

# INJURIES IN THE ELDERLY IN CROATIA

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## Introduction and objective

Although injuries are the leading cause of death in the first four decades of life, mortality rates from injuries are the highest in elderly population.

The aim of this research is to present the burden of injuries in elderly (people aged 65 and older) population in Croatia.

## Material & Methods

We have used the data on injuries (ICD-10; codes: V01-Y98, S00-T98) from routine mortality and morbidity statistics and database provided by the World Health Organization (Health for All database, HFA-DB).

## Results

- From 2001 to 2016 the age-standardized injury mortality rate in the elderly (65+) in Croatia showed an increasing trend (2001: 167.2/100,000, 2016: 192.6/100,000). The age-standardized injury mortality rate in the elderly in the period 2001-2016 was higher than the rates in the EU and European regions (Figure 1.).
- In 2018 the mortality rate from injuries for males was 247.1/100,000 and 210.3/100,000 for females in the 65+ population.
- With 1,135 deaths and age specific rate of 136.3/100,000, falls were the leading external cause of death among elderly people, followed by suicides (30.7/100,000) and traffic accidents (16.7/100,000).
- More than half (61%) of hospitalisations of elderly people treated for injuries are due to falls. (Figure 2.)

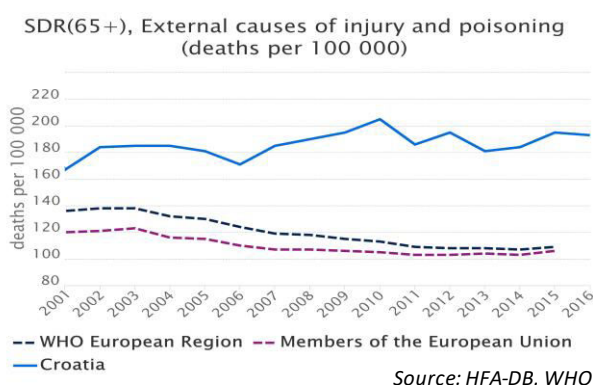


Figure 1. Injuries (65+), SDR/100 000

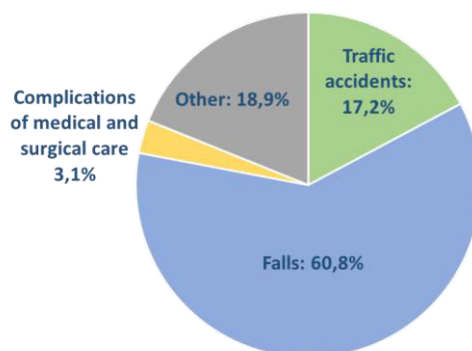


Figure 2. The leading causes of hospitalizations due to injuries in people over 65, Croatia 2018

## Conclusion

Accounting for a large portion of the overall mortality and morbidity, injuries are a major public health problem among the elderly in Croatia.

A systematic implementation of preventative programmes is required, especially those for falls and hip fracture prevention.