Development of the 2019 Western Australian Falls Report

Presentation type: 15-minute oral
Presenter (Authors): Roisin Sweeney, Rachel Meade
Affiliation: Injury Matters

Background
Falls related injuries can vary in severity with treatment coming from a range of health professionals. These factors along with unlinked data collection systems make it challenging to understand the full extent of falls in Western Australia (WA). To date there has been no one document that consistently monitors the current incidence and overview of falls in WA. The following describes the development of the inaugural WA Falls Report by Injury Matters in partnerships with the Department of Health WA.

Activity
The formative stages of the report involved the establishment of a working party, an audit of data sources, and invitations to community organisations to submit falls prevention case studies. The following was identified as key report components; the incidence of fatalities, hospitalisations, emergency department admissions and ambulance call outs due to falls; population groups that experienced a higher incidence of falls; the causality of falls; and successful WA falls prevention interventions.

Conclusion
Overall, nine community organisations and six working party members across academic, community and government sectors collaborated to support the development of the report and contribution of content. Fostering partnerships across a variety of sectors reduced time and costs to develop the report and ensured the creation of a meaningful and useful resource to inform falls prevention in WA. The WA Falls Report provides one document that captures key WA falls data to monitor trends and inform future falls prevention policy, programs and initiatives.