# Tool D: Falls rate calculation example

Falls rate: Falls per 1000 bed-days

Numerator: Number of falls per month

Falls rate = ————————————————————————— X 1000

Denominator: Number of residents X days in the month

The numerator can be changed to any measure, eg, number of falls with harm per month, number of residents that had repeated falls, etc.

An Excel spreadsheet is available to download from the Commission website, which can be used to enter data and automatically calculate this rate: [www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/reducing-harm-from-falls/projects/arrc-mini-collaborative/learning-session-two/](http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/reducing-harm-from-falls/projects/arrc-mini-collaborative/learning-session-two/).

Incident rates are calculated in this way so different-sized but similar facilities can compare falls rates with each other; so you are ‘comparing apples with apples’. For example, if a 10-bed facility has five falls in the month and a 50-bed facility has five falls, which facility **may** have a problem?

It is important to remember the numbers are only part of the picture. If the 10-bed facility is a dementia facility and the 50-bed facility is a hospital-level facility, the picture changes. This again demonstrates the importance of ‘comparing apples with apples’.

