

CDC: Fall-related traumatic brain injury deaths increasing in U.S.

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"Although falls are preventable, the public should be aware that fall-related TBI deaths are increasing in many states as well as nationally," the authors write. "Annual wellness visits might serve as a time to focus on previously assessed [risk factors](#) for falls and to update personalized prevention plans."

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From 2008 to 2017, there was an increase in the national age-adjusted rate of unintentional fall-related traumatic brain injury (TBI) deaths among U.S. adults, according to research published in the March 6 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Alexis B. Peterson, Ph.D., and Scott R. Kegler, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, estimated the national and state-specific rates and trends for TBI-related deaths caused by unintentional falls among U.S. residents during 2008 to 2017.

The researchers found that for 2008 to 2017, there was a 17 percent increase in the national age-adjusted rate of fall-related TBI deaths. For nearly all decedent characteristics, there was a significant increase in rate trends at the national level; the most notable increases were seen among persons living in noncore, nonmetropolitan counties and those aged ≥ 75 years. In an analysis of state-specific rate trends, there was a significant increase in fall-related TBI deaths in 29 states during the study period.

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