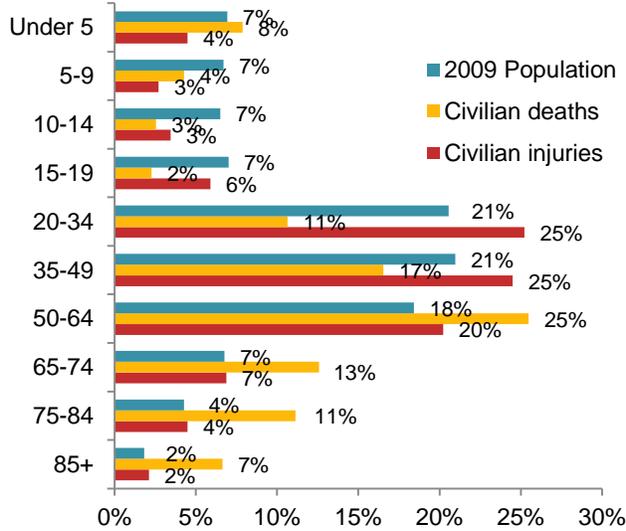


Home Fire Deaths and Injuries: Overall Trends and Patterns by Age, Gender and Race Fact Sheet

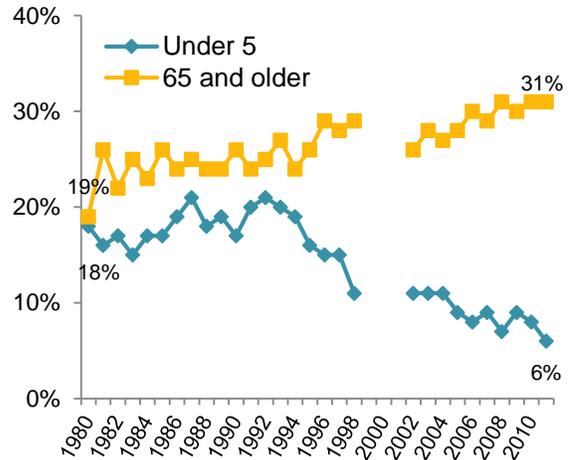
During 2007-2011, home structure fires killed an estimated average of 2,570 people and caused an average of 13,210 reported civilian (non-firefighter) injuries per year.

- Males were more likely to be killed or injured in home fires than females (56% of the deaths and 53% of the injuries)
- Only 13% of the U.S. population is 65 or older, but 30% of the home fire fatalities were at least 65 years of age.
- The percentage of fatal home fire victims under five years of age fell from 18% in 1980 to 6% in 2011, while the percentage of victims 65 or older increased from 19% to 31% over the same period.

U.S. Home Structure Fire Deaths and Injuries by Age Group 2007-2011



Percentage of Fatal Home Fire Victims Who Were under Five or at least 65 Years Old, by Year



Because NFIRS was in transition to Version 5.0 from 1999 to 2001, estimates for these years are less representative and, therefore, not shown.

Compared to their share of the population, African Americans were roughly twice as likely to be killed or injured in a home fire in 2007-2011 as the overall population. The difference was even greater for children and older adults.

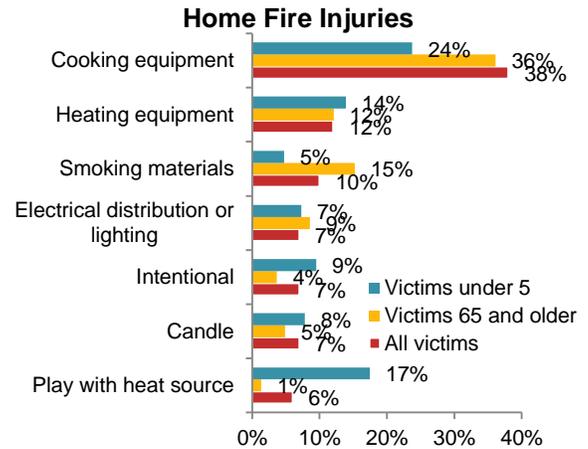
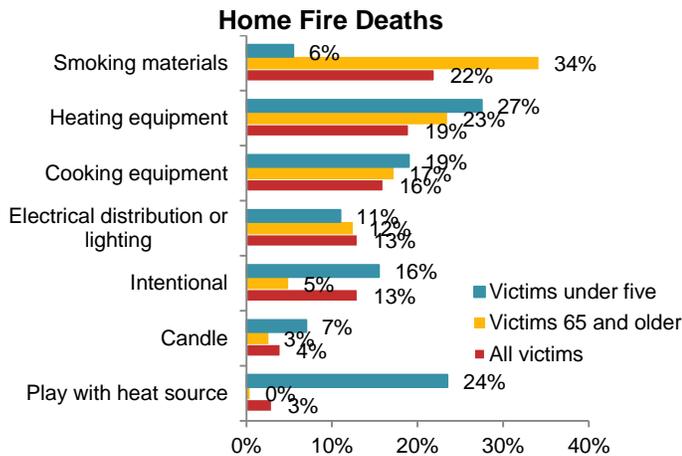
- The home fire death rate for African American children under 15 (14.6 deaths per million population) was four times the rate of 3.5 for white children the same age.
- African American adults 65 and older had a home fire death rate of 56.3 deaths per million, three times the 17.7 rate of white older adults.

Home Fire Victims by Major Cause and Age

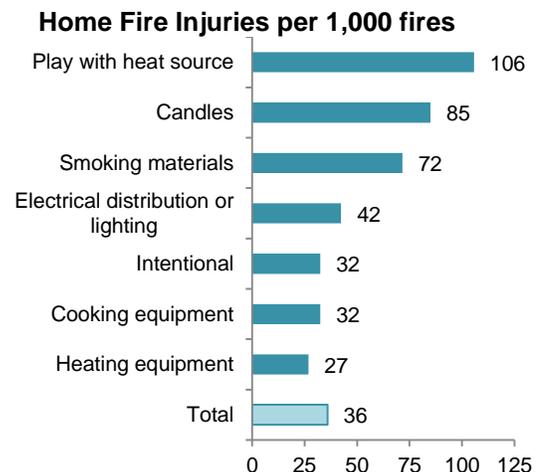
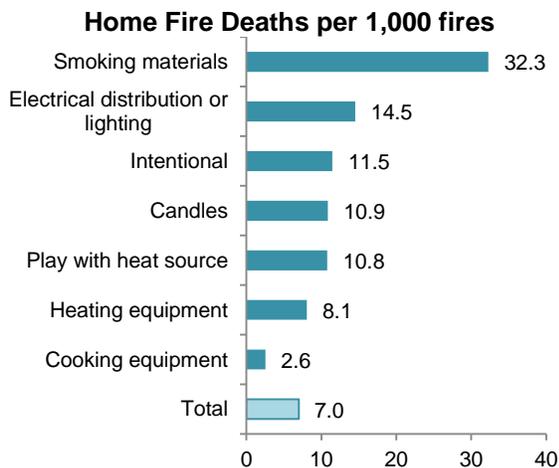
During 2007-2011, cooking equipment was the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Smoking was the leading cause of home fire deaths. Leading causes of fires that injure or kill vary by age group and by the risk of death or injury.

- While 22% of the deaths and 10% of injuries were caused by fires started by smoking materials, one-third of the fire deaths and 15% of the injuries in the 65 and older age group resulted from these fires.
- Three out of five (61%) people killed in fires started by playing with a heat source were children under five. However, fires started by heating equipment caused 27% of the deaths in this age group vs. 24% of the deaths caused by playing.

Home Fire Deaths and Injuries by Major Cause for Victims under Five and 65 or Older: 2007-2011



- Although cooking was the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries and the third leading cause of home fire deaths, the risk of death or injury per 1,000 cooking fires is lower than for most other major causes.
- The risk of injury from home fires started by playing with heat source was the highest of the major causes even though only 6% of the injuries were caused by such play.



Source: *Characteristics of Home Fire Victims*, Marty Ahrens, October 2014

NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169, www.nfpa.org
 Fire Analysis & Research Division, osds@nfpa.org