



Physical Disability as a Factor in Home Fire Deaths

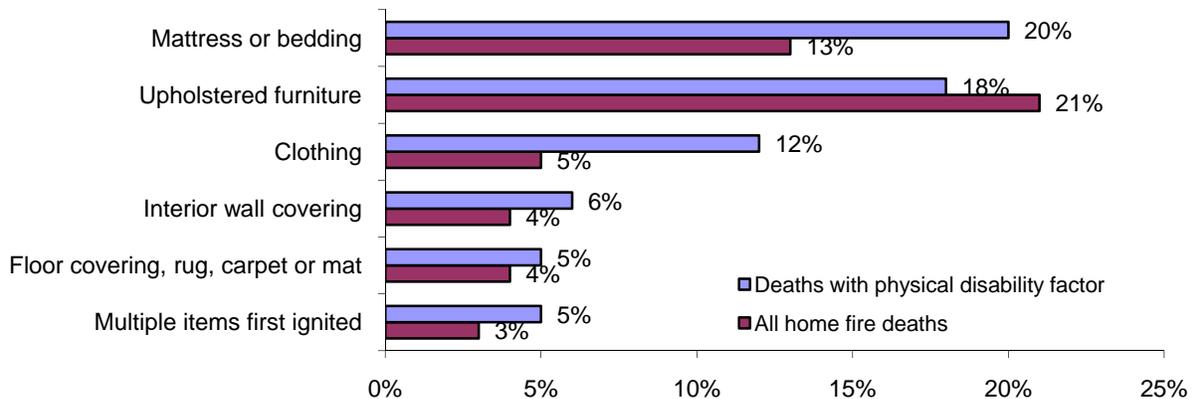
During 2003-2006, physical disability was a contributing factor in an estimated average of 360 (13%) home fire deaths per year. The American Community Survey reported that 9% of community residents who were at least five years old in 2005-2007 had some type of physical disability while 4% had a sensory disability.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires Deaths With Physical Disability a Factor in 2003-2006

When physical disability contributed to the fatal injury:

- 54% of the victims died as a result of home fires with working smoke alarms compared to only 37% of home fire victims overall.
- One-quarter of victims with physical disabilities were unable to act to save themselves.
- 53% of the victims were involved in ignition and in the area of origin when the incident began.
- Victims were more likely to die from a fire that began with either mattresses or bedding (20% vs. 13% of all home fire victims), or clothing (12% vs. 5% of all home victims).

Home Structure Fire Deaths with Physical Disability a Factor by Item First Ignited: 2003-2006



- Two of every five (39%) victims were killed by a fire started by smoking materials, compared to 25% of total home fire victims.
- 88% of the victims were killed in fires in one- or two-family homes. Apartment fires killed 12% of the victims.
- Almost two thirds (65%) of the victims were at least 65 years old.