

Table 13.6: Percent Prevalence of Dizziness, Fainting, Falls and Fear of Falling^{1,2}

Symptom	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ³ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
Do you ever feel dizzy or light-headed after standing up? Yes	38.6	39.8	37.3	39.0	35.1	38.7	45.7
Have you fainted during the past year? Yes	5.2	4.1	5.9	6.8	5.3	4.6	6.6
Have you fallen in the past 12 months? ⁴ Yes	34.0	30.3	36.5	38.2	26.9	34.4	47.7
Number of falls ^{5,6}							
1	18.6	15.3	21.1	22.0	15.3	19.0	24.5
2 or more	15.1	15.0	15.0	15.6	11.6	14.9	23.1
In the past 12 months, have you been anxious or worried or afraid you might fall? Yes	45.2	44.9	44.1	49.2	32.8	50.9	55.3
Limitation in activities because of fear of falling ^{7,8}							
No	24.1	24.6	23.6	24.1	22.1	27.4	19.3
Rarely	2.3	3.2	1.9	1.1	1.0	3.5	1.9
Some of the time	9.6	10.1	9.5	8.6	5.4	10.3	16.5
Most or all of the time	9.2	7.1	9.2	15.4	4.3	9.8	17.5

(Women's Health and Aging Study, baseline interview, 1992-1995)

¹ All variables have less than 1% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.

³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).

⁴ Falling includes falling on the ground or at some other level, such as a chair.

⁵ How many times have you fallen in the last 12 months?

⁶ Categories may not add up to percent reporting falls due to (1) rounding (2) number of falls not reported.

⁷ Do you ever limit your activities, for example, what you do or where you go, because you are afraid of falling? Do you limit your activities because of a fear of falling . . . ?

⁸ Categories may not add up to percent afraid of falling due to (1) rounding (2) limitation in activities not reported.