Background Falls are one of the leading causes of injury in older people. Rehabilitation services can assist individuals to improve mobility and function after sustaining a fall-related injury. However, the true impact of fall-related injuries resulting in hospitalisation are often underestimated because of failure to consider sub-acute and non-acute care provided following an acute care episode.

Aim To examine fall-related sub-acute and non-acute care and to establish and project the burden of fall-related rehabilitation in acute care to 2020.


Results There were 4317 individuals with a fall-related injury who were admitted to hospital and later admitted for sub-acute and non-acute care; 84% of these were aged 65+ years; 70.4% were female; 27.2% had femur fractures. Total mean FIM scores significantly increased from 78.4 to 94.6 (p<0.0001) between admission and discharge. Fall-related acute rehabilitation episodes are increasing by 9.1% each year for individuals aged 65 years and older and are projected to rise from 18,300 in 2010–11 to 50,000 admissions by 2020.

Significance This is the first study to provide a snap-shot of the epidemiological profile of individuals using sub-acute and non-acute care in NSW using linked data. This information can be used to inform resource implications for fall-related sub-acute and non-acute care and acute rehabilitation services.