



Physical Disability as a Factor in Home Fire Deaths Fact Sheet

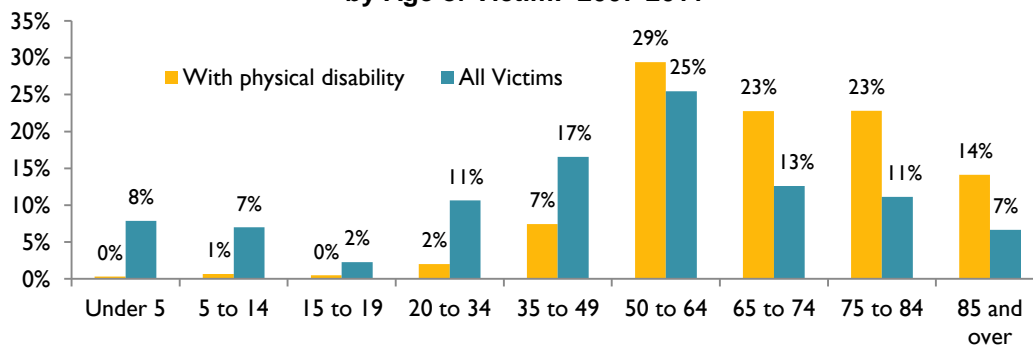
NFPA estimates that physical disability was a contributing factor in an estimated average of 400 (15%) home fire deaths per year. The American Community Survey found that 12% of community (non-institutionalized) residents in 2008-2012 had some type of disability. Seven percent of community residents five and over had serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs, as did one-quarter (24%) of community residents age 65 or older.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires Deaths With Physical Disability a Factor in 2007-2011

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 two out of five (40%) home fire victims overall.
- More than one-quarter (29%) of victims with physical disabilities were unable to act to save themselves compared to only 11% of home fire victims overall.
- Half (52%) of the victims were involved in ignition and were in the area of origin when the incident began compared to only two out of five (39%) of home fire victims overall.
- Victims were more likely to die from a fire that began with either mattresses or bedding (20% with a physical disability vs. 13% of all home fire victims), or clothing (8% vs. 5% of all home victims). One in five (20%) died in a fire that began with upholstered furniture compared to 18% of home fire victims overall.

Home Structure Fire Deaths with Physical Disability a Factor by Age of Victim: 2007-2011



- Three of every five victims (60%) when physical disability was a factor were at least 65 years old.
- Two of every five (42%) victims were killed by a fire started by smoking materials, compared to less than one-quarter (22%) of total home fire victims.
- 85% of the victims were killed in fires in one- or two-family homes. Apartment or multi-family housing fires killed 15% of the victims. This is consistent with overall home fire victims.

* Physical disability” may include temporary conditions but is not further defined.

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