

Home Safety Fact Sheet (2014)

Fatalities

Suffocation: 1,169 children ages 19 and under died from suffocation in 2011.¹

- 77% of children (896) who suffocated were under the age of 1 year.¹
- 59% of children (692) who suffocated were boys.¹
- In 2010, 88 children died from accidental hanging and strangulation. 147 children died from choking on food or another object.²

Falls: 138 children ages 19 and under died in falls in 2011.¹

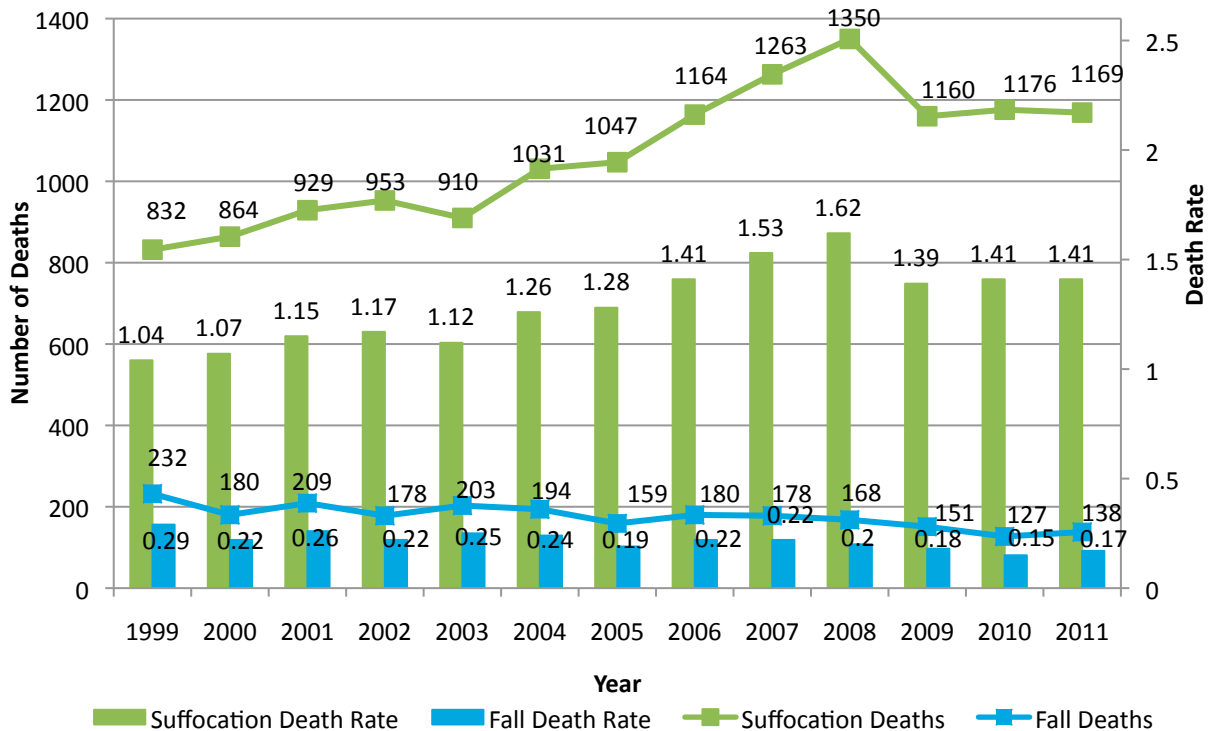
- 54% of children (75) who died in falls were ages 15 to 19.¹
- 78% of children (108) who died in falls were boys.¹

TV tip-overs: On average, 17 children die from TV tip-overs each year.³

Toys: 11 toy-related deaths in children under the age of 15 years were reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2012.⁴

Button batteries: 3 children under the age of 6 died from button battery ingestion and were reported to poison control centers in 2013.⁵

1999-2011 Fall and Suffocation Fatalities and Death Rates Among Children Ages 19 and Under



Death Rate per 100,000 Children



Injuries

Suffocation: 24,860 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal suffocation or inhalation in 2012.¹

Falls: 2,812,190 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal falls in 2012.¹

TV tip-overs: 12,800 kids aged 19 and under were seen in emergency departments for injuries caused by televisions tipping over in 2011.⁶

Toys: 192,000 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency departments for toy-related injuries in 2012.⁴

Button batteries: Poison control centers reported 2,759 cases of children ages 19 and under swallowing button batteries in 2013.⁵

Additional Statistics

Suffocation

- 70% of suffocation deaths among infants were from accidental suffocation or strangulation in bed in 2010.²
- In 2010, cribs and playpens were responsible for more than 20 percent of all nursery product-related emergency department-treated injuries among children ages 5 and under.⁷
- The majority of childhood suffocation, choking and strangulation incidents occur in the home.^{8,9}

Falls

- Window falls account for approximately 8 deaths and 3,300 injuries among children ages 5 and under annually.¹⁰
- The risk of a child being injured as a result of a fall at home is twice the risk as at child-care.¹¹
- Window falls occur more frequently in large urban areas and low-income neighborhoods.^{12,13}
- In New York City and Boston, education and window guard distribution programs resulted in a 96 percent reduction in the incidence of window falls over 10 years.¹⁴

TV/Furniture tip-overs

- The estimated number of emergency room visits for kids aged 19 and under has increased 31% over the last decade, from 9,800 in 2002 to 12,800 in 2011.⁶
- Because of its weight, a 36-inch CRT television falling three feet creates the same momentum as a 1-year-old child falling 10 stories.¹⁵
- Approximately \$8.34 million is spent in medical costs each year to treat children aged 19 and under in emergency departments for injuries from TV tip-overs.^{6,16}
- 7 out of 10 (72%) of children who are injured by a TV tipping over are 5 years old or younger.⁶

Toys

- 45% of toy-related injuries are to the head and face.⁴
- One-third of toy-related injuries occur in children under the age of 5 years.⁴
- The category of toy related to the most injuries in children under the age of 15 years are nonmotorized scooters, accounting for 27% of injuries.⁴



Button batteries

- In two hours, a button battery ingestion can cause severe, often irreparable damage to a child. Most severe complications effect the esophagus.¹⁷
- The average age of a child seen in the emergency department for swallowing a button battery is 3.9 years.¹⁸
- Button batteries are involved in 84% of all battery-related emergency department visits, for which a battery type was identified.¹⁹
- When a button battery gets stuck in a child's throat, the saliva triggers an electrical current that causes a chemical reaction which burns the esophagus. Damage can continue even after the battery is removed.¹⁷
- The number of serious injuries or deaths as a result of button batteries has increased more than 9-fold in the past decade.⁵

References

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- ¹⁴ Harris VA, Rochette LM, Smith GA. Pediatric injuries attributable to falls from windows in the United States in 1990-2008. *Pediatrics*. 2011. 128(3): 455-462.
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- ¹⁸ Sharpe SJ, Rochette LM, Smith GA. Pediatric battery-related emergency department visits in the United States, 1990-2009. *Pediatrics*. 2012. 129(6): 1111-7.
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Last updated June 2014. If you have a question about this factsheet, please call 202-662-0600.

