A coworker’s recent nasty fall and resulting broken arm inspired you to think about ways your employer, the Shannon County Health Department, can combat injuries due to falls. You decide to use the Injury MICA and the Unintentional Injury Profile to gather some preliminary data so you can understand the overall severity of the problem and the recent trends in your county, as well as the groups most at risk of falls.

1. Using the Injury MICA, select Unintentional as the Intention on Step 3. Then compare overall fall injury rates to the rates for all other injury mechanisms during the most recent year. (HINT: Select Mechanism as the row variable in Step 1. In Step 6, highlight all of the categories in the Mechanism box by using the CTRL key.)

What is the fall injury rate? **The 2013 unintentional fall injury rate in Shannon County was 2,375.0 per 100,000 residents. This rate is age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population.**

How does the fall injury rate compare to the rates for the other injury mechanisms? **In Shannon County, the fall rate of 2,375.0 per 100,000 residents is higher than the rate for any other mechanism.**

1. Return to the Injury MICA query screen and change the column variable in Step 2 to Age.

Which age group has the highest unintentional fall injury rate? **Shannon County residents ages 65 and over have the highest unintentional fall injury rate (at 5,063.3 per 100,000 residents) among the five age groups included in the table.**

Return to the query screen again and add 95% confidence intervals to the table. Is the rate for this age group significantly high compared to the other age groups? **Yes. The lower end of the confidence interval for the 65 and over age group, which is 4,014.9, is higher than the upper ends of the confidence intervals for the other age groups.**

1. Use the Unintentional Injury Profile to look at fall deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits in a single table. Are the Shannon County rates significantly different from the state rates in each of these categories?

Deaths: **No. There is no significant difference between the Shannon County and the Missouri rates.**

Hospitalizations: **Yes. The Shannon County rate is significantly lower than the Missouri rate.**

Emergency Room Visits: **Yes. The Shannon County rate is significantly higher than the Missouri rate.**

1. Use the Trend Line feature to determine if the fall hospitalization and emergency room visit rates are changing significantly over time.

Hospitalizations: **The Shannon County rate has not changed significantly over time.**

Emergency Room Visits: **The Shannon County rate has significantly increased over time.**