

**Accidents related to falling** is a major issue in our society. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, "Falls are the second leading cause of accidental or unintentional injury deaths worldwide" [1]. Globally, an average of 37.3 million people (Jan 2018) suffer from injuries related to a fall each year, which are severe enough to seek medical attention. Out of these, no less than an estimated 640 000 individuals die as a direct consequence of the fall [1]. Fall related accidents are therefore to be considered as a significant world wide health problem.

**Although Age** is identified as a key driving factor behind fall related injuries, it is not by far the only reason that people hurt themselves this way every year. Other risk factors include

- Occupations which require you to work at an elevated height.
- Alcohol and substance abuse.
- Medical conditions contributing to a reduced sense of balance or vision.
- Sporting.

**In Sweden** alone, statistics shows even darker figures. Here, falling is the single one reason responsible for the greatest number of accident related fatalities, hospitalizations, and visits to emergency clinics, outnumbering traffic accidents, who come in second [2, p 3,5]. On top of that, in Sweden, falling is together with poisoning, the type of accident who poses the biggest annual growth, having duplicated the amount of yearly incidents since 2000 [3] Studies have also showed that peoples perception targets traffic accidents as the the most common cause of the above [2, p 5]. That is however not true, but a reasonable explanation for this is according to MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) that most fall related accidents happen in a domestic area and are thus not as dramatic as a car accident or a fire for example. This tend to give this type of accident less space in the common media.

[4]

## References

- [1] W. H. Organization, “Falls.” <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs344/en/>, 2018 03.
- [2] M. för samhällskydd och beredskap, “Fallolyckor - statistik och analys.” <https://www.msb.se/RibData/Filer/pdf/27442.pdf>, 2018 03.
- [3] “Fler dör av fallolyckor.” <http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/nyheter/2016/flerdoravfallolyckor>, 03 2018.
- [4] Arbetsmiljöverket, “Fallolyckor, kort arbetsskadefakta nr 3/2016.” <https://www.av.se/globalassets/filer/statistik/arbetsmiljostatistik-fallolyckor-korta-arbetsskadefakta-nr-3-2016-faktablad.pdf>, 03 2018.