

## Attachment 1

The rates of falls that lead to hospitalization differ by New York State County. Figures 2-4 provide falls data by NYS County and maps displaying counties by quartile. Based on 2004-2006 NYS Department of Health's Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) data<sup>i</sup>, the hospital discharge rate for unintentional falls within the 65-74 age group ranged from a crude rate of 38.6 to 108.5 per 10,000 population (See Figure 2 and Table 4). The crude rate is determined by dividing the total case numbers for each county during the years 2004-2006 by the midyear 2005 population in the respective county, and then multiplying the quotient by 10,000. In the 75-84 age group, the discharge rate ranged from 98.7 to 312.9 (See Figure 3 and Table 5). And in the 85+ age group the rates ranged from 168.8 to 751.0 (See Figure 4 and Table 6). A few NYS counties are in the highest quartile for falls among for all age groups. And, a few counties are in the highest quartile for two of the three age groups.

As age increases, so does the rate of falls. The difference in rates among counties is thought to be due to differences in the size of the age cohorts and, consequently, differences in risk factors for falls in these age groups across counties. In other words, counties with a large, white, age 85 and older female population will likely have a higher rate of hospitalizations due to falls. However, there may be other factors affecting the rate of falls (e.g., proportion of people in residential institutions) that have not been completely studied contributing to these differences and the reasons for the differences are not fully known.

Based on data provided by the NYS Department of Health's Bureau of Injury Prevention, initial emergency department visits for people treated and released due to unintentional falls for NYS Residents 65+ during 2005-2006, ranged from a rate of 311.3 per 100,000 residents to a rate of 6,352.5 per 100,000 (See Table 7). Table 8 describes county level ER data by quartile and Figure 5 displays these quartiles in a county specific NYS map. Hospitalizations due to unintentional falls for NYS residents aged 65+ during 2004-2006 ranged from a rate of 760.1 per 100,000 to 2,536.7 per 100,000 (See Table 9). Table 10 describes county level hospitalization data by quartile and Figure 6 displays these quartiles in a county specific NYS map. Deaths due to unintentional falls for NYS residents aged 65+ years during 2004-2006 ranged from a rate of 20.5 per 100,000 to 107.6 per 100,000 (See Table 11). A fuller explanation of the reasons why these rates vary so dramatically will be necessary in order to implement interventions that have the greatest value and achieve the desired results.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/hospital/uf6574.htm> (Hospital discharge rates 65-74)

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/hospital/uf7584.htm> (Hospital discharge rates 75-84)

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/statistics/chac/hospital/uf85.htm> (Hospital discharge rates 85+)