

Fire–Related Injury and Death:

Key statistics:

- In 1995, fatality rates for males were greater than 1.5 times the fatality rates for females.⁸
- Age-adjusted fatality rates for blacks are more than twice those for whites.⁸
- Black children aged 0 through 14 years are more than three times more likely to die in a residential fire than are white children.⁸

Compiled by the Men's Health Network : Washington, D.C. : www.menshealthnetwork.org

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/fire2.htm> (downloaded 4-18-99)

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)

Fire-Related Injury and Death Among U.S. Residents Fact Sheet (excerpts)

How big is the problem of fires?

- Every 18 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation.¹
- A residential fire occurs every 78 seconds.¹
- About every 2 hours, someone dies in a fire.¹
- In 1997, 3,360 deaths occurred as a result of residential fires.¹

What are the most common causes of residential fires?

- The most common cause is cooking and heating equipment (39%).⁵
- 23% of house fires that cause a death are due to smoking.⁵
- Children playing with ignition sources (matches, cigarette lighters) cause approximately 10% of fatalities.⁵
- Impairment due to alcohol consumption may be the strongest independent risk factor for death after outbreak of fire. One study found that intoxication contributed to 40% of deaths due to residential fires.⁶

When do residential fires most commonly occur?

- Most residential fires occur during the winter months (December-February). The fewest occur in the summer (June-August).^{5,7}

Which groups are most affected by fires?

- In 1995, the highest fatality rates were for children younger than 5 years and adults older than 65 years.²
- Age-adjusted fatality rates for blacks are more than twice those for whites.⁸
- In 1995, fatality rates for males were greater than 1.5 times the fatality rates for females.⁸
- Black children aged 0 through 14 years are more than three times more likely to die in a residential fire than are white children.⁸

References

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