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Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries and Fatalities Associated with Televisions, Furniture, and Appliances: 2017 Report

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☒ NO MFRS/PRVTLBLS OR
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This analysis was prepared by CPSC staff and has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

Executive Summary

This report contains information on injuries and fatalities associated with television, furniture, and appliance product instability or tip-over incidents. For this report, tip-over incidents concern heavy objects that fall on an individual due to some type of interaction, such as climbing or exerting a force on the object while it is in one of its positions of normal use. This interaction with the product results in the center of gravity of the product changing. For instability, the product falls because of some issue with the product's center of gravity changing, but instability does not require the additional criterion of interaction. An estimate of emergency department-treated instability or tip-over injuries is presented. This is followed by the counts of reported fatalities. The death incidents are from 2000 through 2016,¹ and the injury estimates are for 2014 through 2016. Appendix A gives the methodology. The statistics presented in this report are not comparable to statistics released previously; this is due to refinement of the conventions for determining in-scope National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) injuries (see Appendix B).

Of the estimated annual average of 30,700 emergency department-treated injuries (2014–2016) and the 514 reported fatalities occurring between 2000 and 2016 associated with tip-over incidents, staff noted the following:

- Victims
 - Estimated emergency department-treated injuries²:
 - 15,800 (52%) involved children, under age 18 years;
 - 11,300 (37%) involved adults, ages 18 through 59 years; and
 - 3,600 (12%) involved seniors, ages 60 years and older.
 - Reported fatalities:
 - 431 (84%) involved children, victim ages 1 month to 14 years;
 - 18 (4%) involved adults, victim ages 28 years to 59 years³; and
 - 65 (13%) involved seniors, victims aged 60 years or older.
- What tipped over?
 - Estimated emergency department-treated injuries:
 - 19,500 (64%) involved only furniture;
 - 10,100 (33%) involved televisions (or TV + furniture); and
 - 1,100 (3%) involved appliances.
 - Estimated emergency department-treated injuries involving children and only furniture:
 - 3,400 involved tables;
 - 2,600 involved chests, bureaus, or dressers;
 - 1,600 involved shelving, shelving units, and bookcases.
 - Reported fatalities:
 - 332 (65%) involved televisions (35% only TV, 29% TV + furniture);

¹ Fatality counts should be considered incomplete for years 2014–2016 due to a time lapse in reporting to CPSC.

² Percentages do not sum to 100, due to rounding.

³ There were no reported fatalities to people of ages 15 thru 27 years old.

- Largest category after TV only, was TV + chest, bureau, or dresser (85 fatalities).
 - 150 (29%) involved only furniture;
 - Largest category was chest, bureau, or dresser (101 fatalities).
 - 32 (6%) involved appliances.
 - Largest category was stove/oven.
- Where?
 - Estimated emergency department-treated injuries:
 - 68% in residential settings, 6% in public settings, and 26% in locations not specified.
 - Reported fatalities:
 - 91% in residential settings, 4% in public settings, and 5% in locations not specified.
 - 46% in bedrooms and 20% in living/family rooms.
- Injury Characterization (main injury type and body area affected)
 - Estimated emergency department-treated injuries:
 - 36% contusions/abrasions, 15% internal organ injuries, 15% lacerations, and 13% fractures.
 - Legs, feet and toes (38%), head (35%), and arms, hands, and fingers (17%).
 - Reported fatalities:
 - 57% were crushed and remained under product(s); 14% were hit/struck by product(s) but not crushed under product(s); and 20% were due to positional asphyxia.
 - Head (61% head only; 5% head and torso) and torso only (24%).

It should be noted the CPSC launched its “Anchor It” Campaign in early 2015,⁴ a national public education campaign to prevent furniture and television tip-over incidents from killing and seriously injuring children. This is a significant hidden hazard in the home, and CPSC’s safety campaign is aimed at reducing the number of deaths and injuries from tipping furniture and televisions.

⁴ <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Tipover-Information-Center/>.

Emergency Department-Treated Injuries

An estimated 30,700 people were treated annually in U.S. hospital emergency departments for product instability or tip-over injuries related to televisions, furniture, and appliances from 2014 through 2016. The furniture category had the largest number of instability or tip-over-related injuries among the three product categories, with a national annual average estimate of 19,500 injuries (64 percent). This was followed by the national instability or tip-over injury estimate of 10,100 injuries (33 percent) associated with televisions. A television falling in combination with furniture falling is counted only in the television category. Appliances accounted for an annual average of 1,100 injuries (3 percent). Appliance estimates for 2009, 2013, and 2016 are not given because there were not enough data to support a reliable statistical estimate. Estimates are shown in Table 1.

Of the estimates in Table 1, for 2006 through 2016, there is a statistically significant quadratic term when fitting a curve, which indicates a rise in tip-over injuries from 2006, to a peak in 2010, followed by a decline to a minimum in 2016, for both overall injuries and injuries associated with televisions.⁵ There is a statistically significant difference in the estimated number of television injuries in 2016 when comparing any year between 2006 and 2015. No linear trend was detected for the entire 2006 to 2016 period for furniture only or appliances.

⁵ The threshold for determining statistical significance is a probability value (p-value) less than 0.05.

Table 1
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Year, 2006–2016

Year	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ⁶			
	Televisions ⁷	Only Furniture	Appliances	Television, Furniture, and Appliance Total
Annual Avg (2014–2016)	10,100	19,500	1,100	30,700
Avg 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	(8,300, 11,900)	(15,500, 23,500)	(700, 1,400)	(25,300, 36,000)
2016	7,600	18,700	–	27,100
2015	10,400	19,100	1,200	30,700
2014	12,300	20,700	1,300	34,300
2013	12,800	20,000	–	33,800
2012	16,500	22,000	1,200	39,800
2011	17,000	20,800	2,200	40,000
2010	20,000	23,300	1,700	45,000
2009	19,700	23,400	–	44,100
2008	17,800	20,300	2,300	40,400
2007	16,400	20,100	1,200	37,700
2006	15,900	21,600	1,400	38,900

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

⁶ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred. Estimates may not sum to total, due to rounding, and dashes indicate that data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The Coefficients of Variation (CVs) for the given estimates ranged from 0.0558 to 0.2718.

⁷ The television counts also include computer monitors (laptops and “computers,” without further description of a computer monitor, are considered out of scope; whereas, flat-screen televisions are considered in scope). From 2014–2016, of the annual average of 10,100 television tip over injuries, about 2 percent were computer monitors, as opposed to televisions.

Table 2 records the estimated annual average number of emergency department-treated television, furniture, and appliance injuries by victim age category. Each estimate is further refined into estimates by product categories. Notice that children younger than 10 years of age are in the age category (45 percent) associated with the largest number of product instability or tip-over injuries for televisions, furniture, and appliances total. This estimate can be further refined into television (19 percent) and only furniture (26 percent) estimates.

Table 2
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Victim Age Category, 2014–2016

Victim Age Category (years)	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ⁸ (Percent of Estimate) (Television, Furniture, and Appliance Total 30,700)	
	Product Category ⁹	Estimate
<1 through 9	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	13,900 (45%)
	TV	5,900 (19%)
	Only Furniture	7,900 (26%)
10 through 19	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,300 (8%)
	TV	900 (3%)
	Only Furniture	1,400 (4%)
20 through 29	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	3,000 (10%)
	TV	800 (3%)
	Only Furniture	1,900 (6%)
30 through 39	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,900 (9%)
	TV	700 (2%)
	Only Furniture	2,000 (7%)
40 through 49	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,600 (9%)
	TV	500 (1%)
	Only Furniture	2,000 (6%)
50 through 59	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,300 (8%)
	TV	600 (2%)
	Only Furniture	1,600 (5%)
60 through 69	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,700 (5%)
	TV	–
	Only Furniture	1,200 (4%)
≥ 70	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,900 (6%)
	TV	–
	Only Furniture	1,500 (5%)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

⁸ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate that data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1012 to 0.2428.

⁹ Product estimates may not add up to total, due to rounding and the appliance category not being represented. The appliance estimates are not given because there were not enough data to support reliable statistical estimates.

The age categories of child (younger than 18 years), adult (18 years to younger than 60 years), and senior (60 years or older) will be used when discussing product instability or tip-over-related injuries for televisions, furniture, and appliances. Children account for 52 percent of the television, furniture, and appliance instability or tip-over emergency department-treated injury estimate. Adults and seniors account for 37 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

The 30,700 injury estimate can be further refined by age group and product category. Table 3 presents these estimates. Children experience the most injuries with furniture (estimated 9,000 injuries) and televisions (estimated 6,600 injuries). Adults and seniors experience the most injuries with furniture (estimated 7,700 and 2,700 injuries, respectively). Children had the highest rates annually for furniture only, with 12 emergency department-treated injuries per 100,000 children, followed by televisions, with 9 emergency department-treated injuries per 100,000 children. There is a statistically significant linear decline in television tip-over incidents from 2010 thru 2016 for children.

Table 3
Annual Average of Estimated Total Number of Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Victim Age Category, 2014–2016

Annual Average 2014-2016	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ¹⁰ (Emergency Department Injuries Per 100,000 U.S. Population ¹¹)		
	Children (<1 to 17 years)	Adults (18 to 59 years)	Seniors (≥60 years)
Televisions, Furniture, and Appliances Total	15,800 (21)	11,300 (6)	3,600 (5)
Avg 95% Confidence Interval (CI)	(12,300, 19,300)	(9,300, 13,200)	(2,700, 4,500)
Televisions	6,600 (9)	2,700 (2)	700 (1)
Only Furniture	9,000 (12)	7,700 (4)	2,700 (4)
Appliances	–	800 (<1)	–

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

¹⁰ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate that data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.0878 to .2088.

¹¹ The U.S. population figure for children, adults, and seniors is an average of 2014, 2015, and 2016 data for each age category for the month of July from Census data.

As noted, children account for the largest portion of television- and furniture-related injuries. The estimates related to children can be subdivided further into age categories for victims less than 1-year-old (1 month through 11 months), 1-year-old (12 months through 23 months) to 6 years old (72 months through 83 months), and children 7-years-old and older. See Table 4. A majority of the child emergency department-treated product instability or tip-over injury estimates involving televisions and furniture are accounted for by victims age 1 to 4 years old.

For the television category, 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds account for the highest number of estimated injuries (estimated 1,300 and 1,200 injuries, respectively). For the furniture only category, 2-year-olds and 1-year-olds account for the highest number of estimated injuries (estimated 1,800 and 1,700 injuries, respectively).

Table 4
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Selected Child Victim Age Category, 2014–2016

Child Victim Age Category ¹² (years)	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries for Children ¹³ (Percent of Total Estimate)	
	Television Estimate (Total Child TV Estimate 6,600)	Only Furniture Estimate (Total Child Furniture Estimate 9,000)
<1	–	400 (5%)
1	800 (12%)	1,700 (19%)
2	1,300 (20%)	1,800 (20%)
3	1,200 (18%)	1,000 (12%)
4	700 (10%)	700 (8%)
5	600 (9%)	400 (4%)
6	400 (6%)	700 (8%)
7 through 17	1,500 (22%)	2,200 (24%)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

The television instability or tip-over-related injury estimate for children (6,600) could be refined further. There were 1,000 estimated injuries to children (14 percent), where the television and a chest, bureau, or dresser both fell.

¹² For children younger than 1 year of age, 2 percent were in the “TV” category of injuries to children.

¹³ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and the CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1223 to 0.2864.

The furniture estimates can be refined further by furniture subtypes. A majority of the only-furniture-related injuries for children (91 percent) were in four furniture subtype categories. For the furniture instability or tip-over estimate for children (9,000 injuries), tables accounted for 3,400 injuries (38 percent); chests, bureaus, and dressers accounted for 2,600 injuries (29 percent); shelves, shelving units, and bookcases accounted for 1,600 injuries (18 percent); and cabinets accounted for 600 injuries (6 percent). The remaining only-furniture-related injuries to children accounted for 900 injuries (9 percent). A majority of the only-furniture injuries for adults (62 percent) were in the tables and shelving categories. Of the total furniture instability or tip-over estimate for adults (7,700 injuries), shelves, shelving units, and bookcases were associated with 2,700 injuries (34 percent); tables with 2,100 injuries (27 percent); cabinets with 1,200 injuries (16 percent); and chests, bureaus, and dressers with 900 injuries (12 percent). The remaining only-furniture-related injuries to adults accounted for 800 injuries (11 percent). Of the total furniture instability or tip-over estimate for seniors (2,700 injuries); tables were associated with 1,000 injuries (36 percent). Table 5 shows the estimate details.

Table 5
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Only-Furniture Subcategories, 2014–2016

Only Furniture Subtype	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ¹⁴ (Percent of Estimate)		
	Children (<1 to 17 years) (Child Furniture Estimate 9,000)	Adults (18 to 59 years) (Adult Furniture Estimate 7,700)	Seniors (60 years and older) (Senior Furniture Estimate 2,700)
Tables	3,400 (38%)	2,100 (27%)	1,000 (36%)
Chests, Bureaus, and Dressers (CBD)	2,600 (29%)	900 (12%)	–
Shelving, Shelving Units, and Bookcases (Shelf)	1,600 (18%)	2,700 (34%)	–
Cabinets	600 (6%)	1,200 (16%)	–
Remaining Furniture Subtypes	900 (9%)	800 (11%)	600 (21%)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

¹⁴ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate instances where data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1250 to 0.2481.

There were an estimated 16,900 females injured (55%) and an estimated 13,800 males injured (45%) in all product instability or tip-over incidents for all ages. Table 6 gives the estimates for each victim age category by product and gender. Estimates for injuries due to instability or tip-over incidents involving senior men and televisions are not given because there were not enough data to support a reliable statistical estimate.¹⁵ For adults under 60, the estimates suggest a statistical difference by gender for the only-furniture¹⁶ subcategory and for overall tip-over injuries.¹⁷ For seniors, the estimates suggest a statistical difference by gender for only-furniture¹⁸ and for overall tip-over injuries.¹⁹ There was no statistical difference by gender in children for television, furniture, or the combined estimate of all tip-over incidents.

Table 6
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Gender, 2014–2016

Gender	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ²⁰ (Percent of Estimate)			
	Product Category ²¹	Children (<1 to 17 years) (Total Child Estimate 15,800)	Adults (18 to 59 years) (Total Adult Estimate 11,300)	Seniors (≥60 years) (Total Senior Estimate 3,600)
Male	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	8,600 (54%)	4,100 (37%)	1,000 (29%)
	TV Only Furniture	3,500 (22%) 5,000 (32%)	1,000 (9%) 2,600 (24%)	– 800 (21%)
Female	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	7,200 (46%)	7,100 (63%)	2,500 (71%)
	TV Only Furniture	3,200 (20%) 4,000 (25%)	1,700 (15%) 5,100 (45%)	500 (14%) 2,000 (55%)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

Sixty-eight percent of the estimated 30,700 injuries occurred in a residential location. Six percent occurred in public locations, and 26 percent happened in an unknown location. These percentages are somewhat similar for children (75 percent residential and 5 percent public), adults (61 percent residential and 3 percent public) and seniors (60 percent residential and 13 percent public [which includes nursing homes]).

¹⁵ The criteria for estimates are discussed in Appendix A.

¹⁶ For adults and furniture, avg. 95 percent CI is (2,000, 3,300) for males, and (4,000, 6,100) for females.

¹⁷ For adults including all tip-over injuries, avg. 95 percent CI is (3,300, 4,900) for males and (5,700, 8,500) for females.

¹⁸ For seniors and furniture, avg. 95 percent CI is (500, 1,000) for males, and (1,300, 2,700) for females.

¹⁹ For seniors including all tip-over injuries, avg. 95 percent CI is (700, 1,400) for males and (1,800, 3,300) for females.

²⁰ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate instances where data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.0994 to 0.2192.

²¹ Product estimates may not add up to total, due to rounding and the appliance category not being represented. The appliance estimates are not given because there were not enough data to support reliable statistical estimates.

The majority of victims (94 percent of children, 96 percent of adults, and 84 percent of seniors) of these emergency department-treated injuries were treated and released. The diagnoses, which are independent of the disposition, such as treated and released, were examined for children, adults, and seniors. The majority of the diagnoses for all age groups combined, including the senior age group, were contusions/abrasions (10,900), internal organ injuries (4,700), lacerations (4,600), fractures (3,900), and sprains or strains (1,300). The most frequent injury diagnosis for children was contusions/abrasions (5,300). This is followed by internal organ injuries (3,300), lacerations (2,600), and fractures (1,900). The most frequent injury diagnosis for adults was contusions/abrasions (4,400), as well. This is followed by fractures (1,600), lacerations (1,400), internal organ injuries (900), and strains/sprains (900). The most frequent injury diagnosis for seniors was also contusions/abrasions (1,200). This is followed by internal organ injuries (500), lacerations (500), and fractures (400). Table 7 illustrates the estimates, where available.

Table 7
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Diagnosis, 2014–2016

Diagnosis	Product Category ²³	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ²² (Percent of Estimate)		
		Children (<1 to 17 years) (Total Child Estimate 15,800)	Adults (18 to 59 years) (Total Adult Estimate 11,300)	Seniors (60 years and older) (Total Senior Estimate 3,600)
Contusions, Abrasions	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	5,300 (34%)	4,400 (39%)	1,200 (34%)
	TV	2,500 (16%)	1,100 (10%)	—
	Only Furniture	2,800 (18%)	3,100 (27%)	900 (25%)
Internal Organ Injury	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	3,300 (21%)	900 (8%)	500 (15%)
	TV	1,700 (11%)	400 (4%)	—
	Only Furniture	1,600 (10%)	500 (4%)	—
Lacerations	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,600 (17%)	1,400 (13%)	500 (14%)
	TV	700 (4%)	—	—
	Only Furniture	2,000 (12%)	1,100 (10%)	—
Fractures	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,900 (12%)	1,600 (14%)	400 (12%)
	TV	900 (6%)	400 (4%)	—
	Only Furniture	1,000 (6%)	1,100 (10%)	—
Strains or Sprains	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	—	900 (8%)	—
	TV	—	—	—
	Only Furniture	—	700 (6%)	—
All Other Diagnoses	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,400 (15%)	2,100 (19%)	700 (20%)
	TV	800 (5%)	500 (5%)	—
	Only Furniture	1,500 (9%)	1,300 (12%)	500 (15%)

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

²² The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate instances where data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1033 to 0.3261.

²³ Product estimates may not add up to total, due to rounding and the appliance category not being represented. The appliance estimates are not given because there were not enough data to support reliable statistical estimates.

Most injuries for all age groups combined affected the legs, feet and toes (11,700). This is followed by the head (10,600), arms, hands, and fingers (5,200), and the torso (3,000). Table 8 shows the estimates for the primary area of the body affected in these injuries by victim age category. Most injuries to children affected the head (7,400) and legs, feet, and toes (5,300). Most injuries to adults affected the legs, feet, and toes (5,000) and arms, hands, and fingers (2,700). Most injuries to seniors affected the legs, feet, and toes (1,400) or the head (1,000).

Table 8
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Area of Body, 2014–2016

Primary Area of Body Affected	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ²⁴ (Percent of Estimate)			
	Product Category ²⁵	Children (<1 to 17 years) (Total Child Estimate 15,800)	Adults (18 to 59 years) (Total Adult Estimate 11,300)	Seniors (60 years and older) (Total Senior Estimate 3,600)
Head	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	7,400 (47%)	2,300 (20%)	1,000 (27%)
	TV	3,300 (21%)	700 (6%)	–
	Only Furniture	4,000 (25%)	1,500 (13%)	700 (21%)
Legs, Feet, and Toes (Legs)	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	5,300 (33%)	5,000 (44%)	1,400 (39%)
	TV	2,200 (14%)	900 (8%)	–
	Only Furniture	3,000 (19%)	3,700 (33%)	1,100 (32%)
Arms, Hands, and Fingers (Arms)	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,000 (13%)	2,700 (24%)	500 (14%)
	TV	600 (4%)	800 (8%)	–
	Only Furniture	1,400 (9%)	1,600 (14%)	–
Torso	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,100 (7%)	1,200 (11%)	600 (17%)
	TV	500 (3%)	–	–
	Only Furniture	600 (4%)	1,000 (9%)	500 (14%)
All Other Body Parts	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	–	–	–
	TV	–	–	–
	Only Furniture	–	–	–

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

²⁴ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate instances where data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1096 to 0.2456.

²⁵ Estimates in the table may not add up to the total for each overall age group due to rounding and the appliance category not being represented. The appliance estimates are not given because there were not enough data to support reliable statistical estimates.

Looking closer at the primary body part affected, as well as the diagnosis, estimates can be given for some of the injuries by selected area of body and diagnosis. Of the head injuries that occurred to children, the most frequent diagnosis was internal organ injury (3,300), followed by lacerations (1,600), and contusions/abrasions (1,400). Many of the leg injuries to children were diagnosed as contusions/abrasions (2,900) and fractures (1,000). For many of the adult leg injuries, the diagnosis was contusions/abrasions (2,700). Table 9 gives the estimates.

Table 9
Annual Average of Estimated Emergency Department-Treated
Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries by Selected Area of Body/Diagnosis, 2014–2016

Primary Area of Body Affected/ Diagnosis	Estimated Emergency Department-Treated Injuries ²⁶			
	Product Category ²⁷	Children (<1 to 17 years) (Total Child Estimate 15,800)	Adults (18 to 59 years) (Total Adult Estimate 11,300)	Seniors (60 years and older) (Total Senior Estimate 3,600)
Head/ Internal Organ Injury	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	3,300 (21%)	900 (8%)	500 (14%)
	TV	1,700 (10%)	400 (4%)	—
	Only Furniture	1,600 (10%)	500 (4%)	—
Head/ Lacerations	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,600 (10%)	500 (5%)	—
	TV	400 (3%)	—	—
	Only Furniture	1,200 (7%)	500 (4%)	—
Head/ Contusions, Abrasions	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,400 (9%)	—	—
	TV	700 (4%)	—	—
	Only Furniture	700 (5%)	—	—
Legs/ Contusions, Abrasions	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	2,900 (18%)	2,700 (24%)	700 (18%)
	TV	1,400 (9%)	600 (5%)	—
	Only Furniture	1,400 (9%)	2,000 (18%)	500 (14%)
Legs/ Fractures	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	1,000 (6%)	800 (7%)	—
	TV	500 (3%)	—	—
	Only Furniture	500 (3%)	500 (5%)	—
Arms/ Contusions, Abrasions	TV, Furniture, & Appliance Total	500 (3%)	1,000 (9%)	—
	TV	—	—	—
	Only Furniture	—	600 (5%)	—

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: NEISS. The estimates include cases for television, furniture, and appliance product codes, as described in Appendix B.

²⁶ The estimates are rounded to the nearest hundred, and dashes indicate instances where data were insufficient to support reliable statistical estimates. The CVs for the given estimates (2014–2016) ranged from 0.1138 to 0.2535.

²⁷ Product estimates may not add up to total, due to rounding and the appliance category not being represented. The appliance estimates are not given, due to small sample sizes.

Reported Fatalities

CPSC staff has received 514 reports of product instability or tip-over fatalities that occurred between 2000 and 2016, and that were related to televisions, furniture, and/or appliances. Of these 514 reported fatalities, 332 deaths (65 percent) involved televisions falling, with 150 of the 332 (45 percent) fatalities associated with televisions, along with the furniture in/on which the television was resting, falling as well. Of the 514 reported fatalities, 150 deaths (29 percent) were associated with only furniture falling. The remaining 32 deaths (6 percent) involved appliances falling. Table 10 presents the instability or tip-over data for televisions, furniture, and appliances by year of incident.

Some differences are apparent between Table 10 in this report and for the prior report published in 2016. CPSC received new reports for tip-over fatalities for the recent 3-year period from 2014 to 2016. Percentages in the table and graphs may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Table 10 presents the instability or tip-over data for televisions, furniture, and appliances by year of incident.

Table 10
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Year, 2000–2016

Year ²⁸	Televisions ²⁹ (TV + Furniture) ³⁰	Only Furniture	Appliances	Television, Furniture, and Appliance Total	Percent of Total (n = 514)
2016*	10 (7)	6	0	16	3%
2015*	14 (5)	10	1	25	5%
2014*	25 (12)	17	1	43	8%
2013	23 (12)	10	2	35	7%
2012	37 (20)	7	2	46	9%
2011	39 (18)	12	1	52	10%
2010	22 (5)	7	4	33	6%
2009	21 (13)	6	1	28	5%
2008	29 (11)	8	0	37	7%
2007	25 (14)	10	0	35	7%
2006	20 (7)	5	3	28	5%
2005	18 (10)	9	1	28	5%
2004	11 (2)	12	1	24	5%
2003	10 (1)	5	5	20	4%
2002	10 (5)	8	3	21	4%
2001	11 (4)	16	5	32	6%
2000	7 (4)	2	2	11	2%
Product Category Total	332 (150)	150	32	514	
Percent of Total (n = 514)	65% (29%)	29%	6%		

Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPII (Injury and Potential Injury Incidents), DTHS (Deaths), and INDP (In-Depth Investigations). Asterisks (*) indicate ongoing reporting.

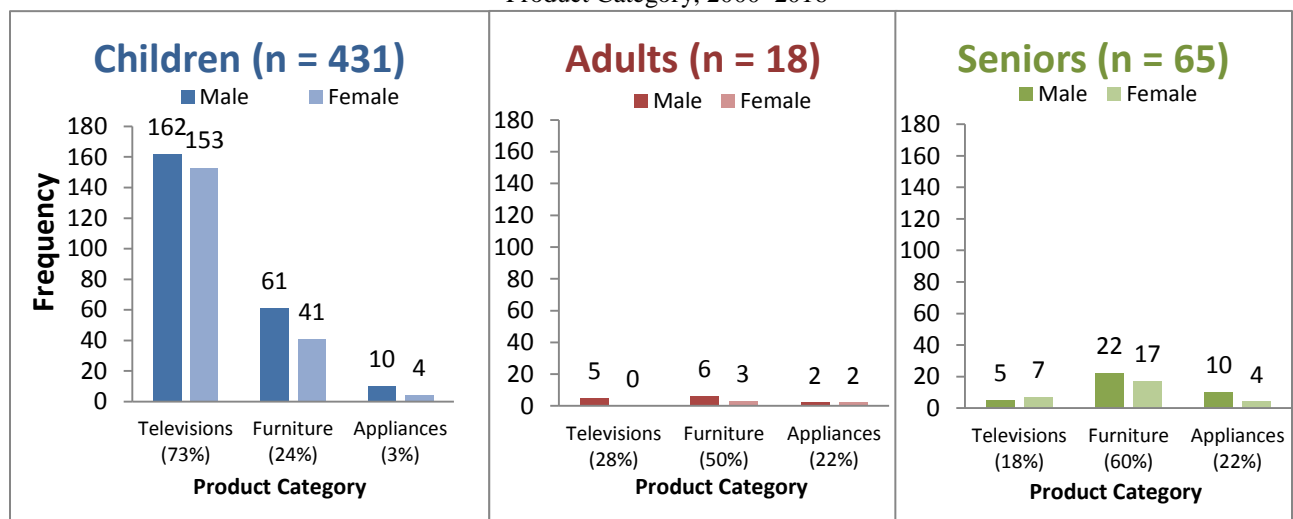
²⁸ Fatality counts should be considered incomplete for years 2014 to 2016, due to a time lapse in reporting to CPSC.

²⁹ There are no computer monitor-related fatalities among the television fatality counts.

³⁰ Numbers within parentheses represent the subset of televisions falling, where both the television and furniture on which the television was resting fell.

The fatalities were separated into three distinct age categories: (1) children (younger than 18 years of age); (2) adults (18 years of age or older, but less than 60 years); and (3) seniors (60 years of age or older). Of the 514 fatalities, 431 (84 percent) of these fatalities were children. This is followed by seniors with 65 deaths (13 percent); and the remaining victims were adults (18 deaths; 4 percent). Of the 431 child fatalities, 315 (73 percent) involved falling televisions, and 102 deaths (24 percent) involved only furniture falling. Examining the 65 senior fatalities, 39 deaths (60 percent) involved only furniture falling, and 14 deaths (22 percent) involved appliances falling. Child fatalities involving televisions do not appear to differ according to gender (51 percent male versus 49 percent female). The fatalities involving children and furniture suggest differences based on gender (60 percent male, versus 40 percent female). For other fatalities, it is harder to examine differences, due to small counts. Graph 1 illustrates these frequencies by gender, product, and victim age category.

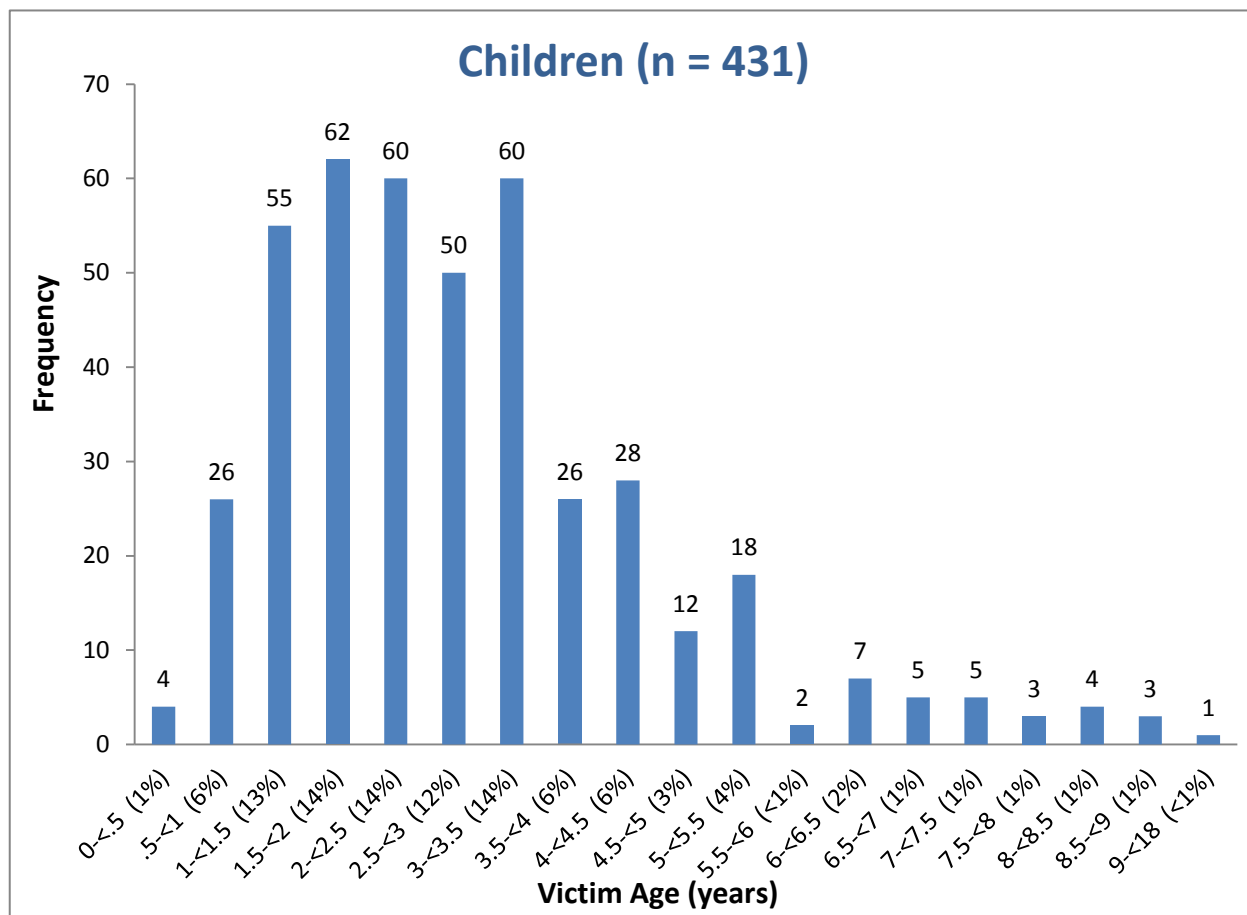
Graph 1
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Gender and Product Category, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

Counts by victim age category for the 431 fatalities involving children are presented in Graph 2. Children ranged in age from 1 month to 14 years. Of the children fatalities, there were 287 deaths (67 percent) of children at least 1 year of age and less than 3½ years of age. The age used is the age at the time of death, which may differ somewhat from the age at the time of the incident.

Graph 2
Child Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Victim Age, 2000–2016

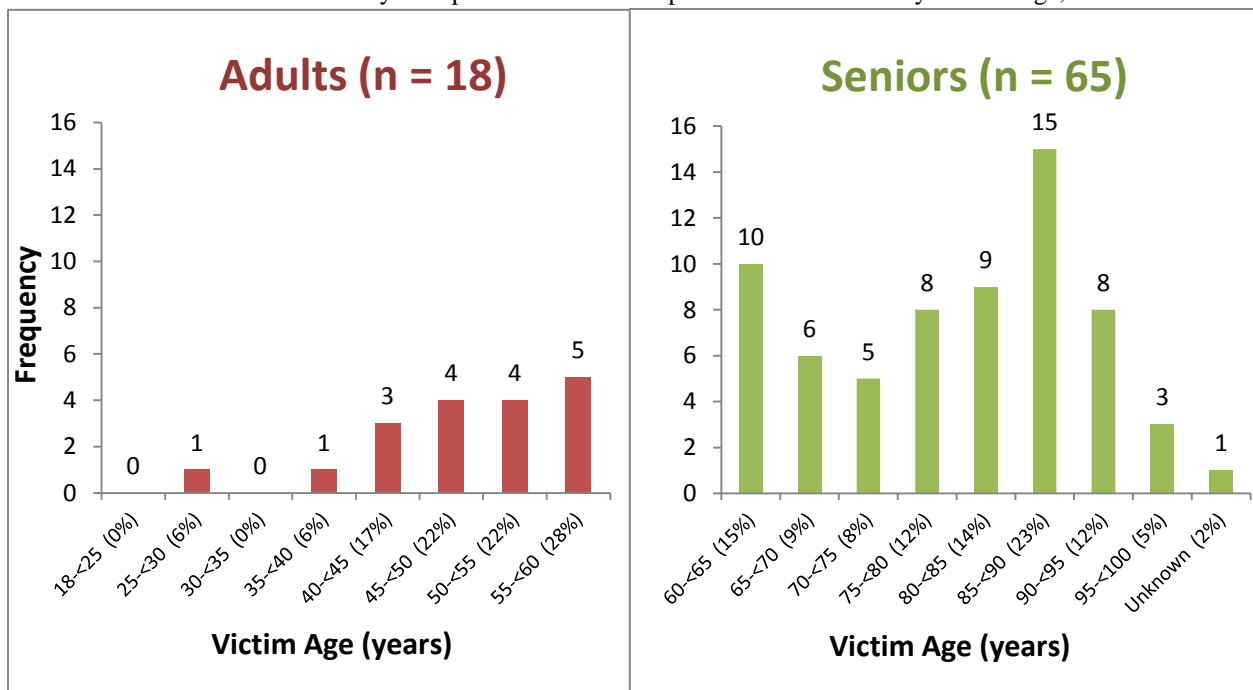


Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

Adults and seniors accounted for 83 fatalities. The adults ranged in age from 28 years to 59 years, and the seniors were 60 years of age or older. Of the senior deaths, 43 fatalities (66 percent) happened to seniors who were 75 years of age or older. Graph 3 illustrates the ages of the fatality victims for these two groups.

Graph 3

Adult & Senior Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Victim Age, 2000–2016³¹

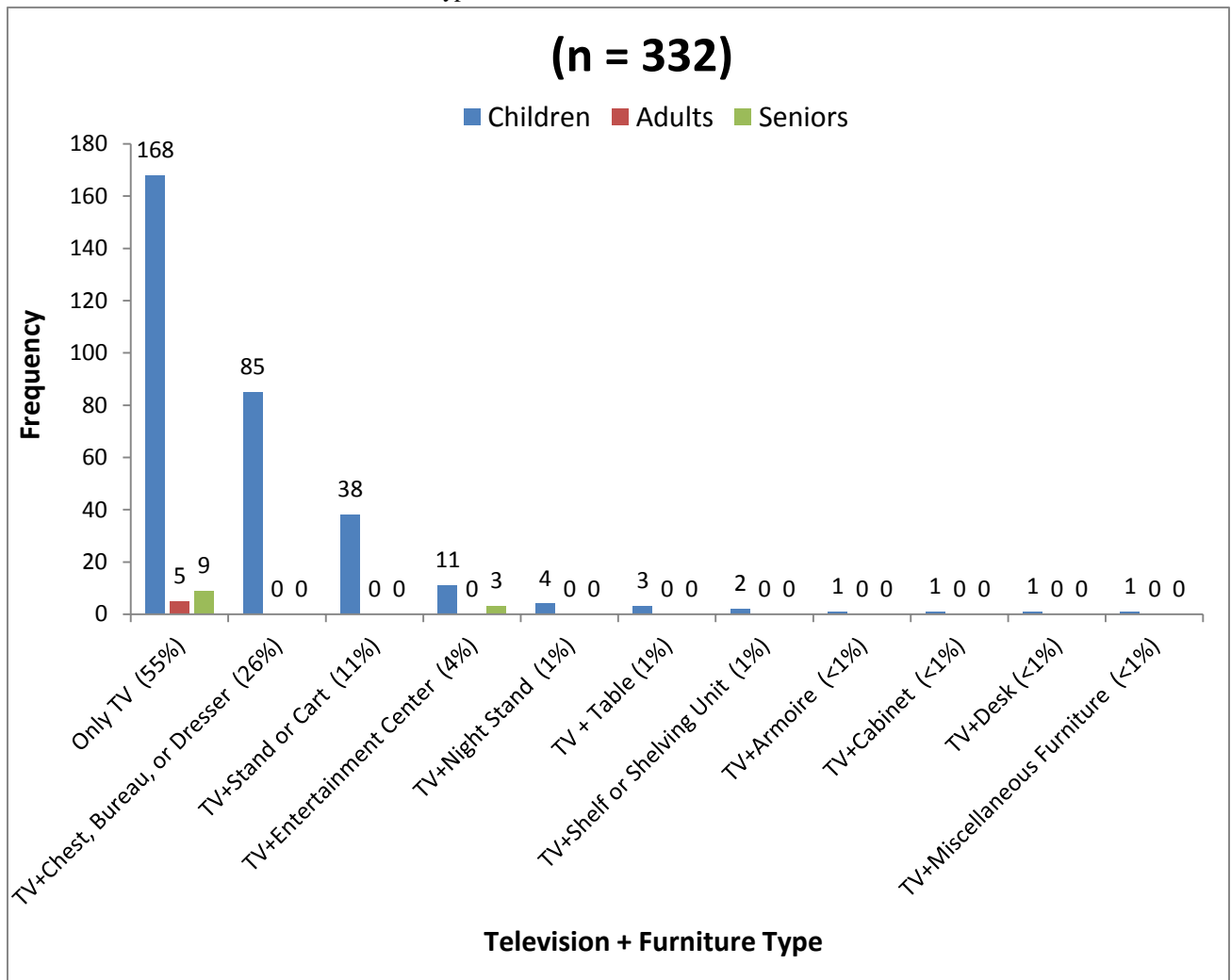


Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPS.

³¹ There is one report of an “elderly woman” with no known age at time of death, which accounts for the one senior with the unknown age.

Of the 514 fatalities, 332 deaths (65 percent) involved televisions. Of these 332 deaths, 315 fatalities (95 percent) were children; 12 fatalities (4 percent) were seniors; and 5 fatalities (2 percent) were adults. Of the 332 television-related fatalities, in 182 deaths (55 percent) only the television fell without furniture also falling. This is followed by a television plus a chest, bureau, or dresser falling (85 deaths; 26 percent), and a television plus a cart/stand falling (38 deaths; 11 percent). Graph 4 shows the frequencies. One death was reclassified from the previous report. Since the 2016 Tip-Over Report, an incident involving a child was changed from a television and a wardrobe (miscellaneous furniture category) falling, to a television and an armoire falling.

Graph 4
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Television and Furniture Type,³² 2000–2016³³



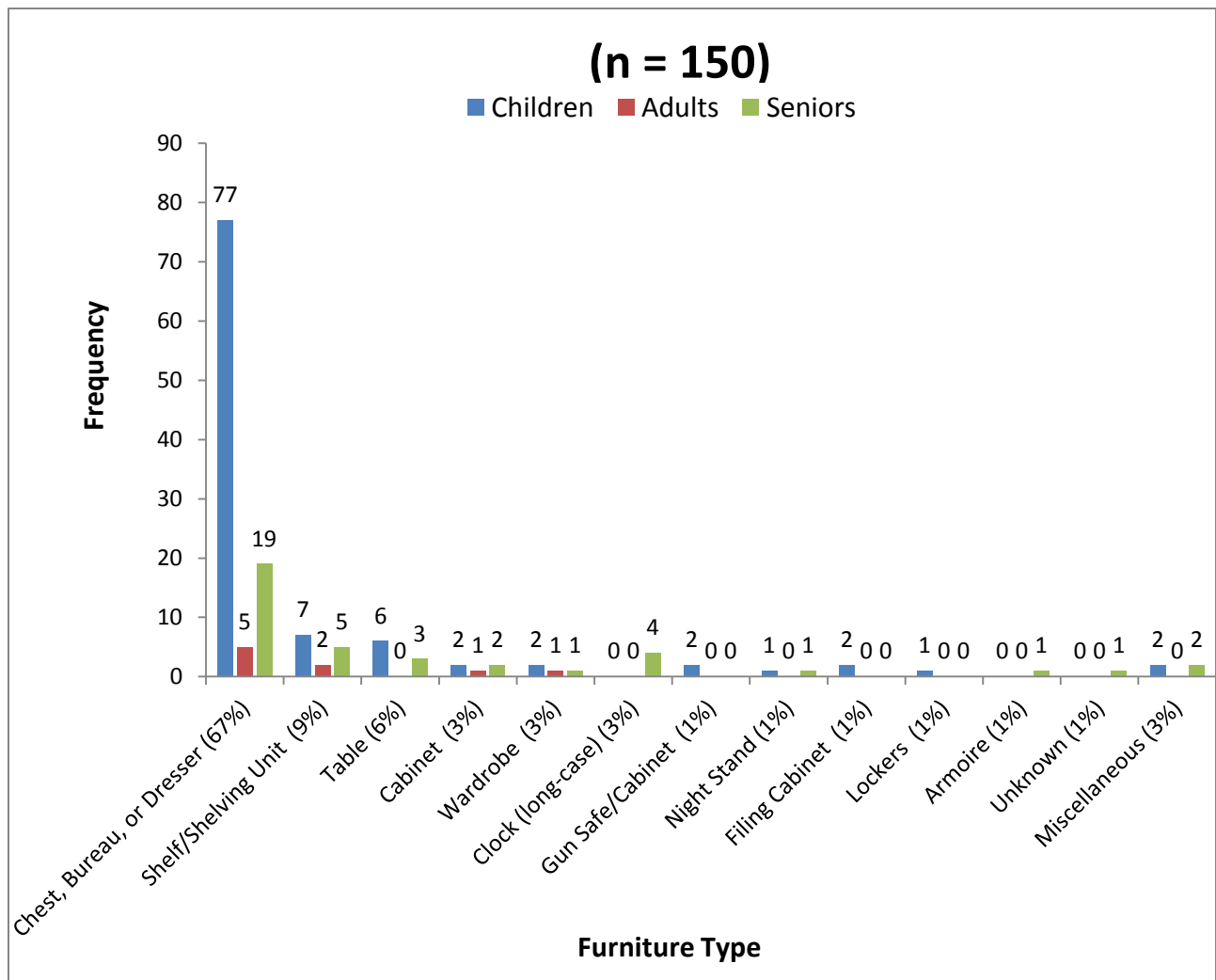
Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

³² Fatalities where it could not be determined if the furniture fell are counted as only the TV falling.

³³ The miscellaneous furniture is an antique phonograph cabinet.

Of the 514 fatalities, 150 deaths (29 percent) involved only furniture falling. For these 150 deaths, 102 fatalities (68 percent) were children; 39 fatalities (26 percent) were seniors; and 9 fatalities (6 percent) were adults. Graph 5 gives the frequencies for instability or tip-over deaths by furniture type and victim age involving only furniture falling.³⁴ Notice that the chest, bureau, or dresser category has the largest count (101 deaths; 67 percent).

Graph 5
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff for Only Furniture
by Furniture Type, 2000–2016³⁵



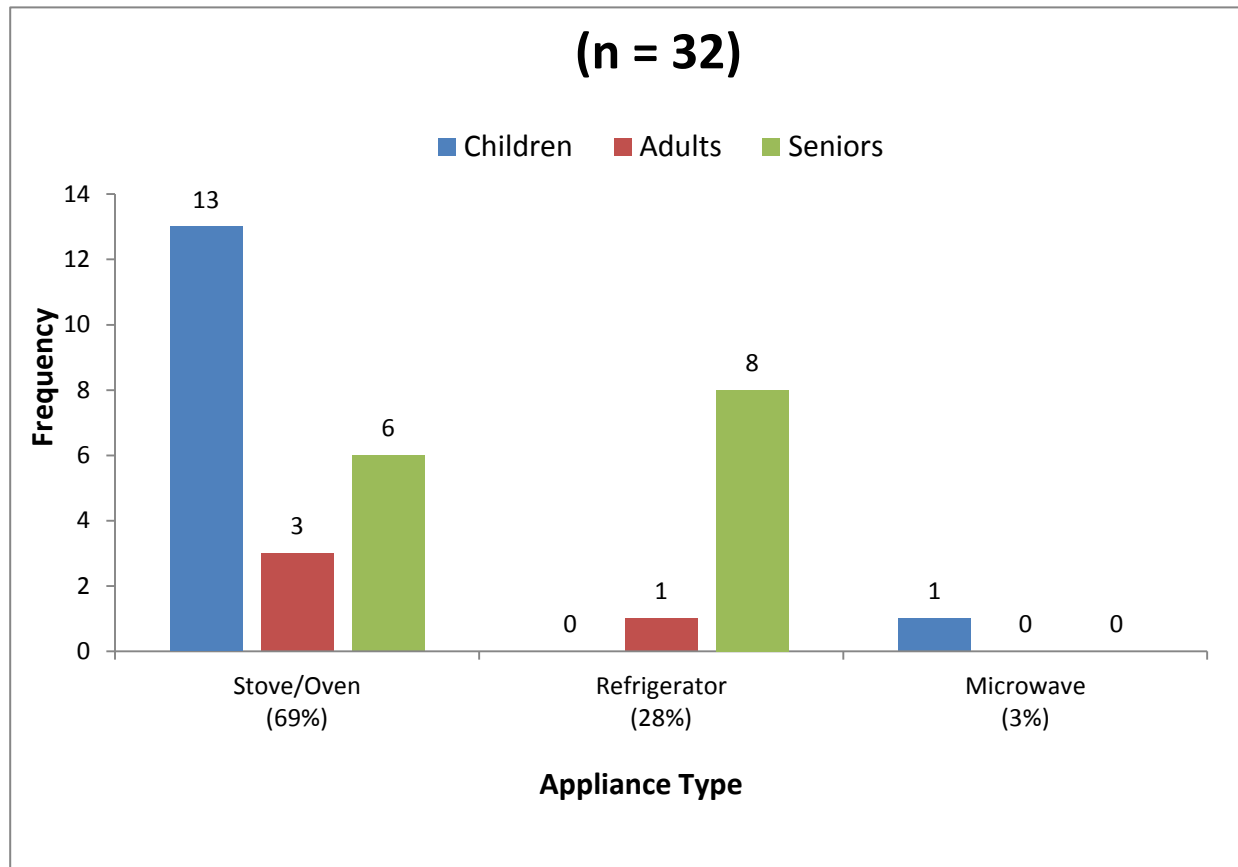
Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

³⁴ The fatality where the furniture is unknown was described as either an armoire or a bookcase.

³⁵ The miscellaneous furniture includes: two coat racks, a portable storage closet, and a room divider.

The remaining 32 deaths (6 percent) of the 515 fatalities involved appliances falling. For these 32 deaths, 14 fatalities were children; 14 were seniors; and 4 were adults. For appliances, the stove category included the largest number of fatalities (22 deaths). Graph 6 presents these frequencies.

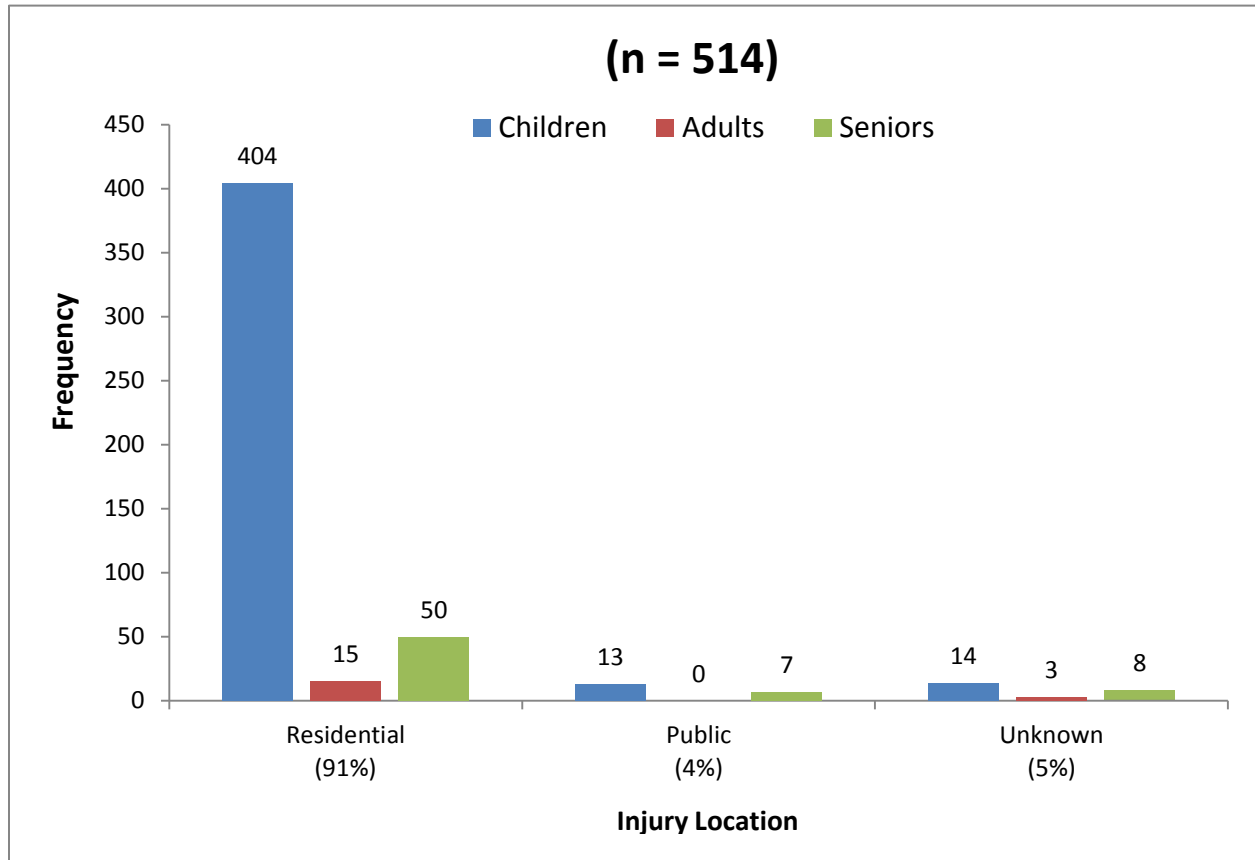
Graph 6
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff for Appliances by
Appliance Type, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

Residential locations account for 469 (91 percent) of the fatalities. Twenty deaths (4 percent) occurred in public locations; and 25 deaths (5 percent) did not provide enough information to determine the location. Fatalities of children had a similar distribution by location (94 percent residential, 3 percent public, and 3 percent unknown). Graph 7 shows these details.

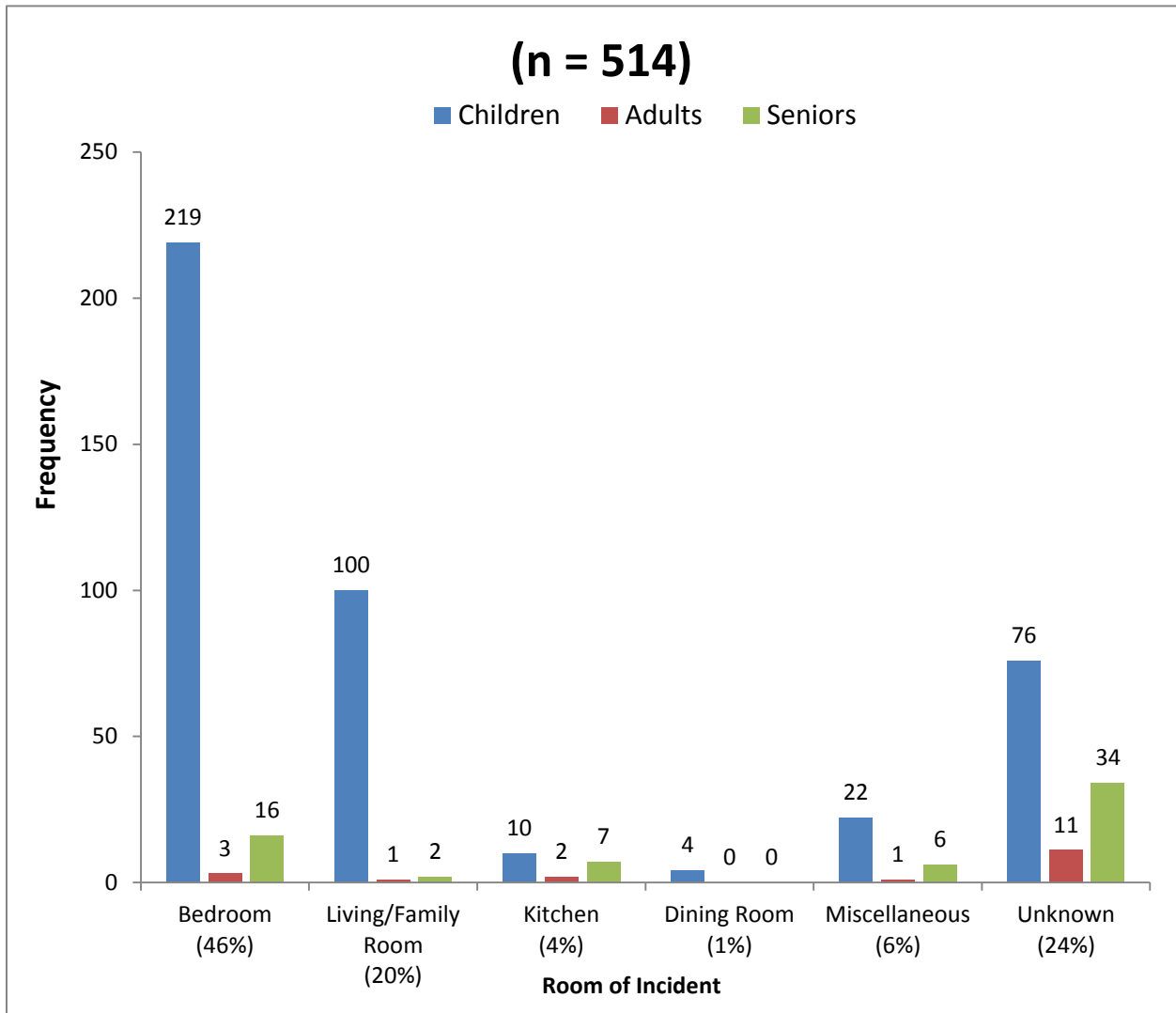
Graph 7
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Location, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

For the room where the incident occurred, the bedroom had the largest number of fatalities, with 238 deaths (46 percent). This is followed by the living/family room, with 103 deaths (20 percent). There is also a large portion of unknown locations (121 deaths; 24 percent) for this room-of-incident variable. Of the 431 fatalities involving children, 219 deaths (51 percent) occurred in bedrooms, and 100 deaths (23 percent) happened in living/family rooms. For adults and seniors, there were many unknown locations (11 fatalities, or 61 percent for adults, and 34 fatalities, or 52 percent for seniors). Graph 8 details this characteristic.

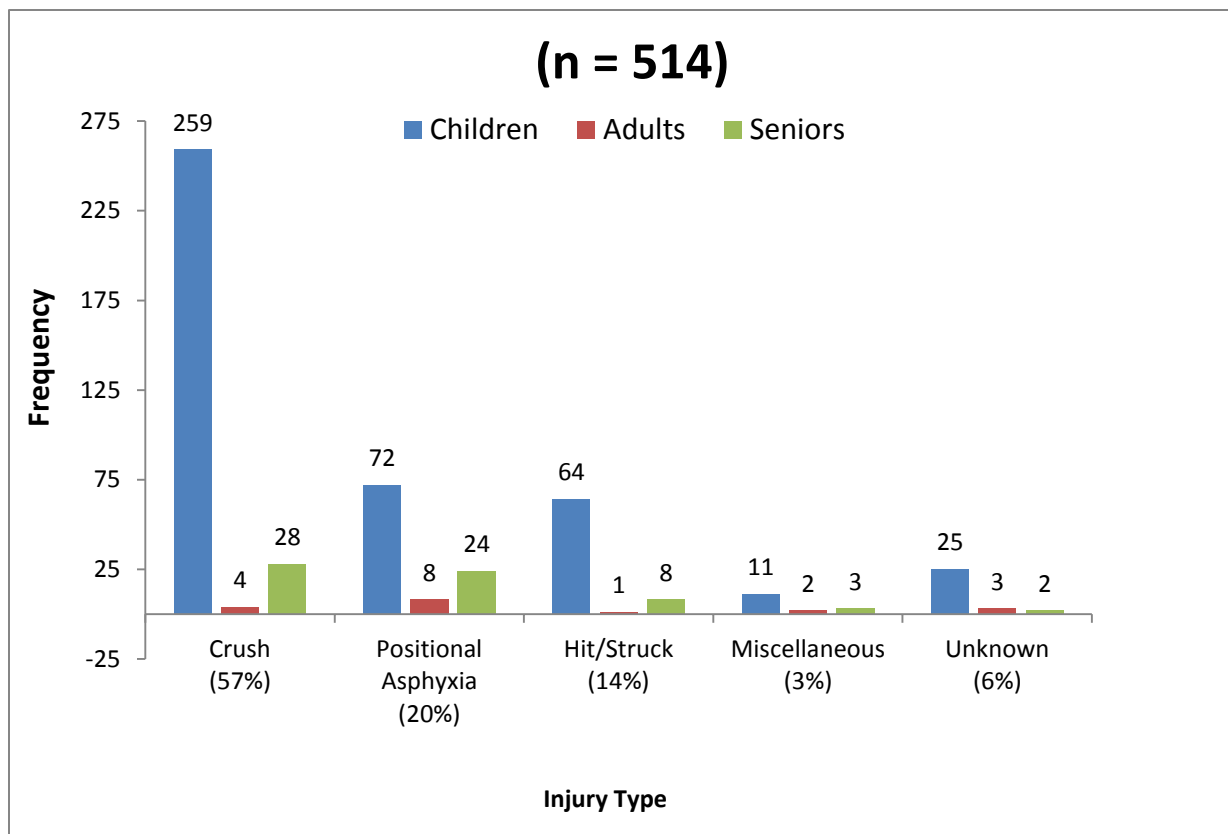
Graph 8
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Room of Incident, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

The majority of the fatalities were due to the victim being crushed³⁶ by the product (291 deaths; 57 percent). This is followed by fatalities that were the result of positional asphyxia³⁷ (104 deaths; 20 percent) and fatalities due to being hit/struck³⁸ (73 deaths; 14 percent) by product(s). Crushing incidents accounted for the largest number of fatalities in children and seniors. Graph 9 details these frequencies by victim age and manner of death.

Graph 9
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Manner of Death, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

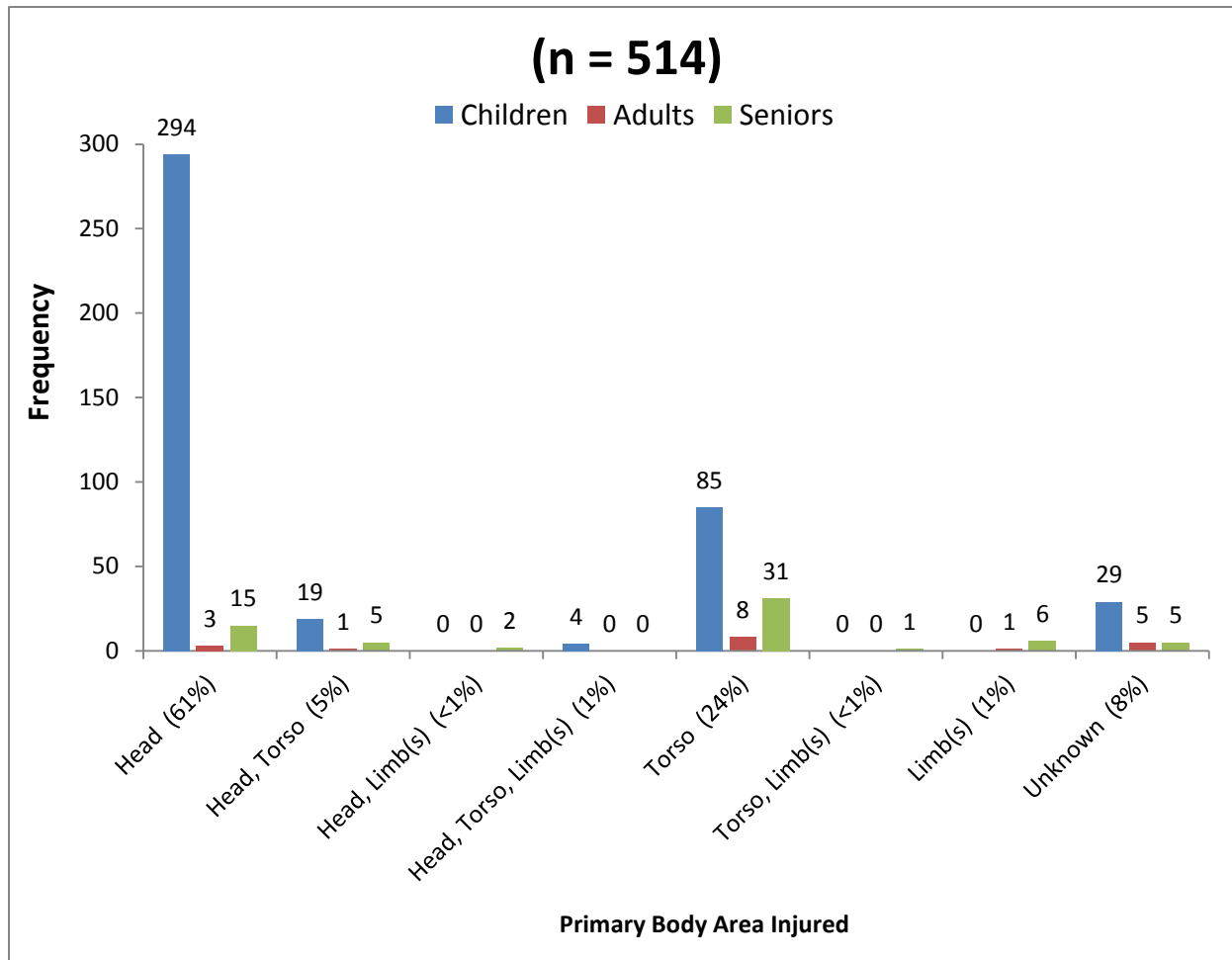
³⁶ “Crushing incidents” are events in which it was clear that the product(s) fell on the victim and the victim remained under the product(s).

³⁷ “Positional asphyxia” is a form of asphyxia that occurs when the body position prevents adequate oxygen supply to the lungs, such as an upper airway obstruction or a limitation in chest wall expansion.

³⁸ “Hit/struck by” injuries are events in which it was clear the product(s) fell on the victim but did not land or remain on the victim.

The head was the area of the body injured most frequently, with 312 fatalities to the head only (61 percent) and 25 fatalities to the head and torso (5 percent) of all the reported fatalities. This is followed by the torso only, with 124 deaths (24 percent). Head injuries were the predominant injury to children, compared to adults and seniors, who had more torso injuries. Graph 10 illustrates these frequencies by victim age and body area injured.

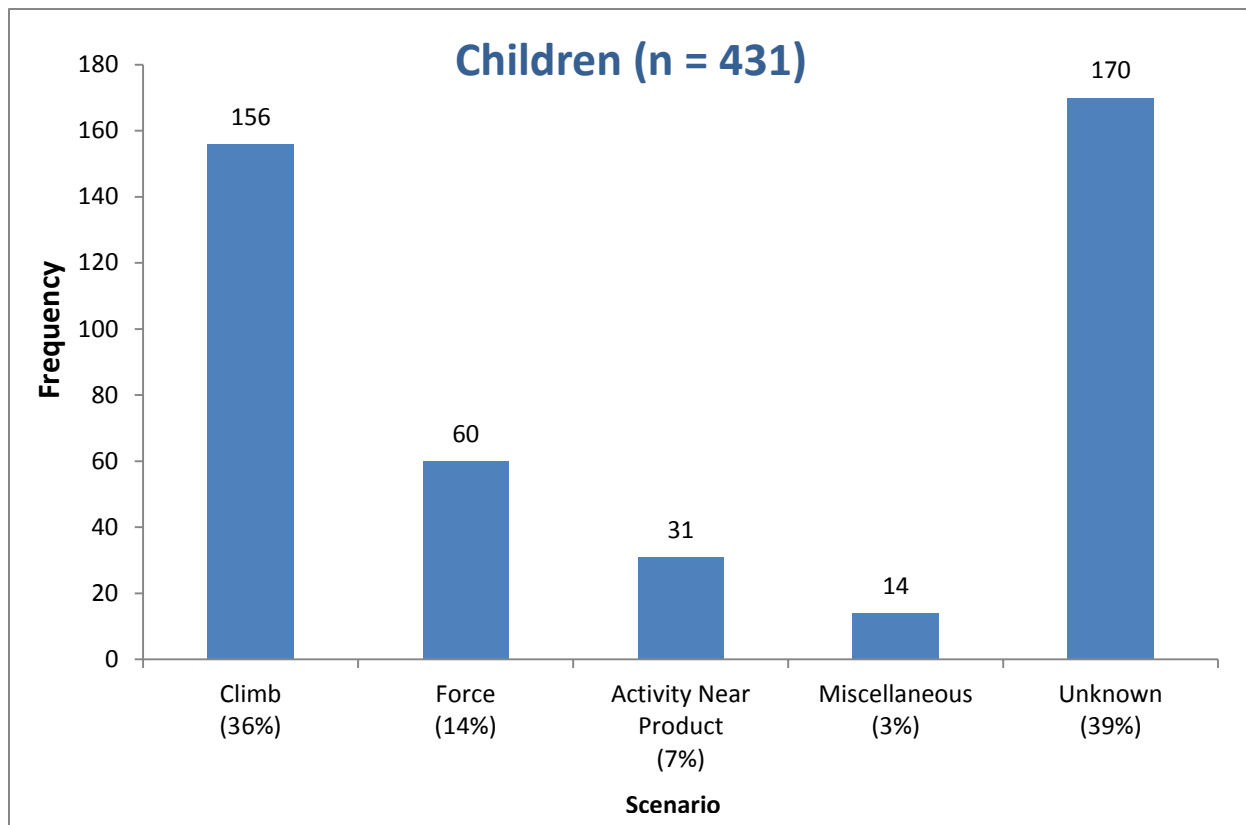
Graph 10
Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Body Area Injured, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

The hazard scenarios were classified, where possible. The scenarios for the 83 deaths involving adults and seniors did not have enough details in most cases to be classified. Accordingly, Graph 11 gives frequencies for children only. Of the 431 deaths involving children, there is also a large set of unknown scenarios (170 deaths; 39 percent). In 156 deaths involving children (36 percent), the victim or someone else was climbing on the appliance, the furniture and/or the television. This is followed by scenarios in which force was being applied to the furniture and/or television, such as hitting, pulling, or kicking (60 deaths; 14 percent). In 31 deaths (7 percent), the victim was involved in some activity near the product, such as playing nearby or adjusting the controls on a TV or electronic device connected to the TV. The remaining 14 deaths (3 percent) have known scenarios that do not fit into the other categories. Graph 11 gives the counts.

Graph 11
Child Product Instability or Tip-Over Fatalities Reported to CPSC Staff by Scenario, 2000–2016



Source: CPSC databases, including NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs.

Appendix A

Methodology for Estimating Product Instability or Tip-Over Injuries and Fatalities Associated with Televisions, Furniture, and Appliances

A multidisciplinary team of CPSC staff met to discuss terminology, the types of products of interest, and what types of product-associated instability or tip-over incidents should be counted. For this report, tip-over incidents concern heavy objects that fall on an individual due to some type of interaction, such as climbing or exerting a force on the object while it is in one of its positions of normal use. This interaction with the product results in the center of gravity of the product changing. When the product falls on an individual, the injuries are typically crushing or compressing in nature. Instability is defined differently from tip-over incidents for this report. For instability, the product falls due to some issue with the product's center of gravity changing (*i.e.*, without the interaction associated with tip-overs). The instability and tip-over definitions helped to set the criteria for the types of scenarios and products that have been included in the data.

In examining the types of products involved in the incidents, staff considered whether the product was heavy and whether it potentially could inflict crushing or compressing injuries. The additional criterion of the potential interaction of the individual with the product was also important. The categories of televisions, furniture, and appliances fit these criteria. The individual product codes were chosen based on the product's potential to fall, the product's size, and its weight. Other products, such as chairs, couches, and beds, were also excluded, due to the emphasis on products that are more upright and those that were not meant to sit, stand, or lie upon.

The potential product codes were determined from categories associated with televisions, furniture, and appliances. Table 11 identifies the potential product codes used to extract the instability or tip-over data for televisions, furniture, and appliances.

Table 11
Potential Instability or Tip-Over Television, Furniture, and Appliance Product Codes³⁹

Product Category	NEISS Product Code	Description
Television	557	Computers (equipment and electronic games)
Television	572	Televisions
Furniture	519	Television tables or stands
Furniture	604	Desks, chests, bureaus, or buffets
Furniture	693	Footlockers
Furniture	709	Safes
Furniture	1260	Billiards or pool (activity, apparel or equipment)
Furniture	1684	Carts, other, or not specified
Furniture	1726	Lockers
Furniture	4013	Other furniture
Furniture	4014	Furniture, not specified
Furniture	4056	Cabinets, racks, room dividers, and shelves
Furniture	4057	Tables (excl. baby changing tables, billiard tables, or pool tables)
Furniture	4065	Clocks, electric or battery operated
Furniture	4067	Clocks, not electric or battery operated or not specified
Appliance	101	Washing machines without wringers or other dryers
Appliance	102	Wringer washing machines
Appliance	106	Electric clothes dryers without washers
Appliance	107	Gas clothes dryers without washers
Appliance	126	Washing machines, not specified
Appliance	127	Clothes dryers, not specified
Appliance	135	Washer-Dryer combinations (within one frame)
Appliance	140	Washing machines, other or not specified
Appliance	259	Electric ranges (with ovens)
Appliance	260	Gas ranges (with ovens)
Appliance	263	Freezers (separate from refrigerators)
Appliance	264	Microwave ovens
Appliance	266	Ovens, not specified
Appliance	267	Other ranges (with ovens)
Appliance	273	Ranges, not specified
Appliance	276	Refrigerators
Appliance	278	Electric ranges or ovens (excl. counter-top ovens)
Appliance	279	Gas ranges or ovens
Appliance	280	Other ranges or ovens
Appliance	281	Ranges or ovens, not specified
Appliance	482	Appliances, other and not specified
Appliance	1821	Clotheslines or clothes drying racks (excluding poles)
Appliance	3233	Other grills or stoves

³⁹ The source for product codes and descriptions is the NEISS Coding Manual (updated January 2017).

After the set of potential product codes was established, the next step was to determine what types of scenarios to look for in the narratives. Narrative key word searches were used with caution when extracting a potential set of data because the narrative field descriptions have so many possible word choices, misspellings, and sentence structures. Additionally, NEISS and DTHS narratives are often very terse and provide only basic information. Consequently, the product codes and the time period were the criteria used to extract the data sets; and then the narratives were examined to determine if the incident met the instability or tip-over definition(s). The incident was not included if only a part of the product fell, such as a door on an entertainment center. Cases involving adults moving products or people dropping products were removed because the product was not in its normal state of use. Products that were hanging on the wall and fell were also excluded. Appendix B gives more details about the conventions that were applied to the reported incidents to determine in-scope cases.

The most recent injury estimates came from 2016 NEISS data extracted on March 31, 2017, which was merged with data from last year's report for the years 2006 through 2015, to cover the 2006 through 2016 reporting period. The past report data were reviewed along with the newer data to ensure that the criteria for inclusion was applied consistently. This introduced minor differences to past reports. After careful consideration of scope criteria, of NEISS incidents used in the 2016 report, 12 incidents were removed for the 2017 report to fit the scope criteria better, as described in Appendix B. The NEISS product codes used for the data were the television, furniture, and appliance codes mentioned above. Very detailed heuristics were used when examining the NEISS narratives, due to the terse nature of the narratives. Appendix B gives the details for what was considered in scope. Because reports in NEISS are unique, there were no duplicates. NEISS data are a weighted sample from which national estimates can be produced, provided the sample count is greater than 20, the estimate is greater than 1,200, and the coefficient of variation (CV) is less than 0.33.

Data were extracted on June 1, 2017, from NEISS, IPIIs, DTHS, and INDPs for fatalities involving the television, furniture, and appliance codes mentioned above, covering the years 2000 through 2016. Data collected in 2017 were merged with the data used in the last report (extracted June 1, 2016). It should be noted that, for a given year, incidents are included on an ongoing basis for IPII and DTHS. In particular, additional reports generally are received for the most recent years. Source documents were checked to eliminate duplicate incident reports. As fatal incidents are notable events in the community where they occur, often there were multiple news reports (IPIIs), a medical examiner's report (IPII), a death certificate (DTHS), an in-depth investigation (INDP), and less frequently, a NEISS report for a single incident. IPII is a mixture of various types of information, including newspaper clippings, consumer complaints, and reports from other government agencies, such as medical examiners/coroners. Information is submitted voluntarily to IPII, so that staff cannot be sure that information on all of the deaths has been received. Once the incident set was established, the incidents were examined to code additional scenario characteristics.

All numbers in this report are rounded to the nearest integer, except for injury estimates, which are rounded to the nearest hundred. Because NEISS is a weighted sample, injury estimate category percentages were based on the category-weighted estimate, divided by the total weighted estimate. Fatality category percentages were based on the category count observed, divided by the total count.

Appendix B

Conventions for Determining In-Scope NEISS Incidents

NEISS incidents often have a terse narrative; accordingly, staff used a more stringent set of rules when examining this NEISS set of potential instability or tip-over incidents compared to fatalities extracted from the other CPSC epidemiological databases (IPII, DTHS, and INDP). This appendix lists the types of products included in the NEISS instability or tip-over incidents associated with televisions, furniture, and appliances. Some of the coding determinations were revised from the last data extraction, which resulted in changes to the 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 NEISS estimates. These changes may not be apparent due to rounding.

Unstable items included in the count:

1. Furniture:

- a. Armoire
- b. Bookcase
- c. Bureau
- d. Cabinet (Exclude: kitchen and medicine)
- e. Cart (Include only: microwave and TV)
- f. Chest (Exclude: jewelry and falling off shelf)
- g. Cupboard
- h. Desk (Exclude: at schools)
- i. Display case (Include only: in-home locations)
- j. Dresser
- k. Clocks, long case (Exclude: all other clocks)
- l. Locker (Include only: in-home locations)
- m. Pedestal
- n. Plant stand
- o. Rack (Include only: coat rack)
- p. Room divider
- q. Safe (Exclude: falling off shelf)
- r. Safety strap (Include: tethering in-scope items to a wall)
- s. Shelf (Exclude: mounting items on a wall)
- t. Stand (Exclude: in closets and in stores)
- u. Table (Include only: microwave, night, and TV)
- v. Vanity (Include: picnic and folding tables)
- w. Wall unit
- x. Wardrobe

2. Appliances:

- a. Dryer
- b. Freezer
- c. Microwave
- d. Refrigerator (Include: mini fridge)
- e. Stove/Oven

f. Washing machine

Note: If the type of furniture or appliance is not specified in the narrative, then the incident is not included. Examples include the item that caused the injury being described by only the terms “furniture” or “appliance” in the narrative.

3. Electronics:

- a. Computer screen/monitor (Exclude: “computer” and laptop)
- b. Television

Note: All other electronics are not included in the count.

4. Locations:

- a. Store (Exclude: cart, display case, rack, and shelf)
- b. School (Exclude: desk and locker)
- c. Other public locations (Exclude: locker)

5. Situation examples which caused an injury:

a. “tried to catch”

Ex: The patient tried to catch a falling TV and injured foot.

Ex: While at school the patient tried to stop a room divider from falling over and injured head.

b. “found under”

(Exclude: desk and table)

Ex: Mom heard a loud crash, and she found her son lying under a dresser.

c. “pulled on self”

Ex: The infant pulled a TV down onto herself.

Ex: Grandma started to fall when she pulled a dresser onto herself in order to stop it from falling.

Note: These incident types are counted when a narrative implies an instability or tip-over incident occurred and is the reason for the hospital visit.

Unstable items not included in the count:

1. Anything falling from/off of/out of a wall, or attached/connected to a wall.

2. Ambiguity in the narrative:

a. What is the item that fell?

Ex: The patient was sitting next to an unstable table while leaning back in her chair when it fell over and landed on her.

(It is unclear to what ‘it’ is referenced. Does ‘it’ refer to the table or the chair?)

b. Which event caused the patient to seek treatment at the hospital?

Ex: The patient has a skull fracture. Either the patient bumped his head on a cabinet today, or yesterday a TV fell off a dresser onto his head.

(It is unclear for which incident the patient is being treated at the hospital)

3. Action verbs alone that do not describe instability, such as assemble, brake, collapse, drop, fix, hit, struck, and move.

Note: If a child 9 years old or younger “dropped” or “moved” an unstable item, or tipped over an item, causing the child to go to the hospital to seek treatment, then the incident is counted.

4. Components of furniture such as a door, drawer, handle, knob, panel, table leaf, and table top.
5. Furniture intended to be sat upon or laid on, such as a bed, bench, bleacher, chair, couch, futon, glider, love seat, recliner, and seat.
6. Appliance (examples): air conditioner, blender, boiler, broiler, crock pot, fan, food processor, fryer, heater (electric or gas), rice cooker, stove hood/fan, toaster, toaster oven, and vacuum.
7. Electronics (examples): cable box, DVD/VCR player, video game system, radio, and speaker.
8. Storage furniture (examples): barrel, box, cage, cans, case, container, crate, hutch, tank, and trunk.
9. Other furniture (examples): all baby furniture, all power tools, aquarium, book, candle, candleholder, figurine, fireplace, mantel, mirror, newspaper box, podium, pot, pan, railing, skillet, slot machine, statue, toolbox, vase, and yard compactor.