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Bucuria siguranței

WINDOW SAFETY SAVES LIVES

National Report on Falls from Height Among Children in Romania

(2017–2024)

- Summary -

May 2025

Context and Motivation

In Romania, every day on average, two emergency calls are made to 112 for children who have fallen from a height — from a window, staircase, tree, or slide. Between 2017 and 2024, over 7,000 such incidents were recorded by the national emergency service (STS). Hundreds of children were hospitalized with serious injuries — and some never made it back home. Behind each number is a story that could have been avoided.

These accidents are often seen as isolated "misfortunes" rather than symptoms of a systemic safety issue. Few families install window locks. Very few apartment buildings have functional safety systems on windows or balconies. Public awareness campaigns rarely address prevention. The result? Children continue to fall.

Motivated by this overlooked reality, Empria — a store specialized in child safety — created **the first national report on child falls from heights in Romania**. This report is not a marketing campaign, but a civic initiative. We gathered data from official sources (STS, INSP) and media reports, analyzed it carefully, and reached a clear conclusion: these accidents are frequent, severe — and most of the time, preventable.

The report is not just about numbers; it's about **where and when children fall, who is most vulnerable, what happens afterward, and what we can do — concretely — to prevent the next case**. It is a call to action for parents, authorities, developers, journalists, and everyone who believes a safe child should be the norm, not the exception.

Key Figures at a Glance

Data from 2017–2024. Source: STS, INSP, Empria analysis.

-  **7,093 emergency calls** to 112 for child falls from height.
-  **Over 740 hospitalizations** recorded — only for severe cases.
-  **Windows, stairs, and beds** are the most common accident locations.
-  **Head injuries and fractures** are the most common traumas.
-  **Summer (May–August)** accounts for nearly half of all incidents.
-  **Mureș, Iași, Dolj, and Bucharest–Ilfov** are the most affected counties.
-  **Boys** are twice as likely to be affected as girls.
-  **Friday** is the day with the most accidents.
-  **Over 70% of cases** could have been prevented with simple measures.
-  INSP reports only **hospital deaths (4 cases)**, but media sources reveal **at least 27 fatal falls at the scene** — just from window incidents.

Key Message:

Most falls from height are NOT inevitable accidents. They are signs of a lack of protection, supervision, and risk education.

Who Are the Children Who Fall? Where and When?

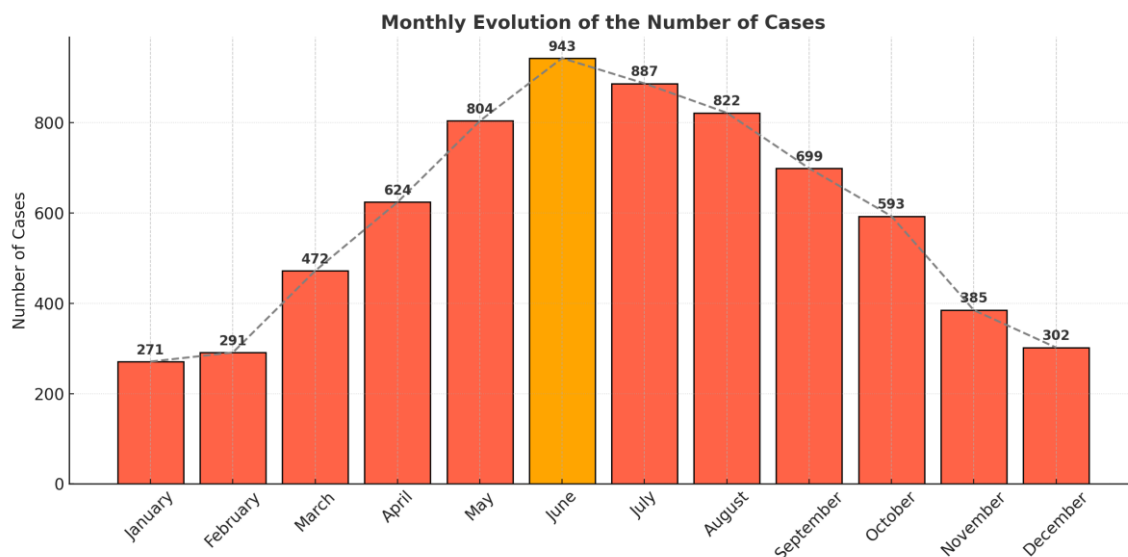
Falls from height do not affect all children equally. Some ages are more exposed, some places are more dangerous, and risk varies significantly by season and region.

🧐 What age are the children who fall?

- **Children under 5** are the most vulnerable: they cannot anticipate danger, are physically fragile, and need physical protection (nets, barriers, supervision).
- **Boys** represent about two-thirds of the victims — more active, more curious, less cautious.
- **Older children (5–16 years)** tend to fall outside (trees, fences, roofs), while younger children (**1–4 years**) fall more often inside the home (from beds, stairs, or windows).

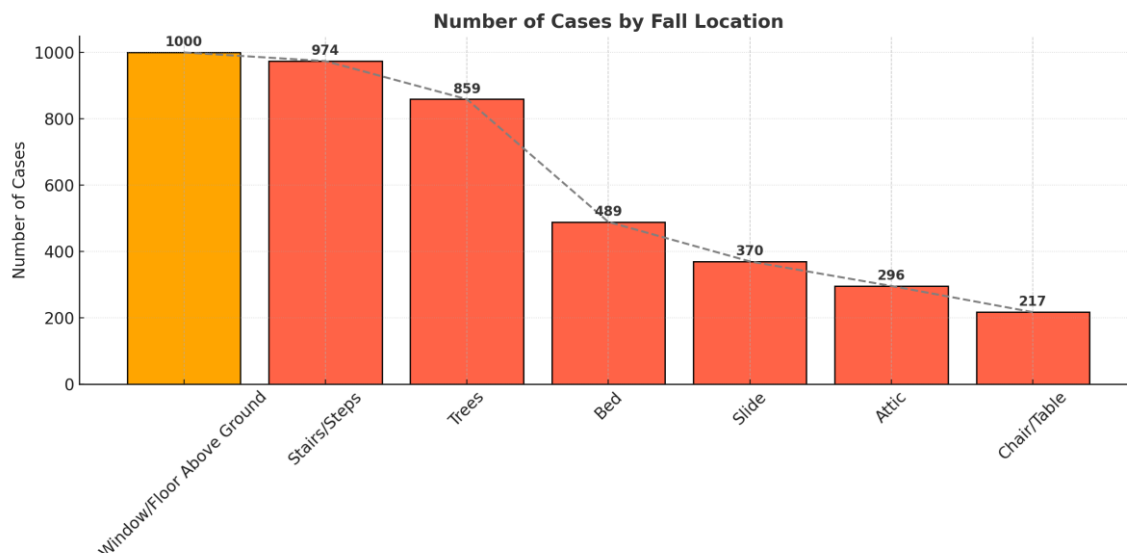
🕒 When do most accidents happen?

- **Summer is accident season:** May, June, July, and August account for nearly half of all cases.
- **June is the most dangerous month**, followed by July and August.
- **Friday** is the day with the most accidents, followed by Saturday and Monday — a sign that weekends come with reduced supervision.



📍 Where do children fall most often?

- **Windows / balconies / floors above ground:** Over 1,000 cases. The most severe, often fatal. Most are preventable with nets and window restrictors.
- **Stairs and steps:** Nearly 1,000 cases. A constant danger at home, especially for toddlers.
- **Beds / furniture:** Over 700 cases — showing that even seemingly safe spaces carry risks.
- **Trees and fences:** Over 1,300 cases — especially older children, during summer.
- **Playgrounds:** Over 500 accidents — many preventable through supervision and proper maintenance.



Which counties are most affected?

- **Bucharest–Ilfov** has the highest absolute number of cases (1,788), followed by Mureș, Iași, Dolj, Constanța, and Galați.
- However, when adjusted for population, **Mureș** has the highest incidence — nearly **three times the national average**.

Conclusion:

Children fall more often at home than while playing outside. They fall more in summer. They fall more on Fridays. And in most cases, they didn't have to fall.

What Happens After a Fall?

A fall from height is not just a scare. In many cases, it leads to long periods of pain, treatment, trauma, and sometimes lifelong consequences — for both the child and the family.

What injuries do children suffer?

- Most common: **cranial and cerebral trauma**, **fractures** (limbs, spine), **multiple contusions**.
- Children under 5 are more prone to **head injuries**, as they have heavier heads and weaker neck muscles.
- Older children often suffer **limb fractures** or **abdominal/chest injuries**.

How long are the hospitalizations?

- The average hospital stay is **5 days**, but severe cases may require **2–3 weeks** or more.
- Many medical records mention “**improved condition at discharge**”, which does not mean full recovery.

Were there fatalities?

- According to INSP, **4 children died in hospital** after falling from a height during the period studied.

- But the real number is likely much higher — **deaths at the scene are not recorded in hospital databases**. From media reports alone, we identified 27 fatal window falls in the same period.

Key Message:

A moment of inattention can lead to weeks, months, or years of recovery. Or to a life lost.

What Can We Do?

Most falls from height are **easy to prevent**. We don't need massive investments or complex technology. We need **awareness, simple measures, and education**.

Concrete Measures for Parents:

- Install **window and balcony safety locks and protections**.
- Use **bed guards, safety gates for stairs, and window restrictors**.
- Don't leave children alone in rooms with climbing risks: couches near windows, climbable furniture.
- Actively supervise play — even indoors.

Measures for Developers and Authorities:

- Integrate safety standards into residential buildings: **nets, secure windows, proper balcony railing height**.
- Launch public awareness campaigns, especially in summer.
- Build safe playgrounds with shock-absorbing surfaces and regular maintenance.

For Kindergartens, Schools, Grandparents, and Nannies:

- Include **fall safety** in basic safety rules.
- Be aware of high-risk moments: **routine changes, fatigue, agitation**.
- Don't underestimate a “well-behaved” child — they can fall too.

 See the full report for **the complete prevention checklist**, easy to apply at home and at work.

Final Message

Falls from height are NOT inevitable accidents. Our analysis shows that over 70% of serious accidents could have been prevented.

They are signs that **a safety measure wasn't in place, the window wasn't closed, attention wasn't paid, or the risk wasn't explained**.

Children cannot be supervised every second — **but the environment they grow up in can be made safer**.

Empria releases this report not to scare, but **to spark action**: at home, in institutions, in public spaces.

 **Share this summary. Talk about the report. Be part of the change.**

The full report is available at:  www.empria.ro/raport-caderi-copii

For citations or academic references, please mention:

Empria (2025). *National Report on Child Falls from Height in Romania (2017–2024)*.

Available online at: <http://www.empria.ro/raport-caderi-copii>

Disclaimer Regarding Report Content

This report is not a medical, scientific, or legal document.

We are not doctors, epidemiologists, or professional statisticians. We are a team of citizens, parents, and professionals committed to child safety, who created this project **in good faith and from the conviction that prevention starts with understanding the risks**.

We analyzed and correlated publicly available data or data obtained through official requests, aiming to provide a clearer picture of a serious but under-discussed issue: **child falls from height**.

All interpretations, classifications, and recommendations in this report have been formulated **with care and based on thorough documentation**. However, they reflect our working perspective — not an academic or institutional verdict.

We recommend consulting specialists (doctors, architects, psychologists, legislators) for individual decisions or public policies requiring technical expertise.