and stumbling ²	2,564	4,956	2869	7,432	17,648	35,469
Fall on and from other and unspecified stairs and steps	930	457	887	2,440	4,845	9,559
Fall involving furniture (including bed, bunk bed, table, stool, and chair)	3,929	973	183	561	1,539	7,185
Fall involving swing, slide, other specified/unspecified playground equipment or playground climbing apparatus	1,125	3,698	99	81	38	5,041
Fall involving ice-skates, roller-skates or skateboards	33	1,163	1,136	1,218	340	3,890
Fall on and from ladder	65	52	152	824	2,438	3,531
Fall involving trampoline	848	1,600	111	100	27	2,686
Fall involving other and unspecified pedestrian conveyance	203	258	384	975	672	2,492
Fall involving scooter, nonpowered	189	1,647	212	182	90	2,320
Fall from, out of or through other specified building or structure	156	434	301	486	446	1,823
Fall from tree	81	686	120	206	155	1,248
Other specified fall on same level	421	1,227	767	1,721	2,979	7,115
Other specified fall from one level to another	1,404	1,458	688	1,402	1,876	6,828
Other fall on same level due to collision with, or pushing by, another person	99	2,441	2,642	1,371	263	6,816
Unspecified fall	645	1090	763	1,997	4,608	9,103

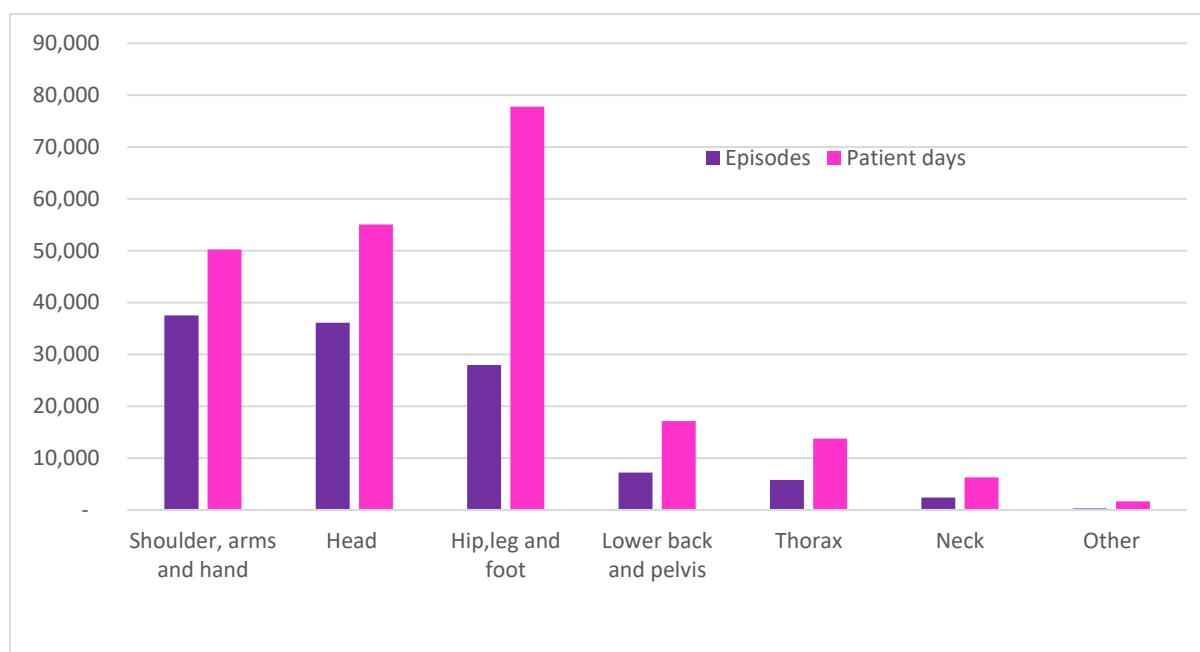
¹ Table sorted in order of ascending row totals

² Includes unspecified fall on same level

Top 10 places of injury occurrence: 0 – 64 years old

Place category	Episodes	Patient days
Home	39,239	85,825
Sports area	10,205	13,880
School	7,085	10,118
Street and Highway	4,958	10,672
Trade and Service area	3,902	8,608
Residential Institution	1,172	3,009
Industrial and Construction area	1,044	2,568
Farm	394	949
Other Specific Place	7,968	14,943
Unspecified Place	40,230	69,175

Body regions of injury : 0 – 64 years old



Top 10 natures of injury: 0 – 64 years old

Injury sustained	Number of episodes
Fracture	59,897
Internal organ injuries	10,771
Open wound	10,469
Superficial & contusions	6,695
Dislocation	3,744
Blood vessel	179
Other effects of external causes	81
Amputation	33
Other specified	9,423
Unspecified	15,962

Falls-related injury hospitalisations among the elderly and senior adults aged 65 years old and over (65+):

KEY FINDINGS: 65+ years

Between 01 January 2018 and 31 December 2022:

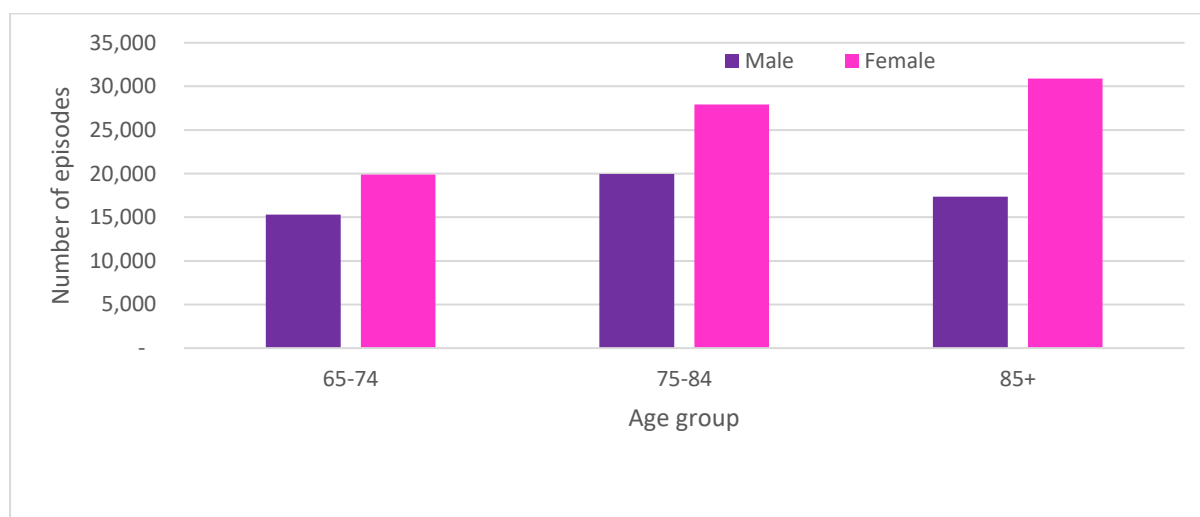
- 131,347 falls-related injury hospitalisations occurred in those aged 65 years and older in Qld public acute hospitals.
- Falls on the same level from tripping, slipping, and stumbling were the leading cause of falls-related injuries accounting for half of all hospitalisations (N=67,673, 52%).
- Falls on and from stairs, steps and ladders accounted for 7% of hospitalisations (n=9,560).
- Females aged 85 years and over had the highest incidence of falls-related hospitalisations (N=30,897, 24%).
- Fractures were the main injury sustained accounting for almost half of all hospitalisations (N=57,283, 44%).
- The hip, leg, and foot followed by head injuries were the most common body regions injured.
- Homes and residential institutions were the most common places where injury occurred.

KEY FIGURES: 65+ years

Trends over time: 65+ years

Activity/Outcome	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Episodes of care	23,771	24,890	25,692	28,504	28,490	131,347
Patient days	81,202	83,225	80,832	93,296	99,248	437,803
Average length of stay (days)	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.3
Died in hospital	231	240	204	238	280	1,193

Age and sex breakdown: 65+ years



Top 10 causes of falls by older age group: 65+ years

Cause/Mechanism of injury ³	Episodes			Total
	65-74	75-84	85+	65+
Fall on same level from tripping, slipping, and stumbling ⁴	17,903	25,283	24,487	67,673
Fall on and from other and unspecified stairs and steps	2,958	2,704	1,360	7,022
Fall involving unspecified bed	1,023	1,977	2,565	5,565
Fall involving unspecified chair	377	625	742	1,744
Fall on and from ladder	1,568	813	157	2,538
Fall involving wheelchair	362	445	435	1,242
Fall from or off toilet	247	384	454	1,085
Other specified fall on same level	3,114	4,756	4,668	12,538
Other specified fall from one level to another	821	621	361	1,803
Unspecified fall	4,614	8,146	11,113	23,873

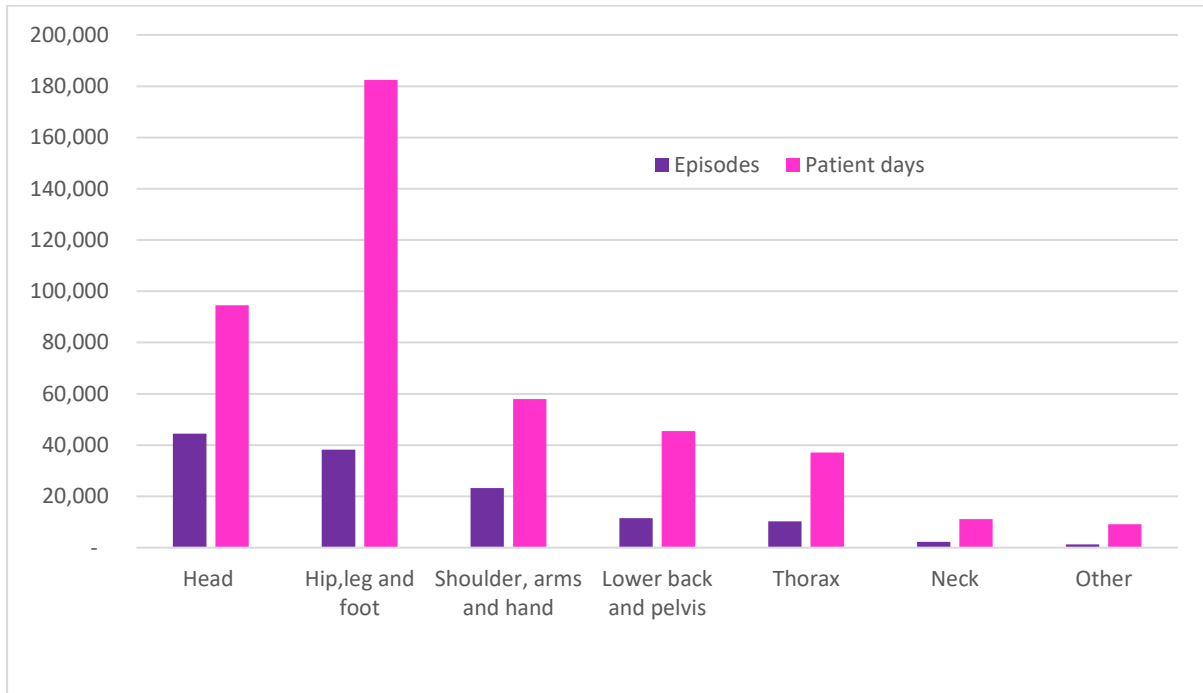
Top 10 places of injury occurrence: 65+ years

Place	Number of episodes
Home	65,986
Residential Institution	32,918
Street and Highway	4,315
Trade and Service area	4,228
School	1,833
Sports area	561
Farm	212
Industrial and Construction area	92
Other Specific Place	3,181
Unspecified Place	17,221

³ Table sorted in order of ascending row totals

⁴ Includes unspecified fall on same level

Body regions of injury: 65+years



Top 10 natures of injury: 65+ years

Injury sustained	Number of episodes
Fracture	57,283
Open wound	17,714
Superficial & contusions	14,866
Internal organ injuries	10,361
Dislocation	1,849
Blood vessel	158
Other effects of external causes	61
Amputation	19
Other specified	9,456
Unspecified	19,544

ABOUT US

The **Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI)** connects clinicians, researchers, government and industry partners striving to advance trauma prevention, research and clinical management, to deliver the best possible care for people who experience traumatic injury. JTI is funded via a partnership between the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, Metro North Health and Queensland University of Technology. Jamieson_trauma_institute@health.qld.gov.au

DATA SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

This overview was produced by the Jamieson Trauma Institute, in consultation with the Statistical Services Branch, Queensland Health using Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC) (derived subset of data tables comprising injury related hospital admissions from all public acute hospitals excluding Mater South Brisbane Hospitals).

Data Scope

- Includes episodes of admitted patient care with separation date between 01 January 2018 & 31 December 2022.
- Falls related hospitalisation is defined by ICD-10-AM principal diagnosis code between W00-W19 with external cause codes of X80, Y01 and Y30.
- Care Type = Acute.
- Data from 1 July to 31 December 2022 are preliminary and subject to change.

This overview presents raw counts and percentages, not age standardised rates, as data relate to episodes of care and not individual patients

References

1. [Injury in Australia: Falls - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](https://www.aihw.gov.au)