

# Home and Recreational Safety

## Falls Data

### Cost of Older Adult Falls

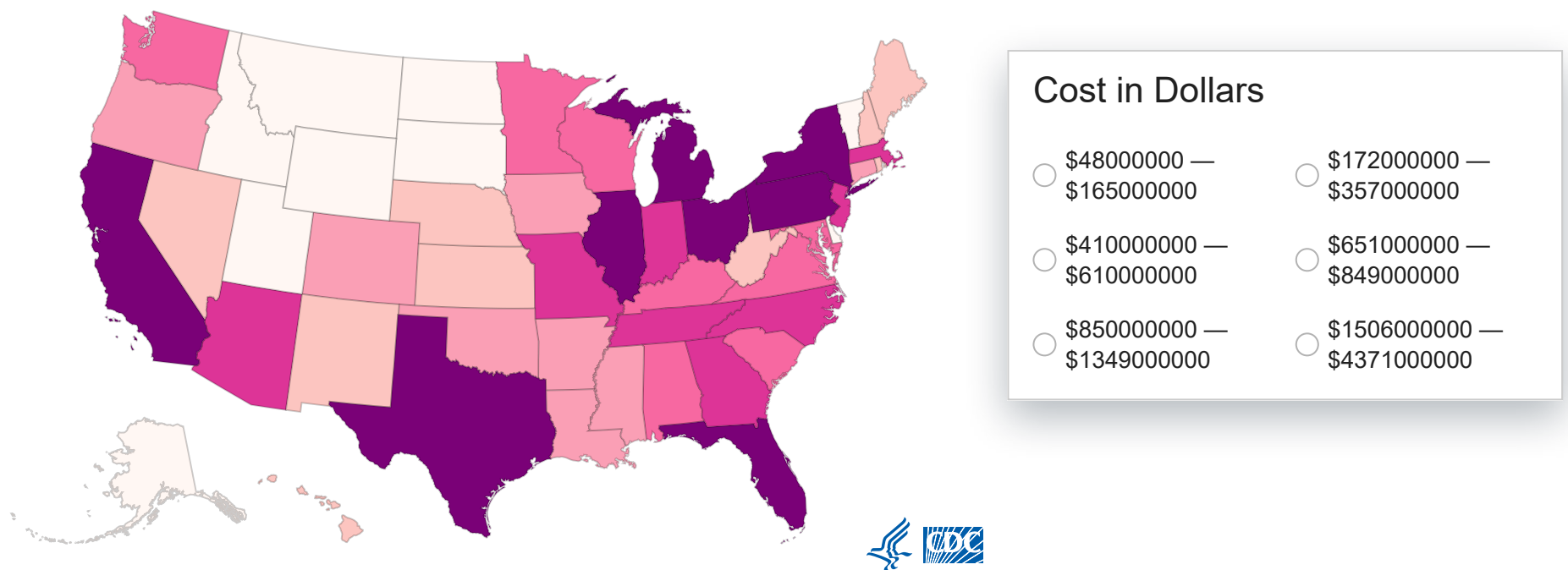
Falls among adults age 65 and older are very costly. Each year about \$50 billion is spent on non-fatal fall injuries and \$754 million is spent on fatal falls<sup>1</sup>.

For non-fatal falls:

- \$29 billion is paid by Medicare
- \$12 billion is paid by Private or Out of Pocket payers
- \$ 9 billion is paid by Medicaid

As the number of Americans, age 65 and older, grows we can expect the number of fall injuries and the cost to treat these injuries to soar.

Cost of Older Adult Falls 2014



Data Table

[DOWNLOAD DATA \(CSV\)](#)

\* Statistical differences are based on a two-sample t-test with an alpha of 0.05.

## How Are State Costs Calculated?

Direct medical costs include fees for hospital and nursing home care, doctors and other professional services, rehabilitation, community-based services, use of medical equipment, prescription drugs, and insurance processing.<sup>2</sup> Direct costs do not account for the long-term effects of these injuries such as disability, dependence on others, lost time from work and household duties, and reduced quality of life.<sup>2</sup>

## References

1. Florence CS, Bergen G, Atherly A, Burns ER, Stevens JA, Drake C. Medical Costs of Fatal and Nonfatal Falls in Older Adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 2018 March, DOI:10.1111/jgs.15304 [↗](#)
2. Haddad YK, Bergen G, Florence CS. Estimating the Economic Burden Related to Older Adult Falls by State. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2019;25(2):E17-E24. doi:10.1097/PHH.0000000000000816

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