

Slips, Trips, Falls Stats and Facts

DID YOU KNOW?

You can **slip** when you lose your footing, you can **trip** when you catch your foot on or in something, and you **fall** when you come down suddenly. Spills, ice, snow, rain, loose mats, rugs, and stepladders are some of the common causes of slips, trips, and falls. In addition, poor lighting and clutter can cause injuries such as sprains, strains, bruises, bumps, fractures, scratches, and cuts.

In 2016, 697 workers died in falls to a lower level, and 48,060 were injured badly enough to require days off of work. A worker doesn't have fall from a high level to suffer fatal injuries; 134 workers were killed in falls on the same level in 2016, according to *Injury Facts*. Construction workers are most at risk for fatal falls from height – more than seven times the rate of other industries – but falls can happen anywhere, even at a “desk job.”

NSC data for 2016 includes falls from height and falls on the same level, by industry:

- Construction: 24,700 injuries, 384 deaths
- Manufacturing: 22,040 injuries, 49 deaths
- Wholesale trade: 10,250 injuries, 21 deaths
- Retail trade: 29,830 injuries, 29 deaths
- Transportation and Warehousing: 23,490 injuries, 46 deaths
- Professional and business services: 22,090 injuries, 111 deaths
- Education and health services: 43,660 injuries, 18 deaths
- Government: 63,350 injuries, 44 deaths

Facts

Slips, trips, and falls are common causes of injuries in retail

stores.

Falls from portable ladders (step, straight, combination and extension) are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries.

Most recent traumatic injury data show:

- 27% of the 900,380 nonfatal work injuries resulting in days away from work in 2018 were related to slips, trips, and falls.
- 235,740 injuries due to contact with objects and equipment in 2018 were so severe that they resulted in time away from work.
- In 2018, 1,276 U.S. workers died in work-related crashes involving motor vehicles (24% of all deaths).
- Workers less than 25 years of age have higher rates of occupational injuries treated in emergency departments than other age groups
- An estimated 2.5 million workers sustained work-related injuries and were treated in emergency departments during 2018.
- In 2018, the rate of emergency department-treated, work-related injuries was estimated at 160 per 10,000 full-time equivalent workers.
- Male workers accounted for approximately 65% of the work-related injuries treated in emergency departments.
- The three leading causes of work-related injuries treated in an emergency department were contact with objects and equipment, overexertion and bodily reaction, and falls, slips and trips without a fall.
- Fall fatalities are nearly equally divided between men and women. However, more women will experience a slip-and-fall accident. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, falls accounted for 5% of the job-related fatalities for women compared to 11% for men.
- Falls account for over 8 million hospital emergency room visits, representing the leading cause of visits (21.3%). Slips and falls account for over 1 million visits, or 12% of

total falls.

- Fractures are the most serious consequences of falls and occur in 5% of all people who fall.
- Slips and falls do not constitute a primary cause of fatal occupational injuries, but represent the primary cause of lost days from work.
- Slips and falls are the leading cause of workers' compensation claims and are the leading cause of occupational injury for people aged 55 years and older. If you are thinking about making a workers' compensation claim then you might want to take a look at using someone like the house of workers compensation lawyers to help you with your claim.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), floors and flooring materials contribute directly to more than 2 million fall injuries each year.
- Half of all accidental deaths in the home are caused by a fall. Most fall injuries in the home happen at ground level, not from an elevation.
- Of all fractures from falls, hip fractures are the most serious and lead to the greatest health problems and number of deaths. The following statistics describe the slip-and-fall crisis affecting our nation's elderly.
- Each year in the United States, one of every three persons over the age of 65 will experience a fall. Half of which are repeat fallers.
- According to the CDC In 2005, more than 15,000 people over the age of 65 died as a result of a fall. Up from 7,700 a decade earlier.
- The CDC also reports that approximately 1.8 million people over the age of 65 were treated in an emergency room as a result of a fall.
- For people aged 65-84 years, falls are the second leading cause of injury-related death; for those aged 85 years or older, falls are the leading cause of injury-related death.
- Incidence of falls goes up with each decade of life.
- Of all deaths associated with falls, 60% involve people aged 75 years or older.

- Falls account for 87% of all fractures among people over the age of 65 and are the second leading cause of spinal cord injuries and brain injury symptoms.
- Half of all elderly adults (over the age of 65) hospitalized for hip fractures cannot return home or live independently after the fracture.
- Falls represent 40% of all nursing home admissions and are the sixth leading cause of death among people aged 70 years or older.
- Over 60% of nursing homes residents will fall each year.
- According to The National Institute on Aging, every year 30% of people over the age of 65 will sustain a fall, of which 10% will result in a serious injury.
- 67% of fall fatalities are among people aged 75 years or older.
- People over the age of 85 are 10-15 times more likely to experience a hip fracture than are people aged 60-65 years.
- 85% of worker's compensation claims are attributed to employees slipping on slick floors (Industrial Safety & Occupational Health Markets 5th edition)
- 22% of slip/fall incidents resulted in more than 31 days away from work (US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2002).
- Compensation & medical costs associated with employee slip/fall accidents is approximately \$70 billion annually (National Safety Council Injury Facts 2003 edition).
- Occupational fatalities due to falls are approximately 600 per year down from 1200 during since the 1970s.
- Total injuries due to falls estimated at \$13-14 million per year in U.S. Falls are the number one cause of accidental injury, resulting in 20.8 percent of all emergency room visits in 1995. (Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 11.9 percent of ER visits.)
- Disabling (temporary and permanent) occupational injuries due to falls are approximately \$250,000-\$300,000 per year.
- Falls occur in virtually all manufacturing and service sectors. Fatal falls however are in construction, mining and certain maintenance activities.
- According to Workers Compensation statistics from ITT-

Hartford Insurance Company, falls account for 16% of all claims and 26% of all costs. This compares to 33% of costs associated with sprains and strains.

- According to the American Trucking Association, slips and falls are the leading cause of compensable injury in the trucking industry.
- Falls from elevation (approximately 40% of compensable fall cases, approximately 10% of occupational fatalities).
- Falls on the same level (approximately 60% of compensable fall cases). (W. Monroe Keyserling, Ph.D. 2000)

Tips to Stay Safe

- If you see something you might slip or trip on, tell your supervisor right away.
- Clean up spills and anything slippery. Check with your supervisor about how to use cleaning products. Don't use cleaners that could make the floor slippery.
- Clear walkways, stairs, and lobbies of anything that might be a tripping hazard, such as cords, wires, empty boxes, and clutter.
- Make sure that floor mats lay flat rather than wrinkled or bunched.
- Use handrails when you walk up and down steps.
- Before using any ladder or stepladder, make sure it opens fully.
- Check that ladder extensions are fully locked and that the ladder legs are stable on a flat, non-slippery surface.
- Clean off any slippery material on the rungs, steps, or feet of a ladder before you use it.
- Don't go over the load limit noted on the ladder.