Home Safety Fact Sheet (2015)

Fatalities

**Suffocation:** 1,268 children ages 19 and under died from suffocation in 2013.1
- 77% of children (979) who suffocated were under the age of 1 year.1
- 60% of children (757) who suffocated were boys.1
- 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.2

**Falls:** 123 children ages 19 and under died in falls in 2013.1
- 50% of children (62) who died in falls were ages 15 to 19.1
- 67% of children (83) who died in falls were boys.1

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

**Toys:** 9 toy-related deaths in children under the age of 15 years were reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2013.4

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

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

![Graph showing the number of deaths and death rates per 100,000 children from 1999 to 2013 for suffocation and falls.](image-url)

*Death Rate per 100,000 Children*
Injuries

**Suffocation**: 22,041 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal suffocation or inhalation injuries in 2013.\(^1\)

**Falls**: 2,578,235 children were seen in emergency departments for nonfatal falls in 2013.\(^1\)

**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.\(^3\)

**Toys**: 188,400 children under the age of 15 years were seen in emergency departments for toy-related injuries in 2013.\(^4\)

**Button batteries**: Poison control centers reported 2,759 cases of children ages 19 and under swallowing button batteries in 2013.\(^5\)

Additional Statistics

**Suffocation**
- 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 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.\(^6\)
- 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 ages 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**
- 44% 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 responsible for the most toy-related injuries in children under the age of 15 years are nonmotorized scooters, accounting for 28% of injuries.\(^4\)
**Button batteries**

- In two hours, a button battery ingestion can cause severe, often irreversible 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**