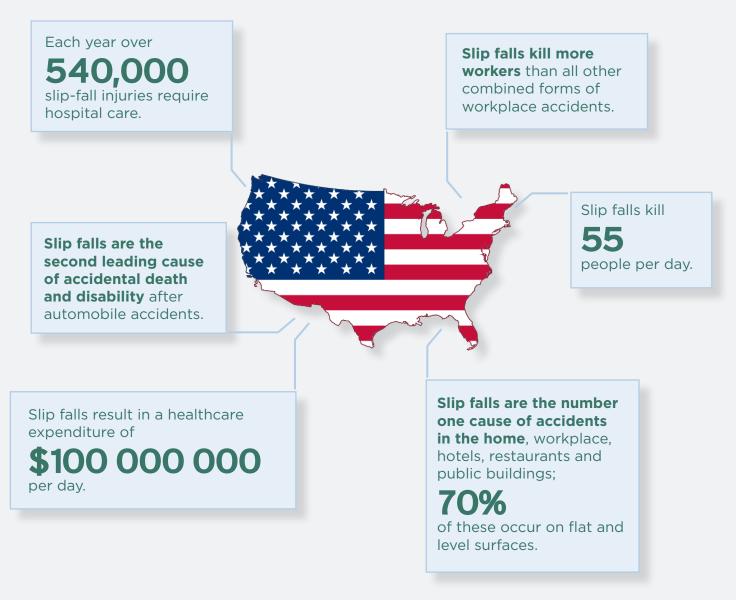




#### **IN NORTH AMERICA:**





## **IN SOUTH AFRICA MINIMAL** STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE BUT...

The increase in the number of older persons in Africa, together with longevity, will expose a greater number to a risk of falls. Of an estimated

6.26 million hip fractures globally in 2050, 4.43 million (71%) are expected to occur in developing countries, including Africa.



The most common fall injuries among children under 13 in SA occur while walking or running at the child's home, school or crèche.

Falls are the leading cause of injuries among children around the world, including South Africa.

> The SA Compensation commissioner reports a total of

# **200 000** to 220 000

workers claims per year, many of which have resulted in either loss of life, loss of quality of life and have incurred suffering.

# **PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE OR COMPENSATION!**

THE SA LAW AROUND **COMPENSATION FOR FALLS** IS COMPLEX BUT THE MOOD **IS CHANGING:** 



In 2012, a Johannesburg woman won a million rand settlement against a shopping centre for a slip resulting in a back injury.

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A 2013 'Slip and fall ... Who is liable' expert opinion article explains that "Our courts have found that the law does not require a shopper in a supermarket to examine the floor or whether his/her footing would be safe for each step he makes, and that a shopper is entitled to move freely while focusing on the shelves and the products on offer".



## WHERE DOES THE **RESPONSIBILITY LIE?**

It is an architects 'duty of care' to ensure that steps are taken during the design of a building to minimise and prevent slips, trips and falls.



# Polyflor SA: Industry specialists in vinyl flooring.