



Falls Prevention Cohort Summary

Purpose: to gather data about types of home repairs completed and their impact on medical/health outcomes to allow evaluating cost savings from home repair interventions.

Methods:

- 12 participating organizations: Anderson Interfaith Ministries, Appalachia Service Project, Chesapeake Housing Mission, Community Housing Coalition of Madison County NC, Habitat for Humanity Dekalb, Hinton Rural Life Center, Home Works, HopeBuilders Home Repair, Rebuild Upstate, Rebuilding Together of Greater Charlotte, Renovation Alliance, Servants Inc.
- 231 projects, with 157 completed 6-month follow-up surveys
- 3 surveys- baseline, 6 months after project completion, and 12 months after project completion
- Data analysis completed by collaborators at the HomesRenewed Resource Center and the East Tennessee State University College of Public Health

Selected Findings after 6-month Follow-up:

Demographic characteristics:

- Average age of 73.1 years
- 50% white, 47% black
- Income level: extremely low (36%), very low (36%) and low (25%), 3% as 'other'

As of the 6-month follow-up, with adjustments for 4 outlier observations (n=153):

- Falls inside the home dropped from 144 during the 6 months prior to the home repair to 39 prior to the follow-up call
- Falls while entering or exiting the home dropped from 53 during the 6 months prior to the home repair to 8 prior to the follow-up call
- Unplanned medical visits increased from 24 to 34

Limitations and plans:

- Participation shrinkage- Coalition staff will assist participating organizations with 12 month follow-up calls as needed.
- Survey timing- '6-month' follow-up calls averaged 6.6 months after work was completed, ranging between 3 and 17 months. The Coalition will provide reminders for 12-month survey timing.
- Self-reporting- data regarding medical/health outcomes may suffer from self-report-related biases such as recall. Future project iterations may reduce follow-up time or reword questions to minimize.