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Elderly Falls



Methodology

Projections of hospitalised fall-related injury in NSW, Australia: Impacts on the hospital and aged care sectors

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Abstract

Projections of the number, rate and cost of fall-related hospitalised injuries for individuals aged 65 years and older in New South Wales (NSW), Australia were estimated to 2051 for two scenarios: (1) demographic change only using 2008 admission rates; and (2) modelled change using negative binominal regression taking into account current trends in admission rates. Based on demographic change alone, the number and cost of fall injury hospitalisations among older people is expected to increase almost three-fold by 2051. Transfers to permanent residential aged care will also increase 3.2 fold. However, if the fall-related hospitalisation rate sustains its current trend, these increases are projected to be more than ten-fold by 2051. Even with demographic change alone, there will be a significant impact on the resources required to care for older people suffering a fall injury hospitalisation over the next forty years in NSW. The impact on the hospital and aged care sectors will be considerable unless significant improvements occur in the prevention and treatment of fall-related injury in older people.

Keywords

Falls; Injury; Older persons; Projections; Cost of injury

Figures and tables from this article:

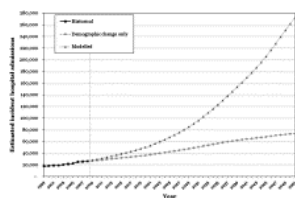


Fig. 1. Projected fall-related injury incident admissions for two change scenarios, persons aged 65 years and older, NSW, 2008–2051.

Figure options

Table 1. Number of fall-related injury hospital admissions by ten-year age-group and gender, persons aged 65 years and

older, NSW, 1999– 2008.



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Table 2. Fall-related hospital admission rates (per 100,000 population) by ten-year age-group and gender, persons aged 65 years and older, NSW, 1999– 2008.



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Table 3. Annualised percentage rate of change for incident admissions by type and gender, persons aged 65 years and older, NSW, 1999– 2008.



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Table 4. Projected fall-related hospitalised injury burden for two change scenarios by five-year period, persons aged 65 years and older, NSW, 2008– 2051.



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Wendy Watson is a Senior Research Fellow at the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre at The University of New South Wales where her role includes the development and management of the evaluation of the NSW State Falls Prevention policy. She has 20 years experience in injury prevention research and her main areas of interest include epidemiologic analysis of injury surveillance data, monitoring and evaluation of injury prevention programs and policy and measuring the burden of injury at the population level. She previously worked at the Monash University Accident Research Centre across a wide variety of injury prevention research issues.

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