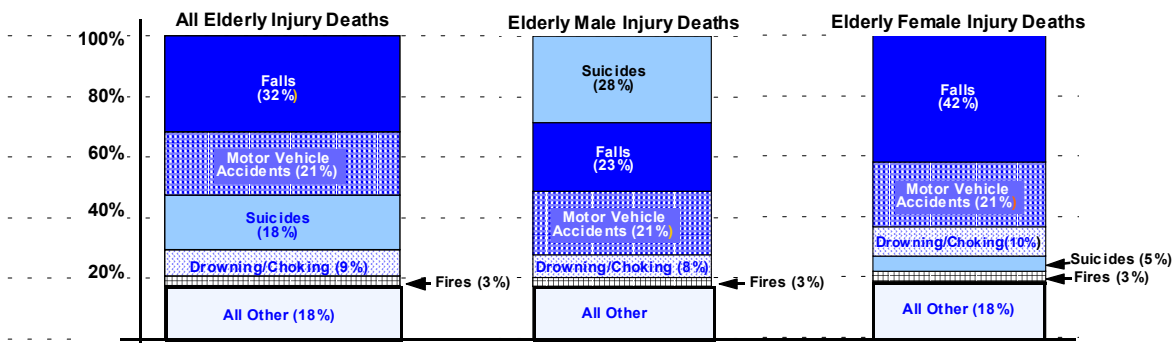


INJURY DEATHS: MAINE'S ELDERLY

Maine Residents Age 65 and Older: 1989 – 1998 (preliminary)

- ➔ Between 1989 and 1998, 1,965 older Maine residents died from injuries resulting in a death rate of 91.5 deaths/100,000 elderly population, a rate comparable to what was observed nationally. "Injury deaths" was the 7th leading cause of death for Maine residents aged 65 years and older.
- ➔ While elderly residents accounted for " of all injury deaths in Maine, they accounted for just 14% of the population.
- ➔ The leading cause of injury death for Maine's elderly was death from falls and fractures. However, the frequency of death by specific causes of injury varied by sex. Although for females, falls were the leading cause of injury death, for men the leading cause was suicide.

Percent Injury Deaths by Gender and Cause of Injury
Maine Residents 65 Years Old and Older: 1989 – 1998



- ➔ Males accounted for 55% of the injury deaths to elderly residents; they accounted for 40% of the elderly population.
- ➔ The leading cause of injury death also varied by age group. For residents 65 – 69 years old, the leading cause of injury death was suicide; for those 70-79, it was motor vehicle injuries, and for those 80 years old and older, it was accidental falls and fractures.

3 Leading Causes of Injury Death to Residents Ages 65 Years Old and Older By Age Group: Maine, 1989 – 1998			
AGE	1st LEADING CAUSE	2nd LEADING CAUSE	3rd LEADING CAUSE
65 – 69	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Accidental Falls/Fractures
70 – 74	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Suicide	Accidental Falls/Fractures
75 – 79	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Accidental Falls/Fractures	Suicide
80 – 84	Accidental Falls/Fractures	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Suicide
≥85	Accidental Falls/Fractures	Motor Vehicle Accidents	Drowning/Choking

Notes: Injury deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-9 cause of death codes 800 – 999. All rates are for underlying cause of death, and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. All national data (national data are for whites only) were obtained from CDC Wonder.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Series 9

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