

Elderly Individuals and Emergency Room Visits

Injuries and accidents that take seniors to emergency rooms are costly and may have a negative impact on these individuals' short- or long-term functioning and independence. The following statistics about emergency room visits by seniors (those 65 and older) due to injuries are from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

1,451,140

People aged 65 and older were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with consumer products in 2002.

955,540

Of elderly individuals who made ER visits due to injuries were 75 or older.

73%

Is the percentage that ER visits for product-related injuries in seniors age 75 and older increased from 1991 to 2002.

77%

Of product-related ER visits by seniors age 75 and older were due to injuries from falls. These included falls down stairs, falls from tripping over loose carpets, cords, and other obstacles on the floor, and falls off ladders.

21%

Of senior injuries that caused ER visits involved individuals reaching for the phone. Another 12% tripped over telephone cords.

15%

Of adults 65 to 74 treated in hospital emergency rooms for consumer-product related injuries were hurt seriously enough to require hospitalization. Those 75 and older had a hospitalization rate of 27%, nearly six times that of the population at large.

3,000

Deaths of individuals age 65 and older were due to consumer-product related injuries.

\$89.5

Billion is the single-year overall injury cost associated with persons age 65 and older. In 2000, death costs for a single year were over \$16.5 billion. When the two figures are combined, it is estimated that over \$100 billion in injury and death costs are associated with the senior population.

58,220

ER-treated injuries in the senior population involved personal use items. While many of these injuries were related to falls, the most common non-fall injuries involved clothing ignition and cuts or other injuries from sharp edges.

Suggested Resources



Hurricane Katrina and Other Disaster Relief Resources

- **Crisis Hotline Available for Victims of Hurricane Katrina**
1-800-273-8255

A toll-free hotline for people in crisis in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is being provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. By dialing this number, callers are connected to a network of local crisis centers across the country that are committed to crisis counseling.

- **American Red Cross: Red Cross Movement Family Links Registry**

www.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina/locate

Visitors to this site can register themselves or a missing relative or view an existing list.

- **Missing Persons**

www.nola.com/forums/searching/

Help find individuals missing in the New Orleans areas in the aftermath of Katrina.

- **OBRA Guidelines for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness**

www.ltcombudsman.org/uploads/ObraFederalRegs.pdf

- **Armed Forces Retirement Home**

Approximately 400 independent living and assisted living residents from the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport were evacuated to the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, DC. Donations can be sent to:

The Armed Forces Soldiers Home

P.O. Box 1303

3700 North Capitol, NW

Washington, DC 20011

Make checks payable to "AFRH Trust Fund."

- **American Red Cross**

www.redcross.org • 800-HELP-NOW

- **The Salvation Army**

www.salvationarmyusa.org • 800-SAL-ARMY