

# Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Older Adults: Demographics and Trends, Ohio, 2019

## FAST FACTS

- In 2019, the rate of unintentional fall deaths among older adults, aged 65 and older, was 75.7 per 100,000 (1,490 deaths); among females it was 67.4 (816 deaths) and among males 87.4 (674 deaths).
- From 2010 to 2019, the number and rate of unintentional fall deaths among older adults increased 55% and 35%, respectively.
- Among older adults, both the number and rate of unintentional fall deaths increased with age.
- From 2010 to 2019, adults aged 85+ years had the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths for each year.
- For the majority of unintentional fall deaths among older adults, regardless of sex and age, the injury occurred at home.

## RESOURCES

Ohio Older Adult Falls Prevention Coalition  
<https://rb.gy/6kojyu>

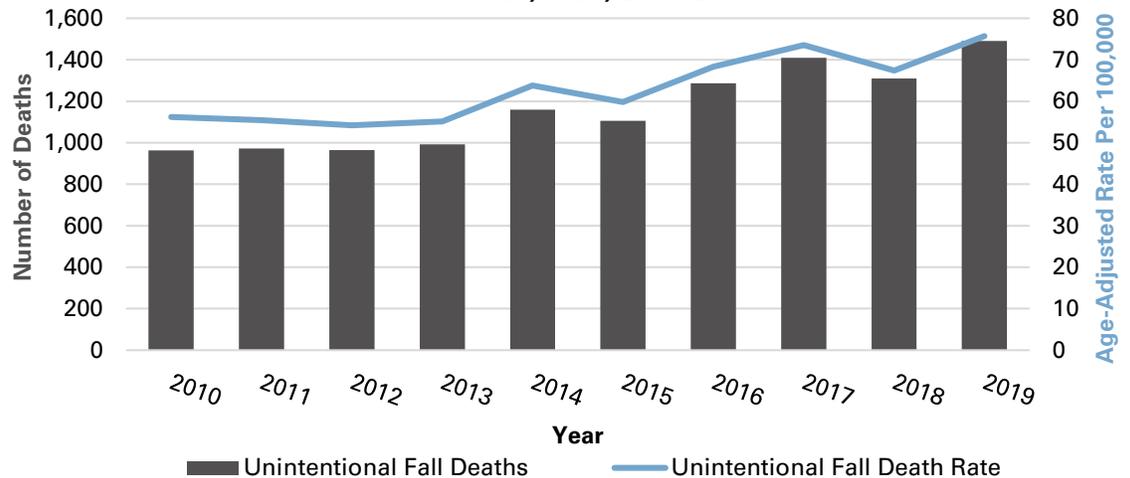
National Council on Aging  
<https://www.ncoa.org/health-y-aging/falls-prevention/>

Ohio Department of Aging  
<https://aging.ohio.gov/>

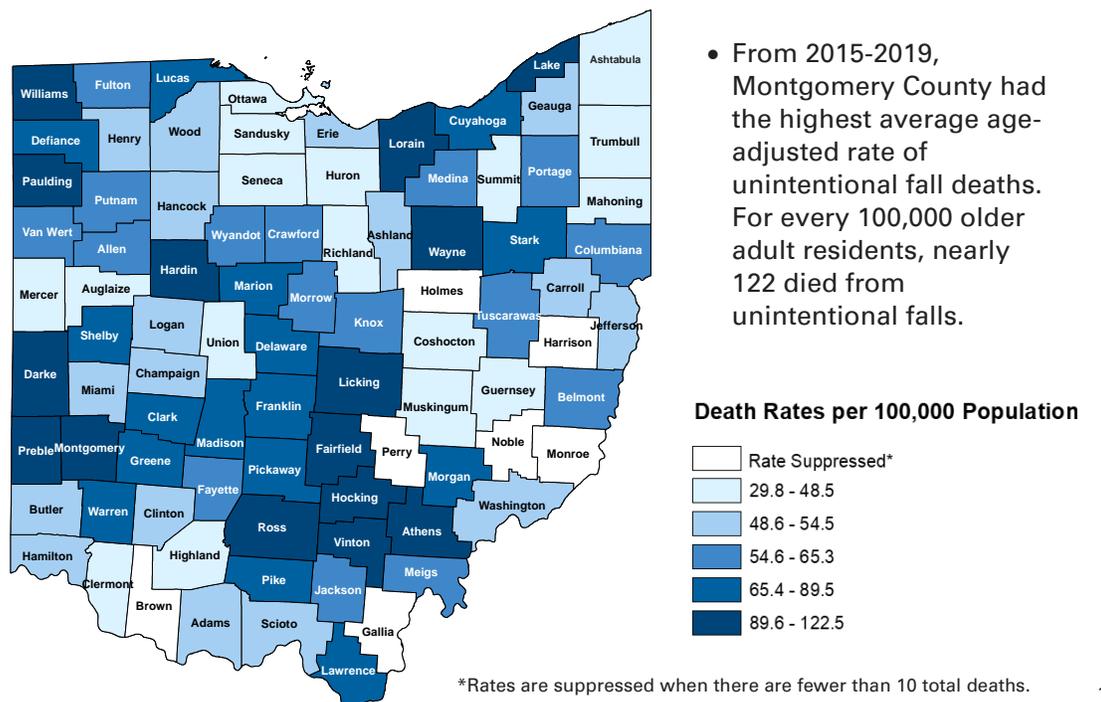
## Unintentional Fall Deaths in Ohio

- 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 nearly 18% of the Ohio population, they account for 87% of the unintentional fall deaths across the state.
- In 2019, on average, four adults 65 years and older died per day as a result of an unintentional fall or a health condition resulting or originating from a fall.
- From 2010 to 2019, the number of unintentional fall deaths among older adults increased 55% (963 to 1,490) and the rate increased 35% (56.2 to 75.7 per 100,000 population).

**Figure 1. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years, Ohio, 2010–2019**



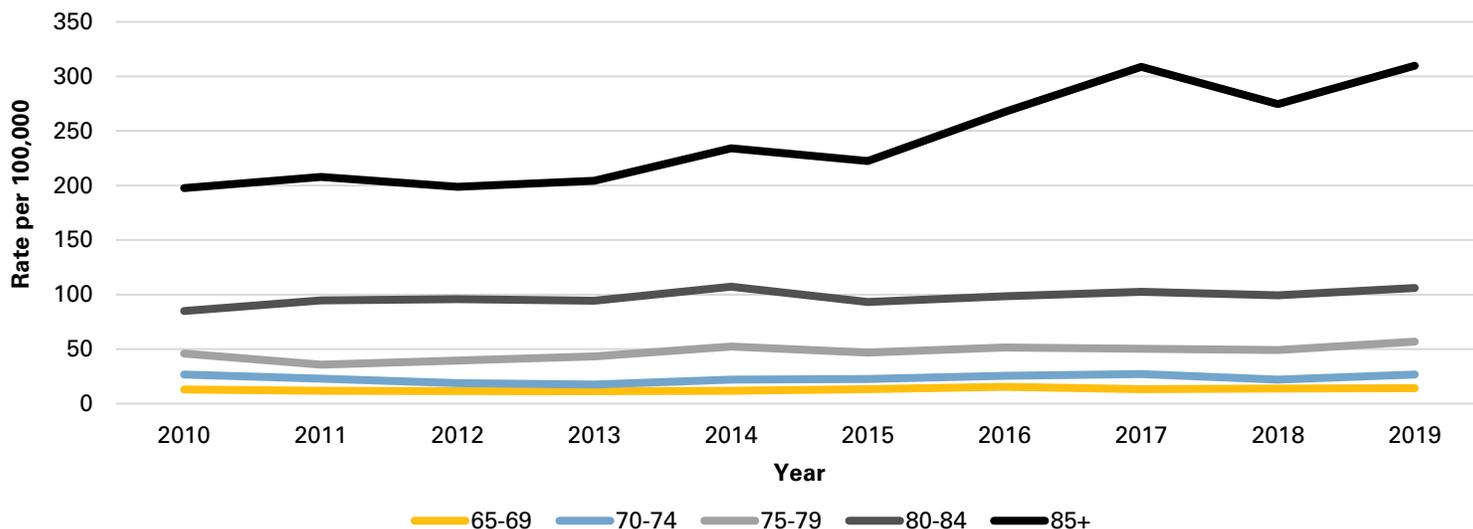
**Figure 2. Average Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County of Residence, Ohio, 2015–2019**



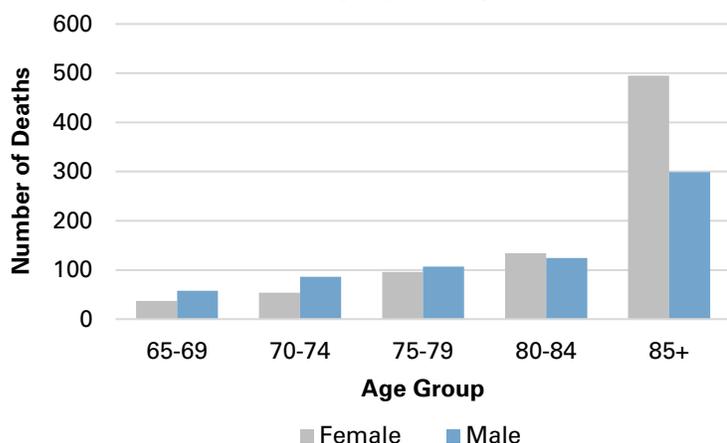
## Age and Sex

- From 2010 to 2019:
  - Adults aged 85+ years had the highest rate of unintentional fall deaths for each year, and the rate increased 57%, from 197.6 to 309.8 per 100,000 population.
  - The rate of unintentional fall deaths increased 25% among adults 80-84 years, 24% among adults 75-79 years, nearly 1% among adults 70-74 years, and 10% among adults 65-69 years.

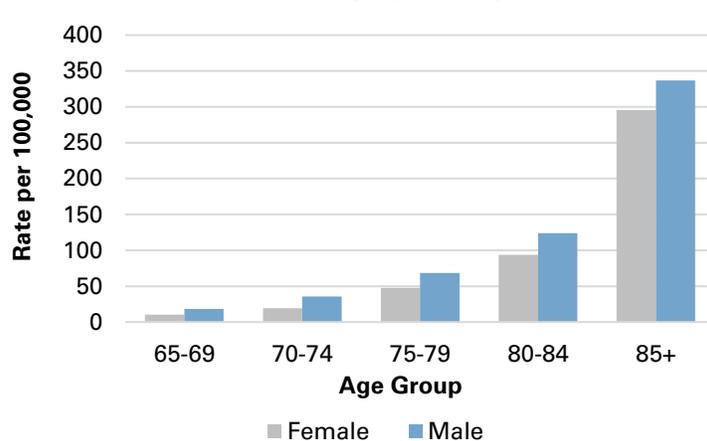
**Figure 3. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age Group, Ohio, 2010–2019**



**Figure 4. Number of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age Group, Ohio, 2019**



**Figure 5. Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Age Group, Ohio, 2019**



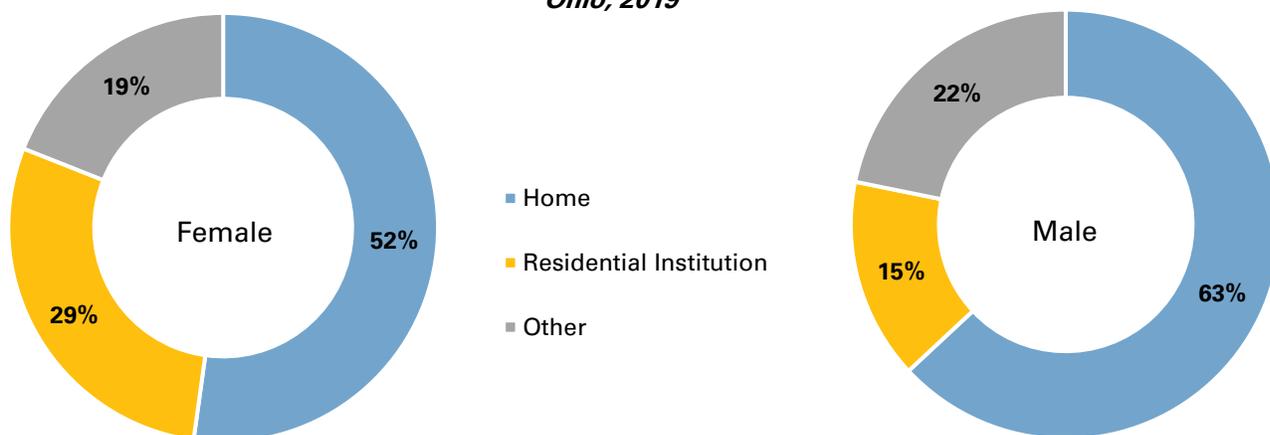
- In 2019, females made up 55% (816) of unintentional fall deaths among older adults, while males made up 45% (674).
- Among both males and females, the number and rate of unintentional fall deaths increased with age. Adults aged 85+ years were disproportionately burdened by unintentional fall deaths.
- Among older adults 65-79 years, males had a higher number of unintentional fall deaths compared with females, while females had a higher number of deaths among those aged 80+ years.
- For each age group presented in Figure 5, males had a higher rate of unintentional fall deaths compared with females.

Note: A rate takes into account the underlying population at risk for an unintentional fall death during a given time period, in this case the 2019 Ohio resident population 65+ years of age. In 2019, there were 495 and 299 unintentional fall deaths among females and males 85+, respectively. There were an estimated 167,534 females and 88,738 males 85+ years living in Ohio in 2019. The unintentional fall death rate for females 85+ years =  $(495/167,534) \times 100,000 = 295.5$ .

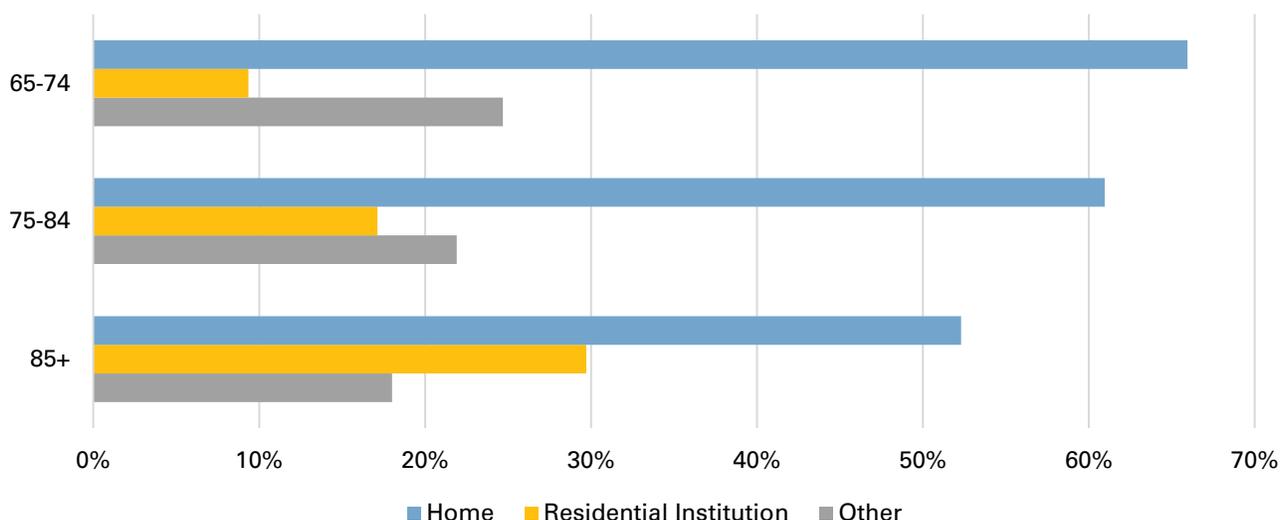
## Location of Injury

- In 57% (851) of all unintentional fall deaths among older adults in 2019, the injury occurred at home. Home was the location of injury in 52% of female fall deaths compared with 63% among males.
- Residential Institution (e.g., nursing home, assisted living facility) was the location of injury in 29% of older adult female fall deaths compared with 15% among males.
- Home was the leading injury location among each age group shown in Figure 7.
- 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.
- 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 19% of older adult female fall deaths and 22% of male deaths.

**Figure 6. Percentage of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Location of Injury and Sex, Ohio, 2019**



**Figure 7. Percentage of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Location of Injury and Age Group, Ohio, 2019**



**Source:** Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Vital Statistics; analysis conducted by ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Analysis includes Ohio residents with any of the following ICD-10 codes as the underlying cause of death: W00-W19. Other injury location 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.

## 2010–2019 Demographic Summary

**Table 1. Number of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by Year and Demographic Characteristic, Ohio, 2010–2019**

Demographics	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate <sup>†</sup>
<b>Age</b>											
65-69	62	57	61	63	69	82	100	85	90	95	14.2
70-74	99	87	74	72	93	97	111	128	108	140	26.8
75-79	136	106	118	132	163	148	166	167	171	203	56.8
80-84	207	229	228	220	247	214	226	238	236	258	106.1
85+	459	494	484	505	588	564	684	791	704	794	309.8
<b>Sex</b>											
Female	541	527	542	547	618	579	696	776	701	816	67.4
Male	422	446	423	445	542	526	591	633	608	674	87.4
<b>Race/Ethnicity*</b>											
White, non-Hispanic	903	927	933	935	1,103	1,034	1,216	1,327	1,245	1,400	80.3
Black, non-Hispanic	53	38	21	44	51	50	57	58	48	74	42.4
Other, non-Hispanic	6	4	4	6	4	14	9	11	9	11	42.0
Hispanic	1	4	5	7	1	5	5	13	7	4	--
<b>Race/Ethnicity* and Sex</b>											
White non-Hispanic Female	511	509	522	515	592	548	670	733	667	768	71.7
White non-Hispanic Male	392	418	411	420	511	486	546	594	578	632	92.1
Black non-Hispanic Female	25	13	15	27	24	19	19	27	25	40	36.1
Black non-Hispanic Male	28	25	6	17	27	31	38	31	23	34	52.8
Hispanic Female	1	2	2	1	1	4	2	8	4	0	--
Hispanic Male	0	2	3	6	0	1	3	5	3	4	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>75.7</b>

**Source:** Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Vital Statistics; analysis conducted by ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Analysis includes Ohio residents with any of the following ICD-10 codes as the underlying cause of death: W00-W19. Due to missing demographic information, demographic categories may not sum to total.

\*Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive. Hispanic includes any race. Specified race (white, Black, other) excludes Hispanic ethnicity. Other race includes American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander and Other.

†Rates presented for age groups are age-specific. Rates presented for sex and race/ethnicity are age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population and suppressed when counts <10.

**Table 2. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County of Residence, Ohio, 2015-2019**

County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015-2019	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Adams	1	0	7	3	1	--	12	52.5
Allen	10	14	8	5	16	86.8	53	59.3
Ashland	8	8	4	2	5	--	27	54.5
Ashtabula	9	4	6	2	5	--	26	29.8
Athens	5	7	3	8	11	150.1	34	93.5
Auglaize	4	3	3	3	4	--	17	38.2
Belmont	5	10	8	10	9	--	42	60.1
Brown	0	0	1	4	1	--	6	--
Butler	26	30	29	21	25	47.8	131	51.6
Carroll	3	2	3	3	3	--	14	54.5
Champaign	2	6	0	3	5	--	16	51.5
Clark	10	17	19	18	23	92.6	87	70.6
Clermont	13	12	13	12	14	45.3	64	44.4
Clinton	1	4	1	5	6	--	17	49.7
Columbiana	13	10	8	10	15	69.8	56	54.6
Coshocton	1	2	2	2	4	--	11	34.3
Crawford	4	3	7	6	7	--	27	63.4
Cuyahoga	139	154	196	153	206	86.9	848	71.9
Darke	14	11	7	16	10	98.4	58	111.7
Defiance	4	4	7	3	7	--	25	72.4
Delaware	24	20	18	24	15	58.9	101	89.5
Erie	7	6	13	6	10	62.1	42	53.7
Fairfield	14	11	20	24	30	133.5	99	91.4
Fayette	2	1	3	3	3	--	12	54.7
Franklin	103	140	132	100	114	78.3	589	85.0
Fulton	3	5	8	2	3	--	21	59.5
Gallia	1	0	2	4	2	--	9	--
Geauga	8	8	8	8	14	71.1	46	51.0
Greene	17	13	19	19	31	110.4	99	72.6
Guernsey	1	3	2	4	5	--	15	43.2
Hamilton	58	56	80	56	69	52.6	319	50.8
Hancock	4	11	10	6	4	--	35	54.5
Hardin	4	6	3	5	4	--	22	97.3
Harrison	3	0	3	0	0	--	6	--
Henry	3	4	5	0	2	--	14	53.2
Highland	4	1	5	1	6	--	17	44.7
Hocking	4	4	3	7	6	--	24	107.1
Holmes	2	1	1	3	0	--	7	--
Huron	5	3	4	2	6	--	20	43.5
Jackson	3	1	2	2	8	--	16	65.3
Jefferson	3	6	10	7	7	--	33	49.0

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County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015-2019	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Knox	3	5	8	8	7	--	31	61.0
Lake	25	33	68	49	70	151.0	245	108.3
Lawrence	8	6	11	8	8	--	41	79.1
Licking	18	32	21	19	27	104.7	117	95.3
Logan	0	4	3	6	5	--	18	52.4
Lorain	38	39	56	51	61	112.4	245	92.4
Lucas	41	64	52	54	51	73.5	262	77.1
Madison	3	4	6	6	5	--	24	77.7
Mahoning	17	30	24	26	18	34.4	115	45.9
Marion	10	9	8	8	9	--	44	79.2
Medina	12	8	15	28	17	55.4	80	57.2
Meigs	4	3	3	1	2	--	13	62.9
Mercer	2	2	1	5	6	--	16	42.9
Miami	11	10	7	9	11	59.8	48	54.2
Monroe	2	1	0	1	5	--	9	--
Montgomery	98	111	128	126	135	136.0	598	122.5
Morgan	0	0	3	6	1	--	10	68.4
Morrow	0	5	4	5	2	--	16	62.5
Muskingum	6	7	7	7	7	--	34	47.6
Noble	1	1	2	0	0	--	4	--
Ottawa	2	4	2	5	2	--	15	32.3
Paulding	1	3	2	7	3	--	16	101.8
Perry	1	2	2	3	1	--	9	--
Pickaway	4	10	6	8	5	--	33	79.0
Pike	2	5	6	3	4	--	20	86.2
Portage	14	15	15	15	16	66.6	75	64.5
Preble	4	6	10	4	9	--	33	93.1
Putnam	3	4	4	3	3	--	17	56.0
Richland	7	14	10	6	9	--	46	39.1
Ross	11	8	9	17	22	179.0	67	118.8
Sandusky	6	4	4	4	7	--	25	46.6
Scioto	5	8	4	8	7	--	32	49.0
Seneca	0	4	5	9	6	--	24	46.5
Shelby	7	4	6	2	6	--	25	66.2
Stark	45	50	48	61	66	88.4	270	73.2
Summit	45	46	41	55	38	38.6	225	46.0
Trumbull	27	18	22	15	19	43.4	101	48.5
Tuscarawas	11	13	12	9	10	53.5	55	61.2
Union	2	2	1	1	7	--	13	43.8
Van Wert	3	0	7	0	7	--	17	61.1
Vinton	2	2	3	2	2	--	11	118.1

**Table 2. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate of Unintentional Fall Deaths Among Adults 65+ Years by County of Residence, Ohio, 2015–2019**

County	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2015-2019	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
Warren	16	28	30	23	30	95.3	127	86.4
Washington	5	4	12	6	4	--	31	50.1
Wayne	21	29	16	29	24	111.7	119	118.0
Williams	7	16	7	3	9	--	42	118.8
Wood	7	12	13	11	8	--	51	54.5
Wyandot	3	1	2	5	3	--	14	60.5
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>69.0</b>

**Source:** Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Bureau of Vital Statistics; analysis conducted by ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Section. Analysis includes Ohio residents with any of the following ICD-10 codes as the underlying cause of death: W00-W19. County data are based on county of residence. \*Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population and suppressed when counts <10.