



# FOCUS REPORT FALLS

1 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018

**AUSTRALIA  
NEW ZEALAND  
TRAUMA REGISTRY**  
*Management of the  
Severely Injured*

# FALLS

## LOW FALLS

In the 2017-18 financial year, there were 2,065 reported low falls with an Injury Severity Score (ISS) greater than 12 or death after injury. Sixty-five per cent of low falls were aged 65 years or older and 61 per cent were male. The median (IQR) age for low falls was 74 (57-84) years. Seventy per cent of those with a known place of injury occurred in the home (includes residential institution), with this number increasing for those aged 75 years and older (82 per cent). Deaths in the emergency department accounted for 6.9 per cent of low fall deaths, and of those that did not die, 68 percent went to the ward and 16.8 percent to the ICU. Injury severity was most common for the 16-24 ISS group, similar with other injury causes. Excluding deaths, 52.4 per cent were discharged home at the end of their definitive care and 26.1 per cent discharged to rehabilitation.

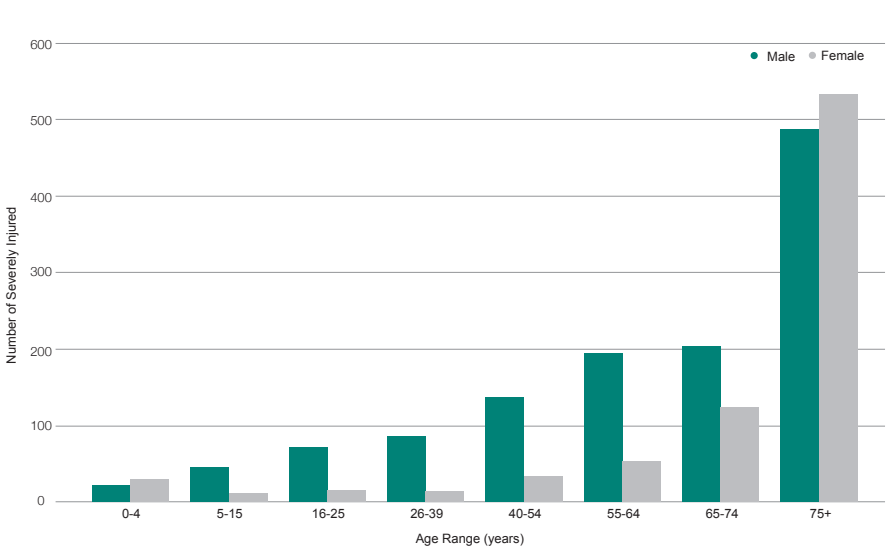
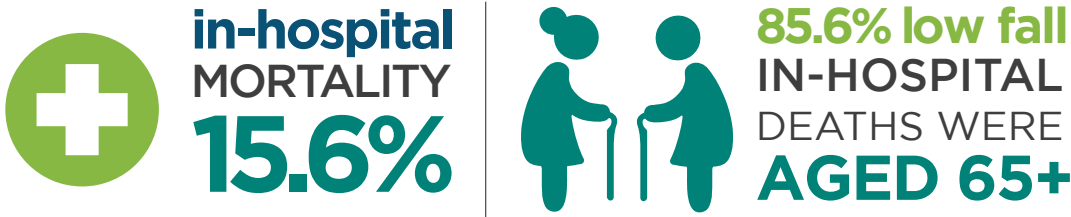


Figure 30. Incidence of Low Falls by Gender

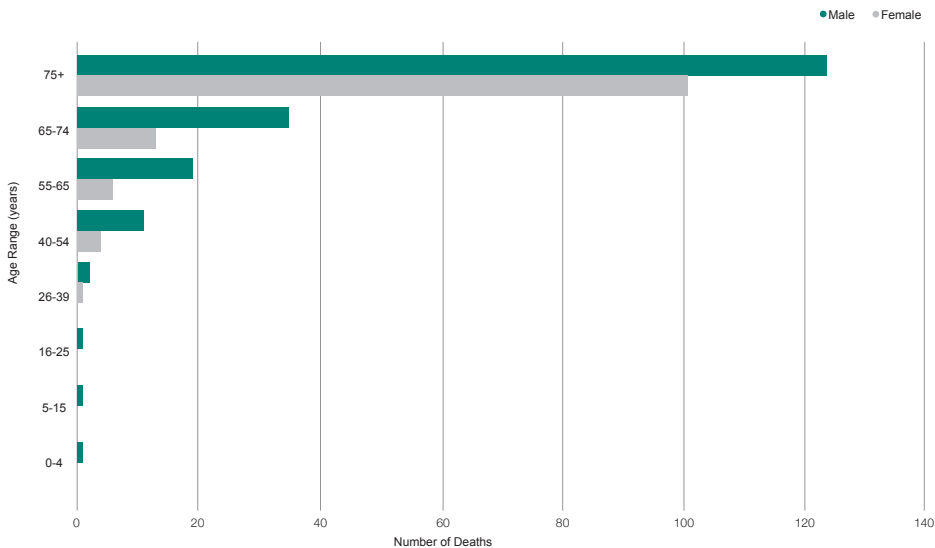


Figure 31. Low Fall Deaths by Age Range

## HIGH FALLS

In the 2017-18 financial year, there were 1,368 reported high falls with an ISS greater than 12 or death after injury. Seventy-seven per cent of high falls were male with 21 per cent of high falls being caused by falls from ladders, similar to the previous financial year. The median (IQR) age for low falls was 55 (35-70) years. Sixty per cent of those with a known place of injury occurred in the home (includes residential institution). Deaths in the emergency department accounted for 16 per cent of high fall deaths. Of those that were discharged from the ED alive, 58.1% percent went to the ward, 22.3 percent to the ICU and 11.2 per cent to the operating theatre. Excluding deaths, 63 per cent were discharged home at the end of their definitive care and 25.5 per cent discharged to rehabilitation.

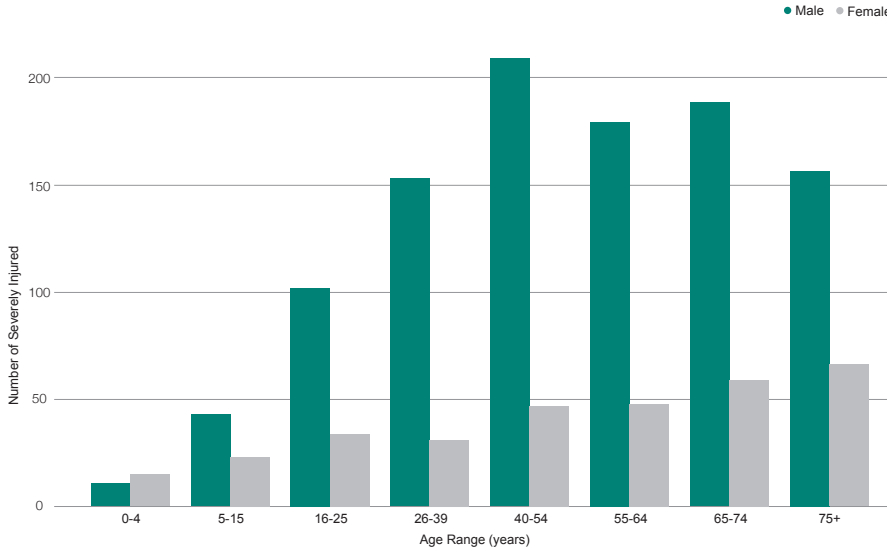


Figure 32. Incidence of High Falls by Gender

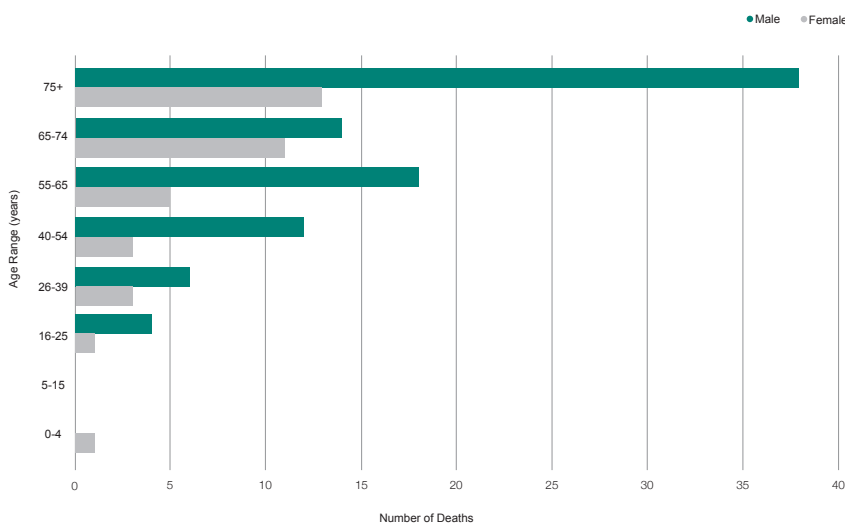


Figure 33. High Falls Deaths by Age Range



**ntri** national trauma  
research institute



The Australian Trauma Registry is supported by funding from:



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities**  
Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics