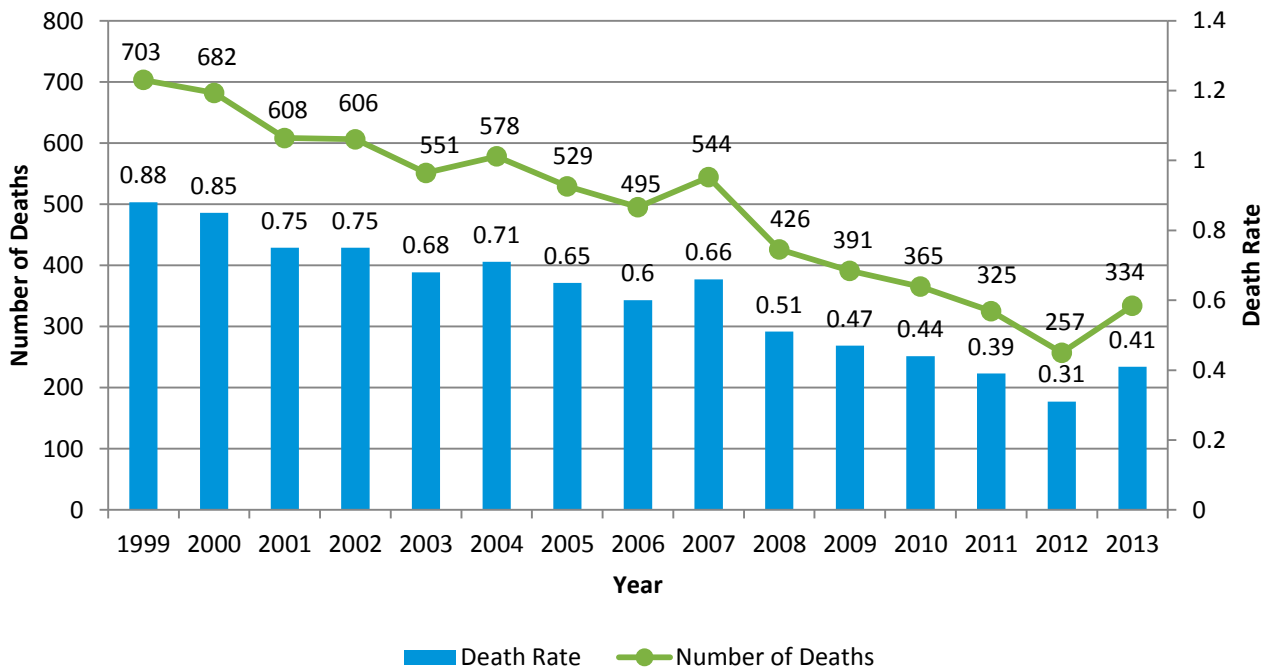


Burns and Fire Safety Fact Sheet (2015)

Fatalities

- 334 children ages 19 and under died from fires or burns in 2013. 87% (291 deaths) were in residential home fires.¹
 - 44% of children who died from fires or burns were ages 4 and under.¹ The death rate for children this age (0.73 per 100,000) is almost twice that of 5 to 9 year olds (0.42 per 100,000), and almost four times that of 10 to 14 year olds (0.23 per 100,000).¹
- While the death rate from fires and burns has decreased by 53% from 1999 to 2013, the number of deaths from fires and burns among children 19 and under increased 30% from 2012 to 2013.¹

1999-2013 Fire/Burn Fatalities and Death Rate Among Children Ages 19 and Under



Death Rate per 100,000 Children

Injuries

- 126,035 children ages 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for fire and burn injuries in 2013.¹

Additional Statistics

- Working smoke alarms reduce the chance of dying in a reported home fire by half.²
- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.³



- It only takes two minutes for a fire to fill a home with black smoke or engulf it in flames. Most deadly fires occur at night.⁴
- Scald burns, caused by hot liquids or steam, are more common types of burn-related injuries among young children, compared to contact burns, caused by direct contact with fire, which are more common among older children.^{5 6 7 8}
- Tap water burns most often occur in the bathroom and tend to be more severe and cover a larger portion of the body than other scald burns.^{9 10 11} A survey found that only 8 percent of adults felt that the bathroom was a high risk area for burn and scald incidents.¹²
- All code-making bodies at the national and regional level have established plumbing standards for newly constructed homes and residential units requiring anti-scald technology and a maximum water heater temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.^{13 14}
- Medical costs for hospital admissions for unintentional fire/burn injuries in children 19 and under average \$14,498 per case.¹⁵
- Only 23% of homes in the U.S. have a fire escape plan and practice it.¹⁶

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Last updated February 2015. If you have a question about this factsheet, please call 202-662-0600.

