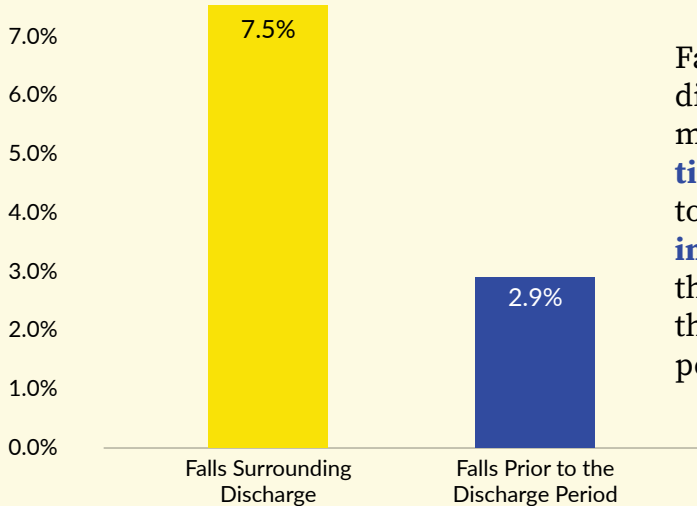


# The Overlooked Threat of Hospital Falls During the Discharge Period: A Statewide Retrospective Analysis of Patient Safety Event Reports

## Discharge Is a Danger Zone for Serious Falls

% of Falls Classified as Serious Events



Falls surrounding discharge\* were more than **2.5 times more likely** to cause **serious injury** ( $p < 0.0001$ ) than falls prior to the discharge period.



\*An unintentional fall that occurred after the patient had been formally discharged or on the same day the patient was scheduled for discharge.

### Discharge-Related Activities That Resulted in a Fall



Dressing



Packing/gathering belongings



Showering/washing up



Entering a vehicle

### Prevention Strategies

- Remind patients they are still at risk of falling
- Place clothing and belongings within safe reach of the patient
- Assist patients with discharge-related activities
- Reinforce safe footwear such as nonslip, well-fitting, structured shoes
- Keep alarms and precautions in place throughout discharge