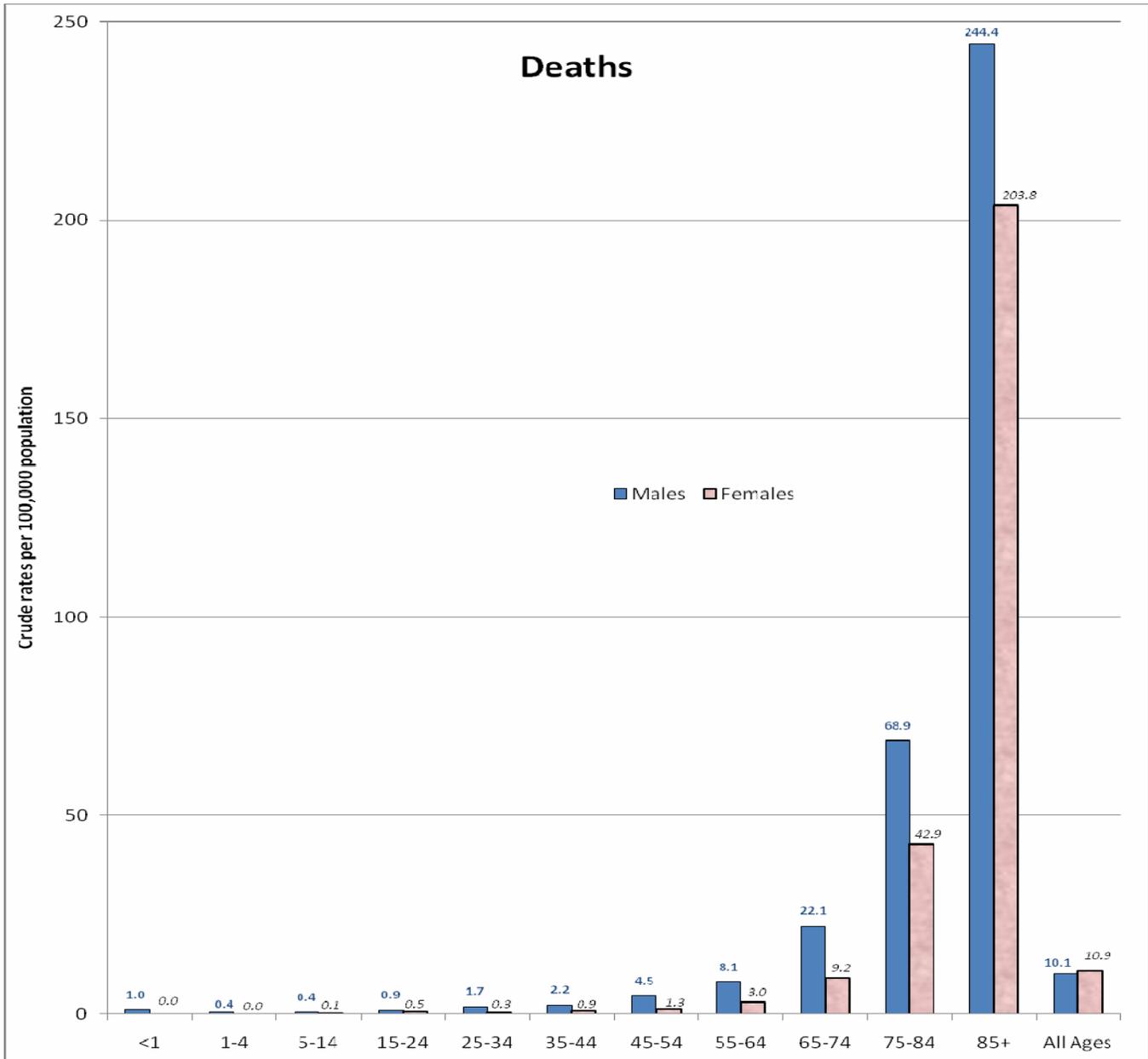
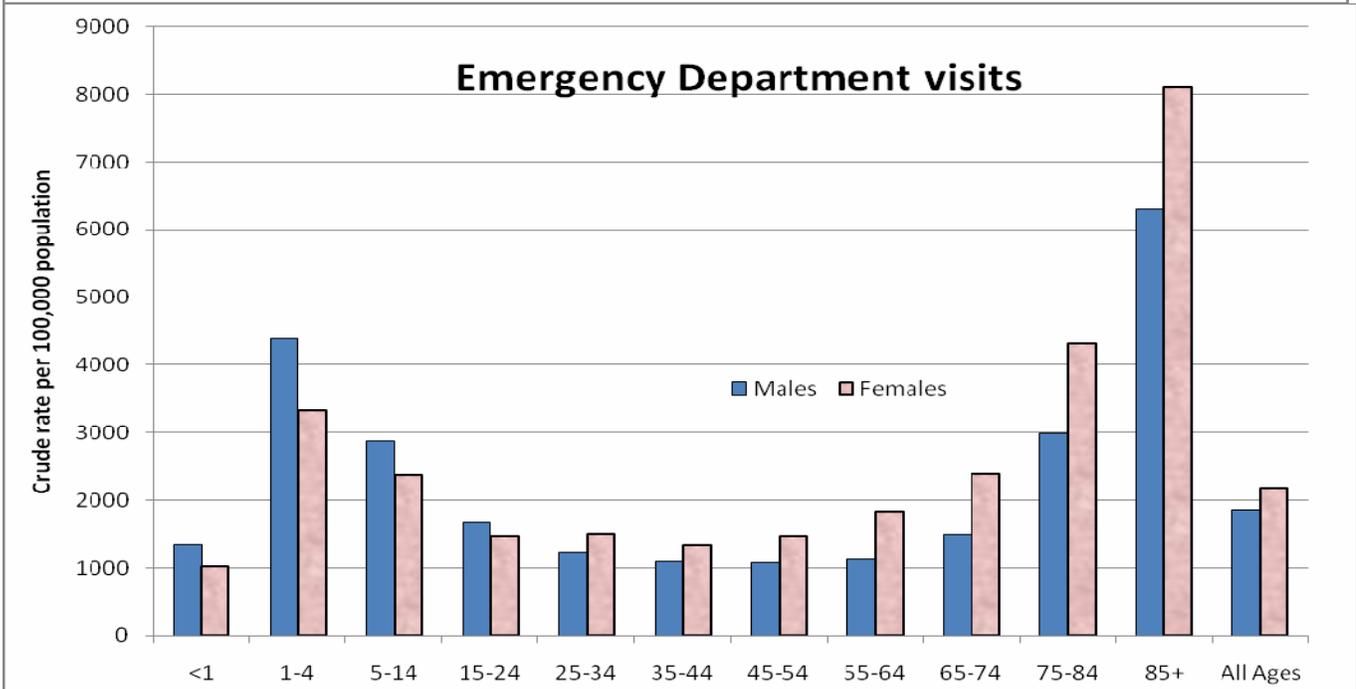
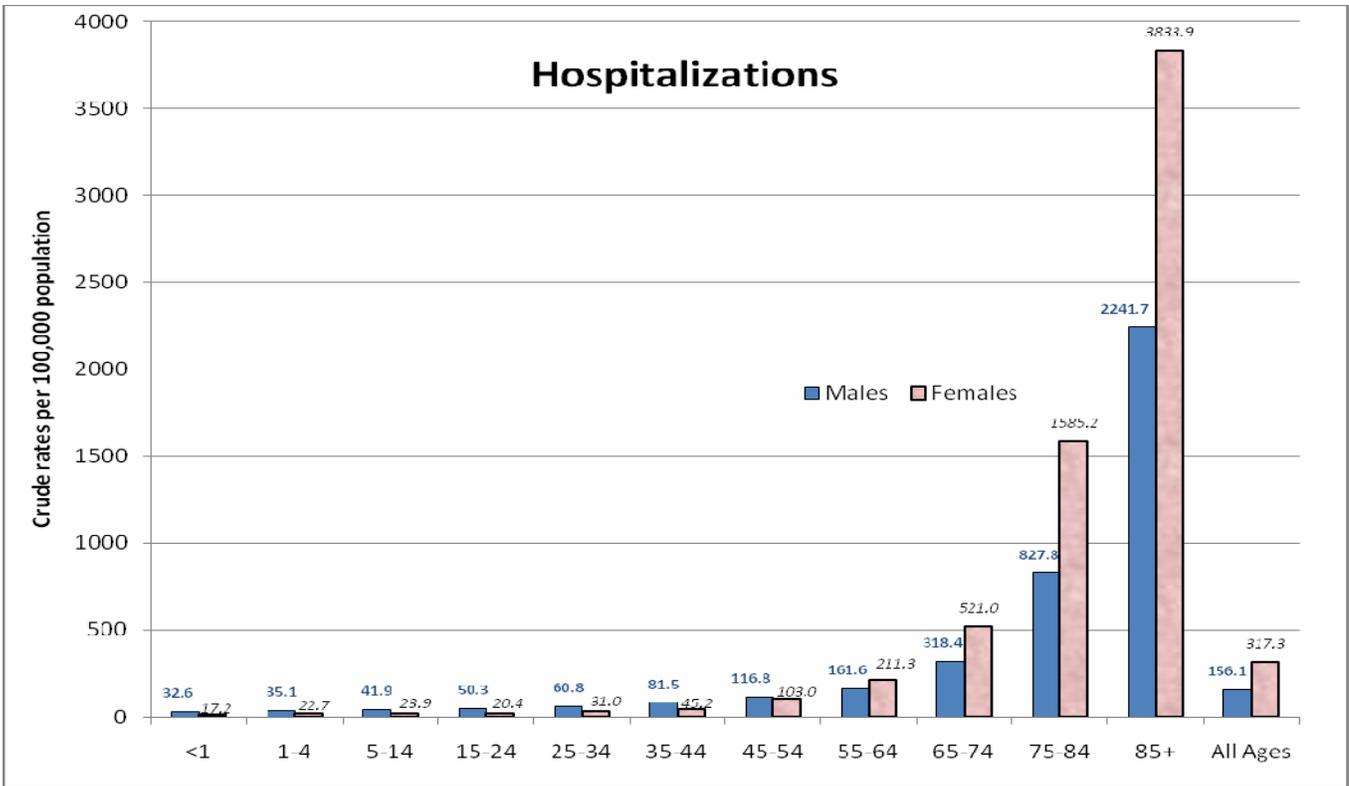


Indicators for unintentional falls, Iowa, 2002-2006

The rate of fall-related deaths in Iowa (8.5/100,000) is above the national average (6.2/100,000¹), partially due to the large proportion of seniors (85+) in Iowa, the age group with by far the highest rate of deaths from falls (males: 244/100,000 and females: 203.8/100,000). Falls are also the leading cause of injury hospitalizations and ED visits in Iowa.



¹ CDC WISQARS (2002-2005) www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/



Note: Hospitalization data are for falls in Iowa, 2002-2006; emergency department visits are for falls in Iowa, 2003-2006.

- Although falls are the 2nd leading cause of injury deaths in Iowa (yearly average of 314), falls are the leading cause of injury hospitalizations and ED visits, with respective yearly averages of more than 7,100 and 57,000.
- Falls account for 20 percent of all injury deaths, 41 percent of injury hospitalizations, and 23 percent of all injury ED visits in Iowa.
- The overall fall-related death rate was about the same for males (10/100,000) and females (11/100,000). However, death rates and gender differences varied with each age group.
 - Fall-related deaths mainly occur in people over 74 years old, with by far the highest rate in those over the age of 84 (males: 244/100,000; females: 204/100,000). The average death rate increased as age increased, after the age of 14.
 - Fall-related death rates were higher in males in every age group.
 - In the 15-to 24-year olds, the average death rate for males was 0.9/100,000 vs. 0.5/100,000 for females. By 55 years of age, the rate increased to 8/100,000 (males) vs. 3/100,000 (females).
 - The greatest difference between fall death rates in males and females of the same age occurred in the 25-34 age group where males (1.7/100,000) were five times more likely than females (0.3/100,000) to die from a fall.
 - Among those aged 55 to 64, injury death rates in males (8/100,000) were more than double that of females (3/100,000).
- The demographic pattern of fall-related hospitalizations is very similar to that of deaths from falls, except that many more elderly females than elderly males are hospitalized due to falls.
 - Females of all ages (317/100,000) had twice the hospitalization rate of all males (156/100,000).
 - In the 35- to 44-year-old age group, males (82/100,000) had an 80 percent increased rate of fall-related hospitalizations over females (45/100,000). However, in the 55- to 64-year-old age group, female rates (211/100,000) were 30 percent greater than in males (161/100,000) and continued to increase with age.
 - Rates in women age 85 and over (3,834/100,000) were nearly double that of men age 85+ (2,242/100,000).
- Fall-related ED visit rates were greater in all females (2,079/100,000) than in all males (1,748/100,000) and differed greatly with age.
 - Fall-related ED visit rates peaked in those 85+ (males: 6,114/100,000, females: 7,901/100,000), with a smaller peak in ages 1-4 (males: 4,205/100,000, females: 3,189/100,000).
 - Males had higher rates of fall-related ED visits in all age groups until the age of 25, after which female rates steadily increased compared to males.
 - After the age of four, ED visit rates steadily declined for both genders until ages 45-54 (females) and 55-64 (males), where the rates began to steadily increase for both genders.