



Physical Disability as a Factor in Home Fire Deaths

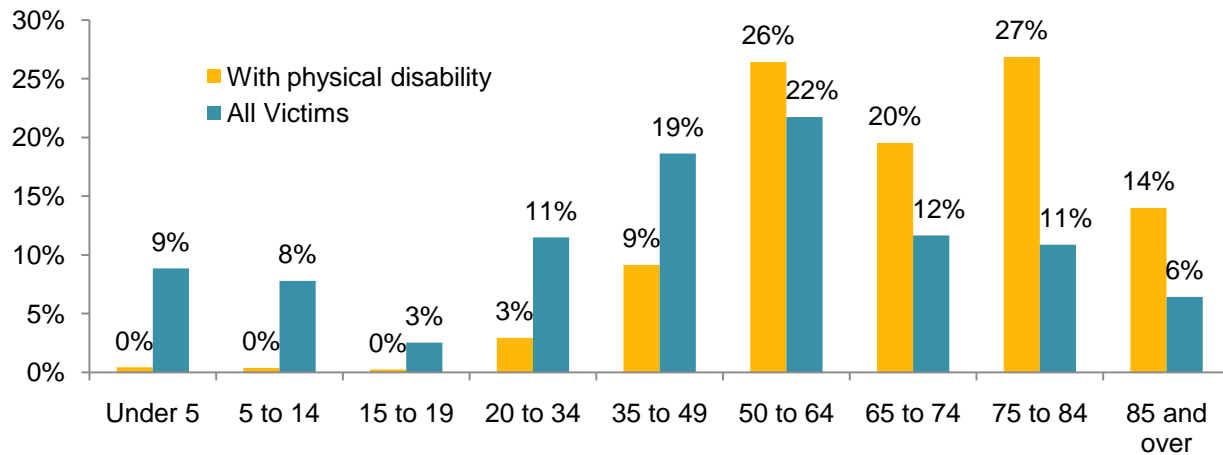
During 2004-2008, physical disability was a contributing factor in an estimated average of 380 (14%) home fire deaths per year according to reports by local fire departments. The American Community Survey reported that 9% of community residents who were at least five years old in 2005-2007 had some type of physical disability while 4% had a sensory disability.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires Deaths With Physical Disability a Factor in 2004-2008

When physical disability contributed to the fatal injury:

- More than half, (55%) of the victims died as a result of home fires with working smoke alarms compared to only 38% of home fire victims overall.
- Almost one-third (30%) of victims with physical disabilities were unable to act to save themselves.
- 51% of the victims were involved in ignition and in the area of origin when the incident began.
- Victims were more likely to die from a fire that began with either mattresses or bedding (20% vs. 13% of all home fire victims), or clothing (11% vs. 5% of all home victims).

Home Structure Fire Deaths with Physical Disability a Factor by Age of Victim: 2004-2008



- Three of every five victims when physical disability was a factor were over the age 65 or older
- Two of every five (41%) victims were killed by a fire started by smoking materials, compared to one-quarter (25%) of total home fire victims.
- 86% of the victims were killed in fires in one- or two-family homes. Apartment fires killed 14% of the victims.

Additional resources can be found at www.nfpa.org/disabilities