



U.S. Home Structure Fires

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 380,000 home structure¹ fires per year during 2003-2007. These fires caused an annual average of



- 2,840 civilian fire deaths,
- 13,160 civilian fire injuries, and
- \$6.4 billion in direct damage.

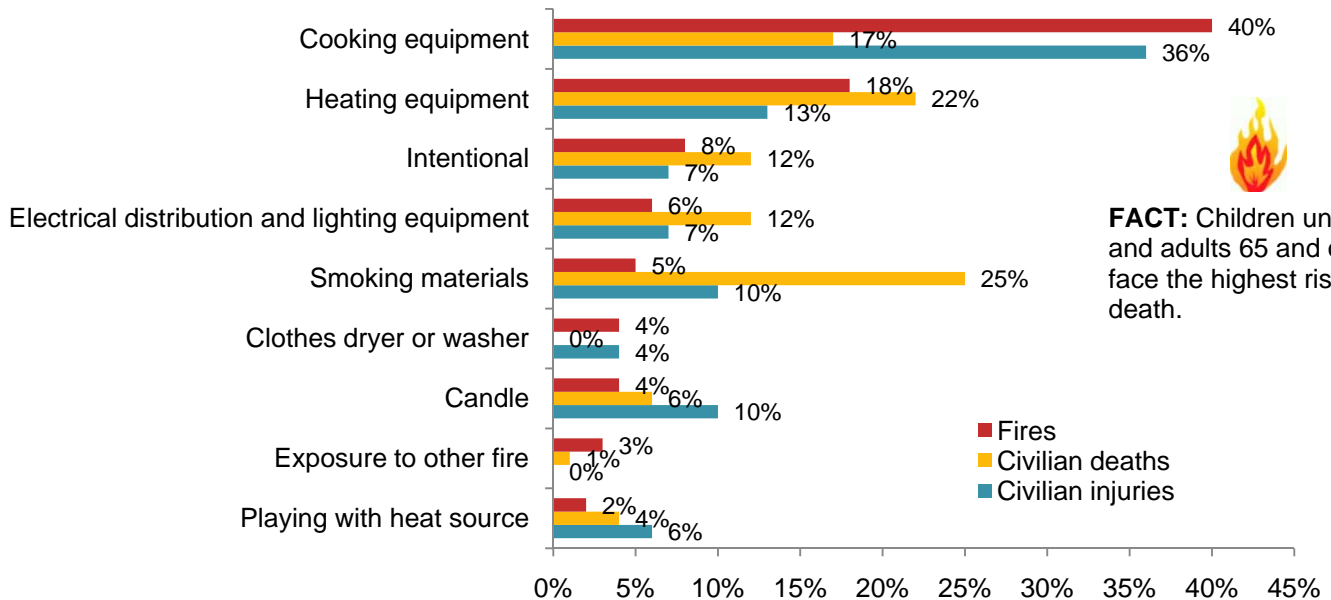
- 92% of all structure fire deaths resulted from home fires.
- On average, eight people died in U.S. home fires every day.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration’s National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2003-2007:

- Cooking equipment was the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.
- Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Heating equipment ranked second in home fire deaths overall, but was the leading cause of fire deaths in one- or two-family homes.

Leading Causes of Home Structure Fires: 2003-2007



FACT: Children under five and adults 65 and over face the highest risk of fire death.

Almost all homes have at least one smoke alarm, but almost two-thirds of reported home fire deaths in 2003-2007 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, and rowhouses, regardless of ownership. In general, any fire that occurs in or in a structure is considered a structure fire, even if the fire was limited to contents and the building itself was not damaged.

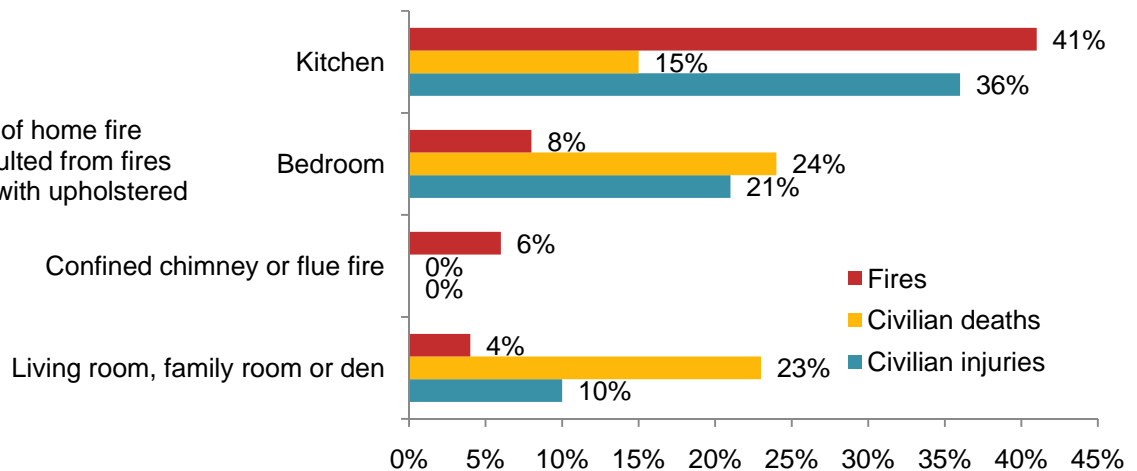
Kitchens were the leading area of fire origin.

- 41% of home structure fires started in the kitchen. These fires caused 36% of civilian home fire injuries.
 - 15% of home fire deaths also resulted from kitchen fires.
- 8% of reported home fires started in the bedroom. These fires caused 24% of home fire deaths and 21% of home fire injuries.
- 4% of home fire deaths started in the living room, family room, or den. These fires caused 23% of home fire deaths and 10% of the home fire injuries.
- Fires confined to chimneys or flues accounted for 6% of all reported home fires. These fires caused very few casualties.

Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires: 2003-2007



Fact: 21% of home fire deaths resulted from fires beginning with upholstered furniture.



Roughly one-third of home fires and home fire deaths occur in December, January and February.

- 20% of reported home structure fires occurred between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. These fires caused 52% of all home fire deaths.
- Home structure fires peaked around the dinner hours between 5:00 and 8:00 PM.

Home Structure Fires by Month: 2003-2007

