



Adults 65 and Older

Consumer Product-Related Emergency Room-Treated Injuries

These comments are those of the CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

NEISS

National Electronic Injury Surveillance System

- 96 Reporting Hospitals
 - Statistical Sample of ER's in US
- 360,000 Product-Related Reports Annually
- Electronic Daily Reporting
- National Estimates

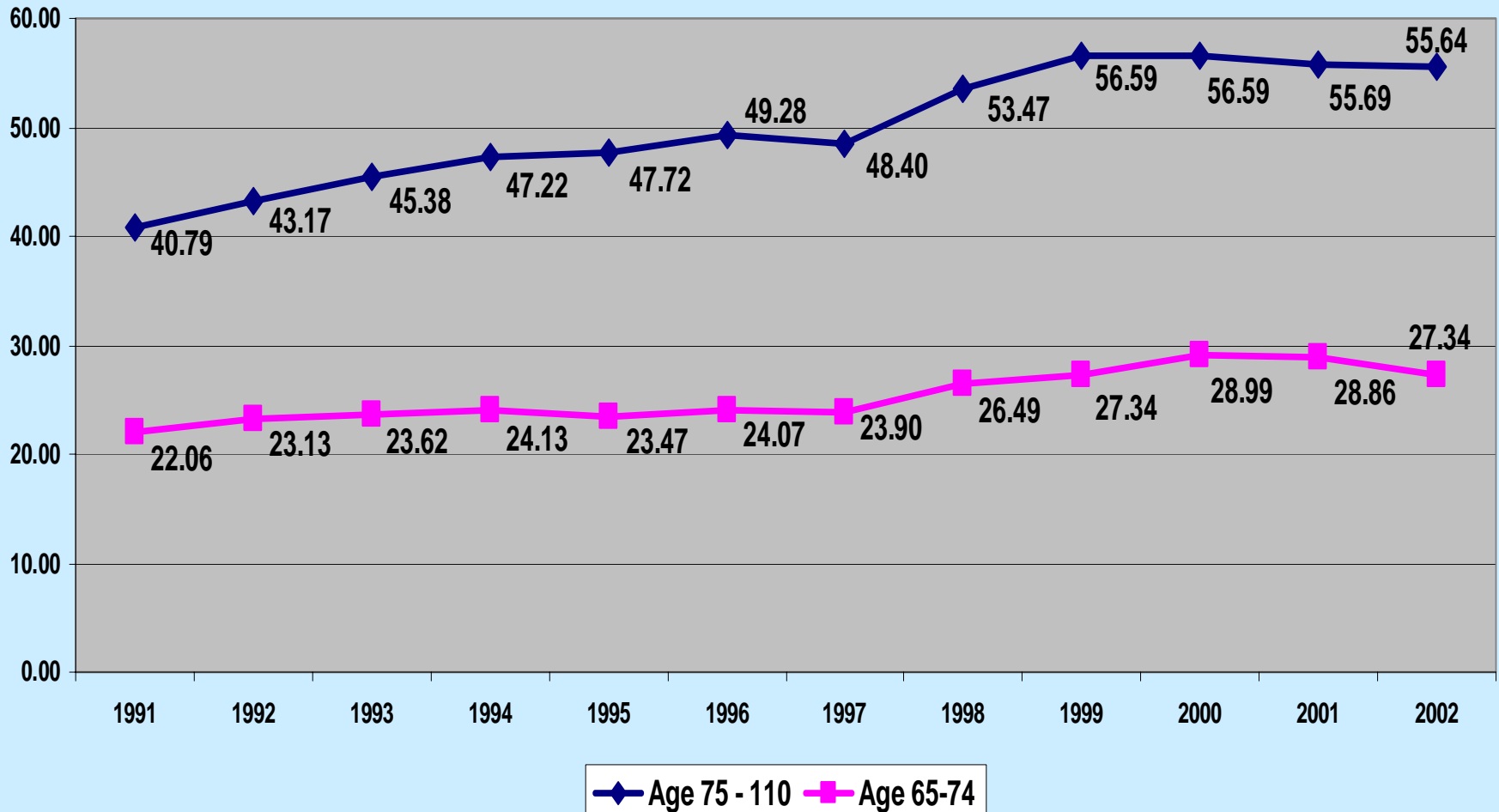
Overview

- In 2002, an estimated 1.5 million people 65 and older were treated in U.S. hospital ERs for consumer product-related injuries
- 66% of those treated were 75 and older

Overview (Continued)

- From 1991 through 2002, the number of people 75 and older admitted to ERs increased almost 75%; this age group's population increased 27% during those years
- From 1991 through 2002, ER visits for those 65 to 74 increased 23%, while this age group did not expand during those years
- These figures result in a rate of ER-treated injuries for those 75 and older approximately twice that of those 65 to 74

Rate of Emergency Room-Treated Injuries per 1,000 Population, Two Age Groups, by Year, 1991 - 2002



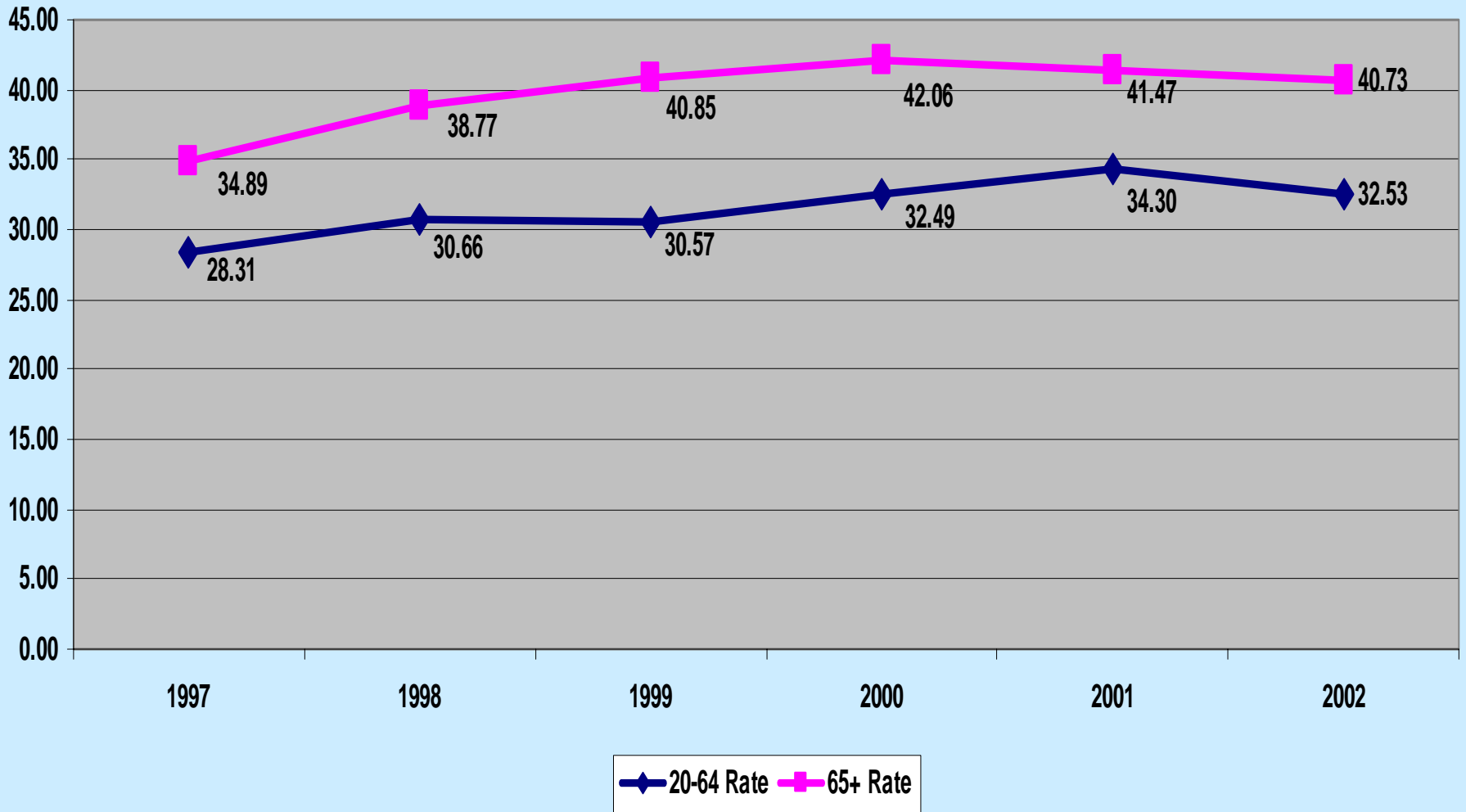
Severity

- Hospitalization rates were high: 15% for those 65 to 74, 27% for those 75 and older (4.7% for all ages)

Comparing to Younger Population

- For 1997 through 2002, the total number of injuries for those 65 and older increased by 21%; for adults aged 20 to 64 the increase was 15%

Rate of Emergency Room-Treated Injuries per 1,000 Population, Age Groups 20 - 64 and 65+, by Year 1997 - 2002



*How did injuries (and deaths)
occur?*

Falls

- Among those 75 and older, 77% of ER visits involved falls; 59% for those 65 to 74
- Typical scenarios:
 - Falls down stairs (while descending or ascending)
 - Transitioning from standing to sitting (and vice versa) on furniture, toilets, beds, bathtubs, etc.
 - Falls from tripping over loose carpets, phone cords, vacuum cleaner cords, dog leashes, open dishwasher doors)
- Falling off ladders and step stools

Yard & Garden Equipment

- Higher population-based rate of injury among those 65+ than those 20-64
- Injuries:
 - blade contact
 - contact burns
 - sprains when starting equipment
 - sharp edges
 - mower rollover
 - tripping on garden hoses
- Deaths:
 - mower rollover
 - falls off mowers
 - tripping on garden hoses

Ladders and Step Stools

- Higher population-based rate of injury among those 65+ than those 20-64
- Injuries:
 - falls
 - lacerations/pinching injuries
- Deaths:
 - falls

Personal Use Items

(clothing, hair dryers, razors, etc.)

- Higher population-based rate of injury among those 65+ than those 20-64
- Injuries:
 - falls
 - clothing ignition
 - sharp edges
- Deaths:
 - clothing ignitions (cooking & smoking) – 159 deaths in one year

Other Injuries

- Packaging/Containers – lacerations from cans
- Household Chemicals – wrong use of product

Other Deaths

- Bicycles – 106 deaths (almost half from head injuries) in one year
- Swimming Pools/Spas – 100 drownings in one year
- Bathrooms – 51 deaths due to tap water scalds

Thank You