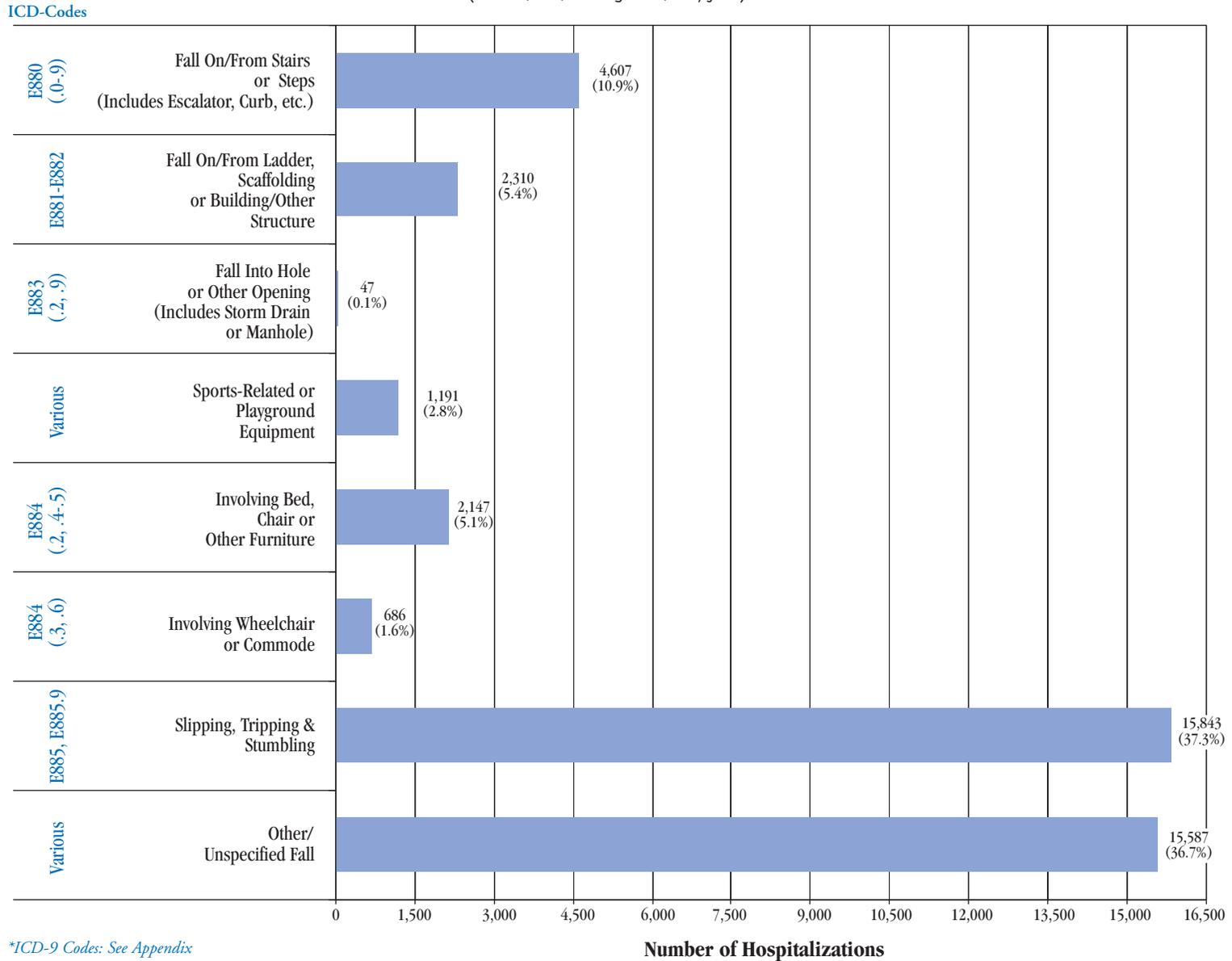


Fall Hospitalizations

- Unintentional falls were, by far, the leading cause of injury hospitalizations in Connecticut from 2000 – 2004, accounting for over 3.5 times the number of injury hospitalizations when compared to the second leading cause, motor vehicle traffic crashes
- Slipping, tripping, and stumbling caused close to 16,000 fall hospitalizations during these years-nearly 40% of all falls
 - » Unfortunately, an almost equal number of falls were not classified as to cause, limiting the usefulness of these data for planning interventions to help prevent future falls
- There were 47 times more fall hospitalizations (42,418) than fall deaths (911) during this five-year period (ratio of deaths to hospitalizations = 1:46.6), meaning for every 47 persons hospitalized for a fall, one person died
- Nearly three-quarters of all fall hospitalizations occurred in the 60 and older population, with over one-quarter affecting those 85 years of age and older; falls from slipping, tripping, and stumbling reached a rate of more than 1,300 fall hospitalizations per 100,000 among this last age group
 - » Less than 10% of fall hospitalizations occurred in the < 30 population
- Males had higher fall-related hospitalization rates up to age 55, after which females exceeded their male cohorts in each age group through the remaining years of life
- While fall-related death rates are 25% higher among males, hospitalization rates are 69% higher among females (305.9) as compared to males (181.2)
- The Non-Hispanic White population suffered a hospitalization rate (284.6) over 3 times higher than among the Hispanic population (88.4), and over 2.5 times higher than among the Non-Hispanic Black population (107.3)
- New Haven County had the highest hospitalization rate in the state at 264.4 per 100,000 population; New London and Tolland Counties had the lowest rates at 204.6 per 100,000 population and 209.4 per 100,000 population, respectively. Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield and Middlesex Counties all had rates clustered around 250 per 100,000
- Over 80% of hospitalized fall patients were admitted through the hospital's emergency department, and over half were discharged to a skilled nursing facility
- Medicare covered the costs for over two-thirds (67.4%) of hospitalized fall patients - consistent with a majority elderly population-- only 2.3% being self-pay
- Of the 42,418 hospitalized patients, 975 (2.3%) expired. Out of the 975 expired patients, 42%(413) were hospitalized due to "other/nonspecified" causes, 29%(279) were due to slipping/tripping/stumbling falls, 14%(135) had fallen on stairs or steps, and an additional 11%(135) had fallen from a bed, wheelchair or other furniture
- Average length of hospital stay was four days
- **For the five-years, total fall injury hospitalization charges were \$697,155,318 with an average of \$12,705 per stay; fall charges were the highest of all injury categories**
 - » **For the five years the total fall hospitalization charges for persons aged 65 years and older were \$499,170,126**

Figure 20
Unintentional Fall* Hospitalizations by Mechanism
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004

(n = 42,418; average = 8,484/year)



*ICD-9 Codes: See Appendix

Figure 21
Fall Hospitalization Rates by Mechanism & Age
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
 (n = 42,418; average = 8,484/year)

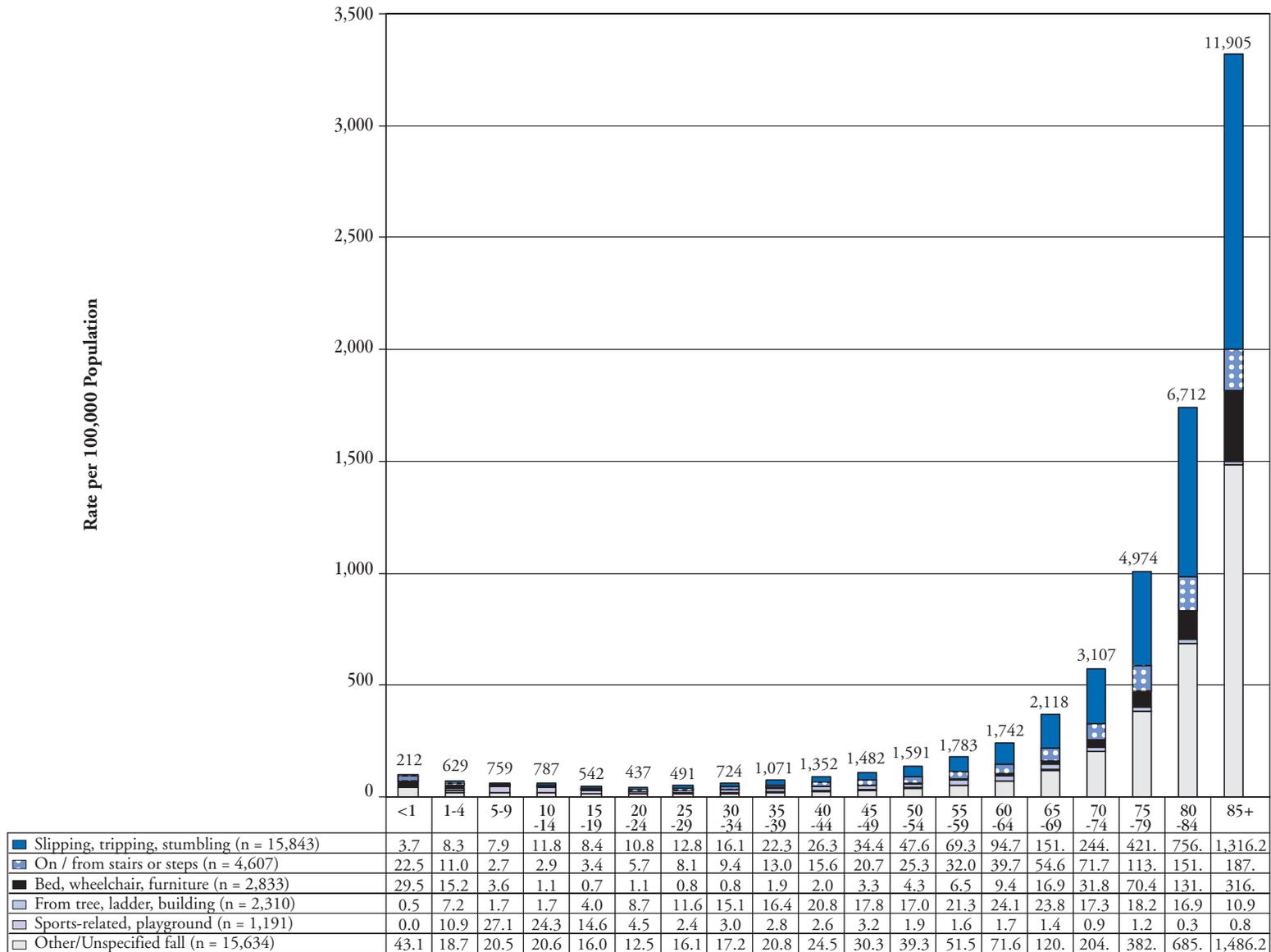


Figure 22
Fall Hospitalization Rates By Age & Sex
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
 (n = 42,418; average = 8,484/year)

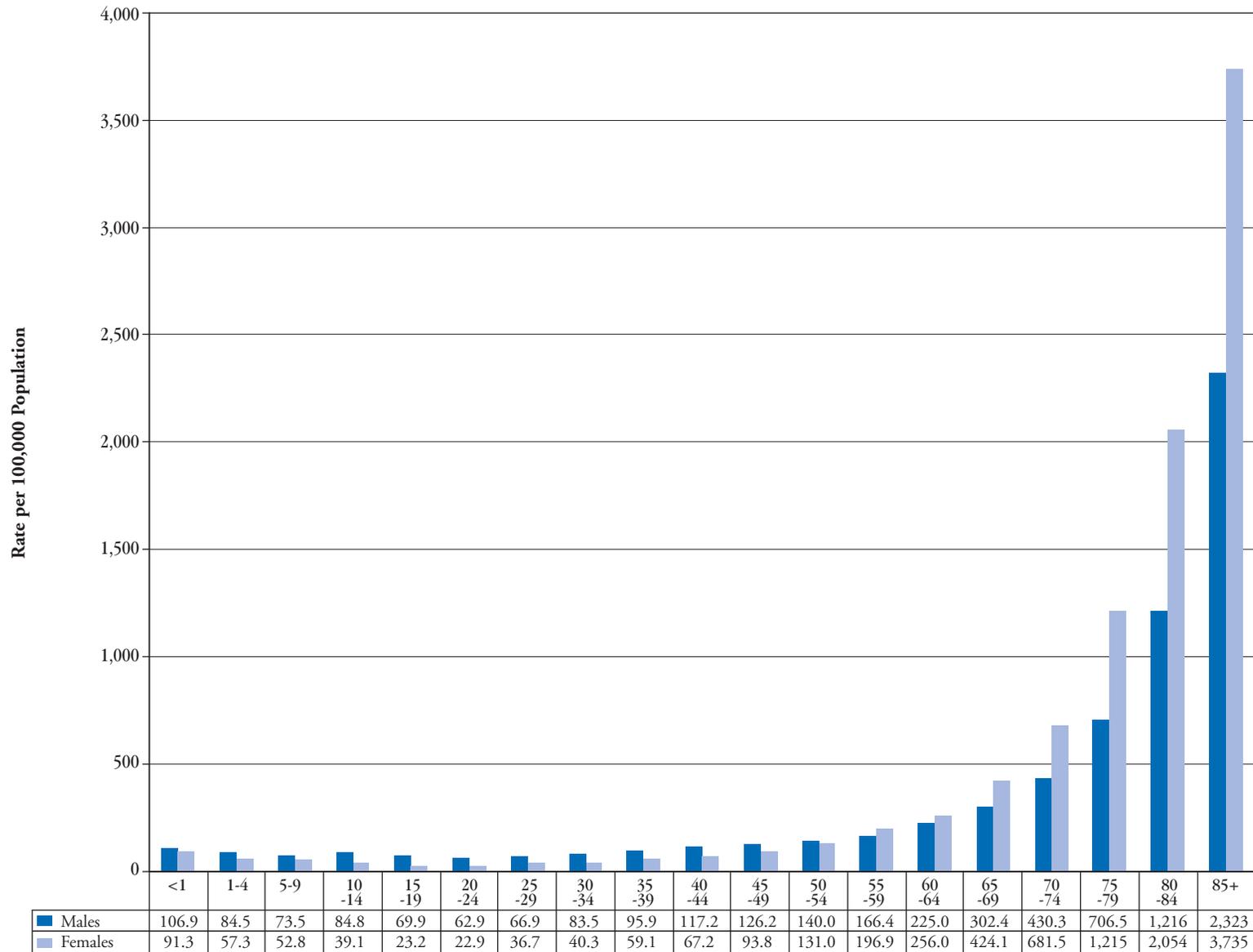


Figure 23
Fall Hospitalization Rates per 100,000 Population
by Sex, Race/Ethnicity & County of Residence
Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004

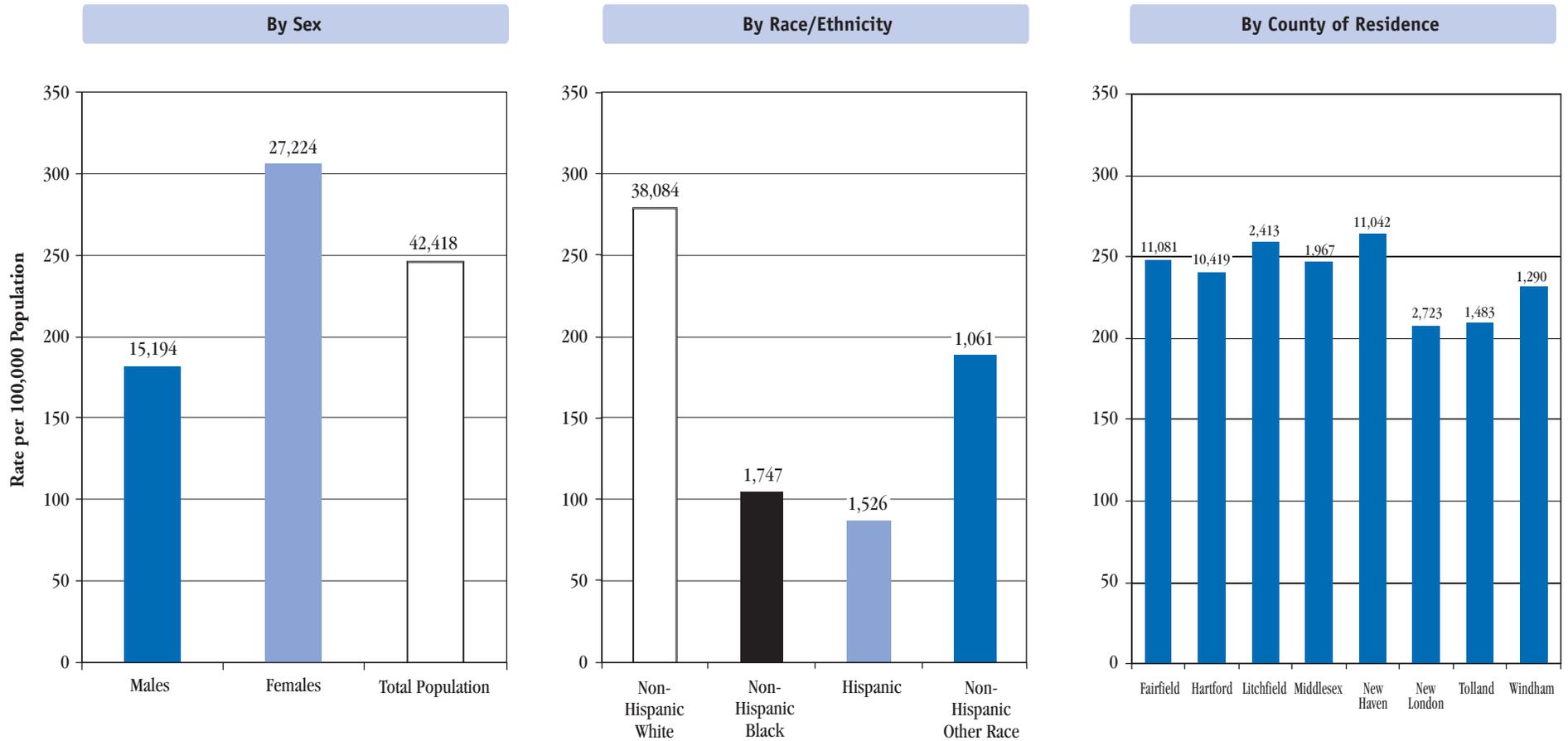


Figure 24
Fall Hospitalizations by Admission, Discharge & Primary Payer
 Connecticut Residents, 2000 - 2004
 (n = 42,418; average = 8,484/year)

