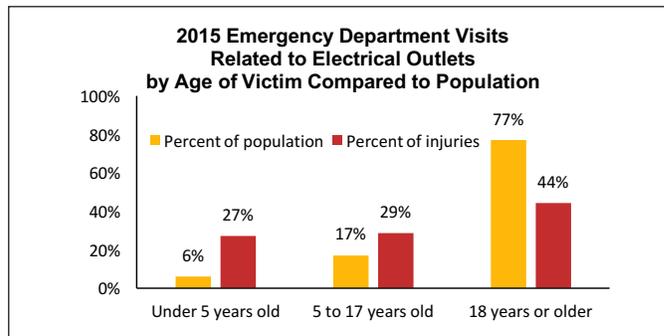
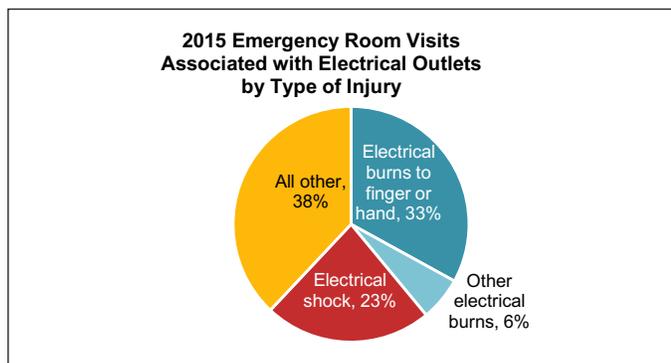




FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

Injuries Associated with Electrical Receptacles

Injuries involving electrical receptacles (also referred to as outlets) sent an estimated 5,500 people to hospital emergency departments in 2015, according to data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC's) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).



Key Findings about Victims

- ▶ About two of every five (39%) injuries were electrical burns.
- ▶ Five out of six (83%) of the electrical burns affected hands or fingers. Hand or finger burns accounted for one-third of total injuries.
- ▶ Roughly one-quarter (23%) were electric shocks.

More than two-thirds (69%) of those hurt in incidents involving electrical receptacles were male.

Compared to their share of the population, children were more likely than adults to have an injury associated with electrical receptacles than adults were.

- ▶ About 1500 (27%) of the injured were under age 5, more than four times their 6% share of the population.
- ▶ Roughly 1600 (29%) of those injured were between 5 and 17 years old, almost twice their share of the population.

Examples of how these injuries happen:

- ▶ A 2-year-old boy stuck a bobby pin into an electrical receptacle and burned his finger.
- ▶ A 3-year-old girl received a shock when she put a key in an electrical receptacle.
- ▶ A 6-year-old boy burned his hands when he put pipe cleaners in a receptacle.

The NEC® says ... tamper-resistant receptacles can prevent these injuries.

Beginning with the 2008 edition, *NFPA 70®*, *National Electrical Code®* (NEC), has required tamper-resistant receptacles (TRRs) in new and renovated homes because they are the most effective way to prevent these injuries. The 2017 edition of the NEC requires them in other property types where children are likely to be present. On average, this important child safety feature adds less than \$50 to the cost of a new single family home.

See www.nfpa.org/electricalreceptacles for more information on TRRs.

Source: NFPA Research: www.nfpa.org/research
Contact information: 617-984-7451 or research@nfpa.org



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