

**Home Safety Fact Sheet (2015)**

**Fatalities**

**Suffocation:** 1,268 children ages 19 and under died from suffocation in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

- 77% of children (979) who suffocated were under the age of 1 year.<sup>1</sup>
- 60% of children (757) who suffocated were boys.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2013, 819 children under 1 year old died from accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed. 155 children died from choking on food or another object.<sup>2</sup>

**Falls:** 123 children ages 19 and under died in falls in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

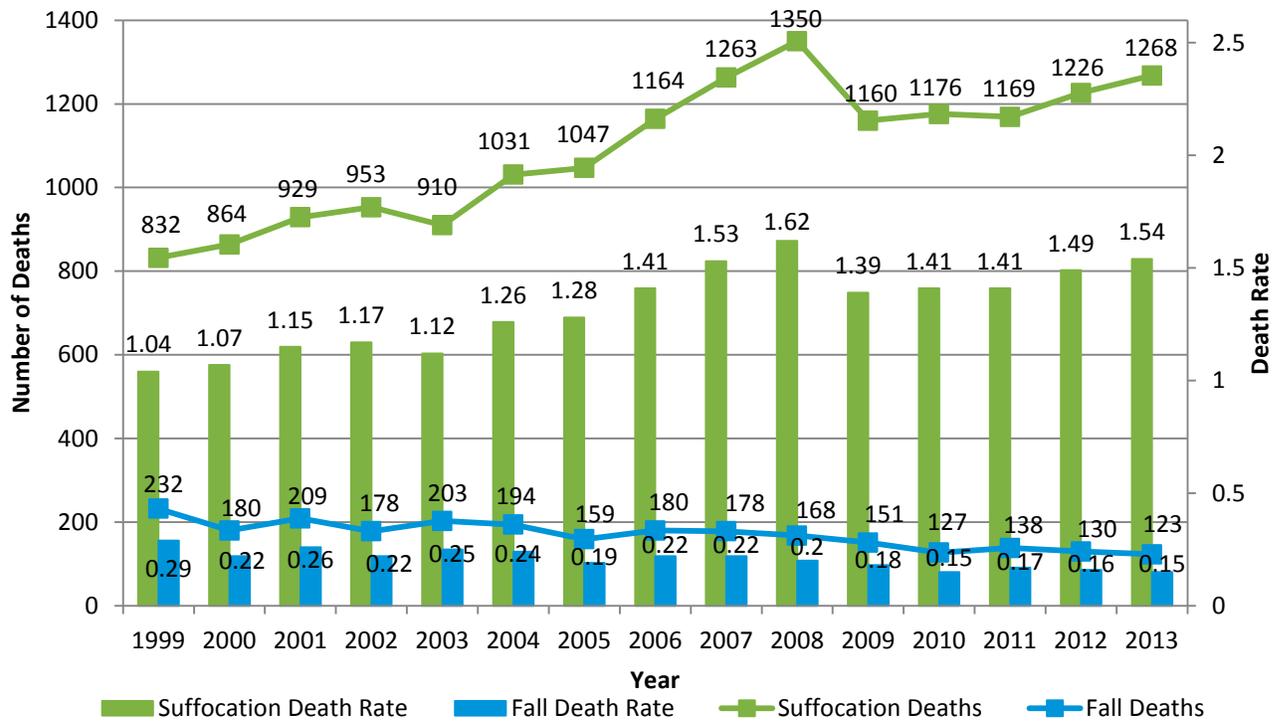
- 50% of children (62) who died in falls were ages 15 to 19.<sup>1</sup>
- 67% of children (83) who died in falls were boys.<sup>1</sup>

**TV & furniture tip-overs:** On average, 26 children die from injuries related to TV, furniture and appliance tip-overs each year.<sup>3</sup>

**Toys:** 9 toy-related deaths in children under the age of 15 years were reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2013.<sup>4</sup>

**Button batteries:** 3 children under the age of 6 died from button battery ingestion and were reported to poison control centers in 2013.<sup>5</sup>

**1999-2013 Fall and Suffocation Fatalities and Death Rates Among Children Ages 19 and Under**



*Death Rate per 100,000 Children*



## Injuries

**Suffocation:** 22,041 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal suffocation or inhalation injuries in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

**Falls:** 2,578,235 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal falls in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

**TV & furniture tip-overs:** 22,200 children ages 19 and under are seen in emergency departments for injuries related to TV, furniture and appliance tip-overs each year, on average.<sup>3</sup>

**Toys:** 188,400 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency departments for toy-related injuries in 2013.<sup>4</sup>

**Button batteries:** Poison control centers reported 2,759 cases of children ages 19 and under swallowing button batteries in 2013.<sup>5</sup>

## Additional Statistics

### Suffocation

- 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.<sup>7</sup>
- The majority of childhood suffocation, choking and strangulation incidents occur in the home.<sup>8,9</sup>

### Falls

- Window falls account for approximately 8 deaths and 3,300 injuries among children ages 5 and under annually.<sup>10</sup>
- The risk of a child being injured as a result of a fall at home is twice the risk as at child-care.<sup>11</sup>
- Window falls occur more frequently in large urban areas and low-income neighborhoods.<sup>12,13</sup>
- 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.<sup>14</sup>

### TV/Furniture tip-overs

- The estimated number of emergency room visits for TV tip-over-related injuries for children ages 19 and under has increased 31% over the last decade, from 9,800 in 2002 to 12,800 in 2011.<sup>6</sup>
- 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.<sup>15</sup>
- Approximately \$8.34 million is spent in medical costs each year to treat children ages 19 and under in emergency departments for injuries from TV tip-overs.<sup>6,16</sup>
- 7 out of 10 (72%) of children who are injured by a TV tipping over are 5 years old or younger.<sup>6</sup>

### Toys

- 44% of toy-related injuries are to the head and face.<sup>4</sup>
- One-third of toy-related injuries occur in children under the age of 5 years.<sup>4</sup>
- The category of toy responsible for the most toy-related injuries in children under the age of 15 years are nonmotorized scooters, accounting for 28% of injuries.<sup>4</sup>



## Button batteries

- In two hours, a button battery ingestion can cause severe, often irreparable damage to a child. Most severe complications effect the esophagus.<sup>17</sup>
- The average age of a child seen in the emergency department for swallowing a button battery is 3.9 years.<sup>18</sup>
- Button batteries are involved in 84% of all battery-related emergency department visits, for which a battery type was identified.<sup>19</sup>
- 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.<sup>17</sup>
- The number of serious injuries or deaths as a result of button batteries has increased more than 9-fold in the past decade.<sup>5</sup>

## References

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- <sup>3</sup> Suchy A. Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries and Fatalities Associated with Televisions, Furniture, and Appliances: 2014 Report. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, August 2014.
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- <sup>12</sup> Stone KE, Lanphear BP, et al. Childhood injuries and deaths due to falls from windows. *J Urban Health: Bulletin of the NY Academy of Med.* 2000. 77(1): 26-33.
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Last updated February 2015. If you have a question about this factsheet, please call 202-662-0600.

