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## Episodes of Persons Injured: United States, 1975<sup>1</sup>

Each year, as part of its interview survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States, the National Center for Health Statistics collects a limited amount of data on injuries resulting from accidents and other causes. Data on this topic are obtained on the nature of the injury, where the accident happened, whether the person was at his or her job or business when the accident occurred, and whether a motor vehicle was involved.

During 1975 two supplements relating to injuries were included in the Health Interview Survey. Both were developed in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Since respondents were to be asked about injuries occurring during the 6 months prior to interview and memory decay was expected to be a major problem in using a reference period of this length, the first supplement served as an extensive probe to improve recall of accidental injuries during that period. The second supplement was intended to obtain—aside from all of the usual information collected each year on injuries—the following types of additional information: (1) where (if it was medically attended) the person first received medical attention for the injury, (2) more detailed information for accidents in which motor vehicles were involved, (3) how the accident happened, (4) what product or products (if any) were directly or indirectly involved, (5) whether there were any special circumstances which contributed to causing the accidental injury, and (6) whether the injury was intentionally inflicted.

A 6-month reference period was used in order to produce a more extensive data base

than is obtained from the customary 2-week reference period used each year for accidental injuries in the Health Interview Survey. However, in accordance with the usual annual procedure, data on accidental injuries were included only if they met at least one of two conditions: (1) the injury was medically attended, or (2) it caused the person to cut down on his or her usual activity for at least 1 day.

Injury data may be tabulated in at least three different ways, depending on whether the topic of interest is (1) the *person* involved in one or more accidents causing injuries during a given reference period, (2) the particular *episode* resulting in injury, or (3) each individual *injury* itself. The unit used in this report is the *episode* of persons injury, that is, the event which caused the injury or injuries. The estimates shown in the detailed tables are derived from the 1975 accident and injury supplements; they are, however, based on only those reported experiences occurring during the 2 weeks preceding the interview.

The results from the 1975 supplements indicate that during this period there were about 74.2 million episodes of persons injured among the civilian noninstitutionalized population.<sup>2</sup> Tables 1-6 show these episodes distributed by responses to several supplemental questions according to various sociodemographic and health-related characteristics. Tables 7 and 8 show the types of products involved in the product-related episodes.

<sup>2</sup>This estimate differs from the estimate of 71,903 million persons injured shown in the 1975 *Current Estimates* because (1) the definition of injury differs somewhat, and (2) the estimates shown in *Current Estimates* are derived from the usual questionnaire and those shown in this report are derived from the data collected in the supplements.

<sup>1</sup>This report prepared by Peter W. Ries, Ph.D., *Division of Health Interview Statistics*.

Respondents reporting episodes of accidental injury were asked: "Where did the accident happen?" Tables 1 and 2 show that when unknown places are excluded about half of the episodes (50.4 percent) happened at home, with 28.9 percent happening in the house and 21.5 percent occurring adjacent to the house. Industrial places accounted for 11.7 percent of the episodes, followed by street and highway (9.5 percent), place of recreation (8.8 percent),

school (8.2 percent), and other places (11.4 percent).

Tables 3 and 4 present the number and percent distribution of episodes by what the person was doing when the accidental injury occurred, according to selected characteristics.<sup>3</sup> An estimated 25.7 percent of the episodes occurred

<sup>3</sup>The precise wording was, "What was... doing at the time of the accident?"

Table 1. Number of episodes of persons injured, by place where accident happened and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All places	At home			Street and highway	Industrial place	School	Place of recreation	Other place	Place unknown
		Total	Inside house	Adjacent to house						
Number of episodes in thousands										
All episodes-----	74,164	35,736	20,514	15,221	6,725	8,312	5,785	6,264	8,087	3,254
<b>Sex</b>										
Male-----	39,653	15,445	6,500	8,945	2,994	6,920	3,816	4,409	5,076	993
Female-----	34,511	20,291	14,014	6,277	3,731	1,393	1,969	1,855	3,011	2,261
<b>Age</b>										
Under 17 years-----	25,908	14,019	6,488	7,531	1,898	*217	3,963	2,369	2,396	1,047
17-44 years-----	32,757	12,468	8,137	4,330	3,374	6,679	1,677	3,503	3,677	1,379
45-64 years-----	10,796	5,959	3,747	2,211	1,007	1,326	*146	*354	1,507	*498
65 years and over-----	4,703	3,290	2,142	1,149	*446	*90	*	*38	*508	*330
<b>Family income</b>										
Less than \$5,000-----	12,327	6,938	4,293	2,645	1,253	710	683	*462	1,513	768
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	16,531	7,547	4,400	3,146	1,155	2,387	1,147	1,551	2,162	*583
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	16,660	7,753	4,824	2,928	1,041	2,312	1,200	1,421	2,066	868
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	17,481	8,477	4,630	3,848	2,006	1,550	1,611	1,476	1,459	901
\$25,000 or more-----	6,734	3,175	1,581	1,593	*596	*566	863	977	*467	*89
Not reported-----	4,431	1,847	786	1,061	675	787	*281	*377	*419	*44
<b>Geographic region</b>										
Northeast-----	15,677	7,120	4,153	2,966	1,485	1,603	1,143	1,908	1,384	1,034
North Central-----	20,103	9,230	5,132	4,098	1,900	2,494	1,901	1,517	1,902	1,158
South-----	21,605	10,604	5,611	4,993	1,965	2,783	1,309	1,503	2,694	747
West-----	16,779	8,782	5,618	3,164	1,375	1,431	1,432	1,336	2,108	*314
<b>Place of residence</b>										
SMSA, central city-----	22,215	10,644	6,564	4,080	2,352	2,207	1,566	1,900	2,651	894
SMSA, not central city-----	29,482	14,491	8,388	6,103	2,372	3,473	2,360	2,743	2,707	1,336
Outside SMSA-----	22,467	10,601	5,562	5,038	2,001	2,632	1,860	1,621	2,728	1,024
<b>Days of restricted activity</b>										
None-----	28,442	14,415	8,210	6,205	1,847	3,397	2,166	2,197	2,876	1,545
1 or more-----	45,721	21,321	12,304	9,016	4,878	4,915	3,620	4,067	5,211	1,709
<b>Bed days</b>										
None-----	56,436	27,683	15,870	11,812	4,458	6,253	4,868	4,991	5,569	2,614
1 or more-----	17,728	8,053	4,644	3,409	2,267	2,059	917	1,273	2,517	640
<b>Medical attention</b>										
Attended at emergency room-----	25,227	11,491	5,577	5,914	3,435	2,895	1,671	2,806	2,425	*505
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	29,936	14,942	9,142	5,800	1,661	3,952	2,528	1,391	3,773	1,687
Attended, place unknown-----	2,692	1,625	924	701	*137	*286	*183	*52	*187	*221
Not medically attended-----	16,309	7,677	4,871	2,806	1,493	1,180	1,403	2,015	1,701	841

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

while the person was working, 17.5 percent while traveling, and 16.0 percent while the person was participating in some form of recreation. Other forms of activity accounted for 32.5 percent of the total, while no major activity was indicated by the respondent for 8.3 percent of the episodes.

The term "working" as used in tables 3 and 4 applies to any kind of work, including work performed while the person was not at his or her

job or business (for instance, cleaning up the yard). Table 5 shows the number and percent distribution of episodes for persons 17 years and over who were working at their job or business when the episode occurred.<sup>4</sup> Thus, of the approximately 17.2 million episodes shown in

<sup>4</sup>The question posed was: "Was . . . at work at his job or business when the accident happened?"

Table 2. Percent distribution of episodes of persons injured by place where accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All places <sup>1</sup>	At home			Street and highway	Industrial place	School	Place of recreation	Other place
		Total	Inside house	Adjacent to house					
All episodes-----	100.0	50.4	28.9	21.5	9.5	11.7	8.2	8.8	11.4
Percent distribution									
<u>Sex</u>									
Male-----	100.0	40.0	16.8	23.1	7.7	17.9	9.9	11.4	13.1
Female-----	100.0	62.9	43.5	19.5	11.6	4.3	6.1	5.8	9.3
<u>Age</u>									
Under 17 years-----	100.0	56.4	26.1	30.3	7.6	*0.9	15.9	9.5	9.6
17-44 years-----	100.0	39.7	25.9	13.8	10.8	21.3	5.3	11.2	11.7
45-64 years-----	100.0	57.9	36.4	21.5	9.8	12.9	*1.4	*3.4	14.6
65 years and over-----	100.0	75.3	49.0	26.3	*10.2	*2.1	*	*0.9	*11.6
<u>Family income</u>									
Less than \$5,000-----	100.0	60.0	37.1	22.9	10.8	6.1	5.9	*4.0	13.1
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	100.0	47.3	27.6	19.7	7.2	15.0	7.2	9.7	13.6
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	100.0	49.1	30.5	18.5	6.6	14.6	7.6	9.0	13.1
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	100.0	51.1	27.9	23.2	12.1	9.3	9.7	8.9	8.8
\$25,000 or more-----	100.0	47.8	23.8	24.0	*9.0	*8.5	13.0	14.7	*7.0
Not reported-----	100.0	42.1	17.9	24.2	15.4	17.9	*6.4	*8.6	*9.6
<u>Geographic region</u>									
Northeast-----	100.0	48.6	28.4	20.3	10.1	10.9	7.8	13.0	9.5
North Central-----	100.0	48.7	27.1	21.6	10.0	13.2	10.0	8.0	10.0
South-----	100.0	50.8	26.9	23.9	9.4	13.3	6.3	7.2	12.9
West-----	100.0	53.3	34.1	19.2	8.4	8.7	8.7	8.1	12.8
<u>Place of residence</u>									
SMSA, central city-----	100.0	49.9	30.8	19.1	11.0	10.4	7.3	8.9	12.4
SMSA, not central city-----	100.0	51.5	29.8	21.7	8.4	12.3	8.4	9.7	9.6
Outside SMSA-----	100.0	49.4	25.9	23.5	9.3	12.3	8.7	7.6	12.7
<u>Days of restricted activity</u>									
None-----	100.0	53.6	30.5	23.1	6.9	12.6	8.1	8.2	10.7
1 or more-----	100.0	48.4	28.0	20.5	11.1	11.2	8.2	9.2	11.8
<u>Bed days</u>									
None-----	100.0	51.4	29.5	21.9	8.3	11.6	9.0	9.3	10.3
1 or more-----	100.0	47.1	27.2	20.0	13.3	12.1	5.4	7.5	14.7
<u>Medical attention</u>									
Attended at emergency room-----	100.0	46.5	22.6	23.9	13.9	11.7	6.8	11.4	9.8
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	100.0	52.9	32.4	20.5	5.9	14.0	8.9	4.9	113.4
Attended, place unknown-----	100.0	65.8	37.4	28.4	*5.5	*11.6	*7.4	*2.1	*7.6
Not medically attended-----	100.0	49.6	31.5	18.1	9.7	7.6	9.1	13.0	11.0

<sup>1</sup>Excludes place unknown.

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 3. Number of episodes of persons injured, by activity status and type of activity when accident happened and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All activity statuses and types	Working	Recreation	Traveling	Other	No major activity	Activity unknown or not specified
Number of episodes in thousands							
All episodes-----	74,164	18,646	11,613	12,717	23,539	6,012	1,636
<u>Sex</u>							
Male-----	39,653	12,542	8,392	5,597	9,869	2,537	717
Female-----	34,511	6,104	3,221	7,121	13,670	3,475	920
<u>Age</u>							
Under 17 years-----	25,908	1,414	6,123	3,724	12,041	1,908	698
17-44 years-----	32,757	12,196	5,175	4,903	7,620	2,376	*486
45-64 years-----	10,796	4,137	*315	2,345	2,733	1,044	*223
65 years and over-----	4,703	898	*-	1,745	1,145	684	*230
<u>Family income</u>							
Less than \$5,000-----	12,327	3,045	1,172	2,303	4,333	1,102	*371
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	16,531	3,693	2,641	3,064	5,270	1,416	*447
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	16,660	4,831	2,503	2,343	5,472	1,246	*265
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	17,481	3,880	3,198	3,122	5,630	1,363	*287
\$25,000 or more-----	6,734	1,980	1,669	857	1,587	*416	*226
Not reported-----	4,431	1,217	*428	1,029	1,246	*469	*41
<u>Geographic region</u>							
Northeast-----	15,677	3,140	2,831	2,710	5,361	1,409	*227
North Central-----	20,103	5,427	3,342	3,510	6,180	1,335	*309
South-----	21,605	6,610	2,722	3,390	6,670	1,538	674
West-----	16,779	3,470	2,719	3,107	5,327	1,730	*426
<u>Place of residence</u>							
SMSA, central city-----	22,215	4,967	3,393	3,593	7,621	1,985	656
SMSA, not central city-----	29,482	7,305	5,009	4,677	9,440	2,373	678
Outside SMSA-----	22,467	6,375	3,210	4,448	6,478	1,653	*302
<u>Days of restricted activity</u>							
None-----	28,442	7,282	4,191	4,264	9,751	2,166	788
1 or more-----	45,721	11,364	7,422	8,453	13,788	3,846	848
<u>Bed days</u>							
None-----	56,436	14,637	9,273	9,080	18,005	4,252	1,189
1 or more-----	17,728	4,009	2,340	3,638	5,533	1,760	*447
<u>Medical attention</u>							
Attended at emergency room-----	25,227	6,931	4,145	5,693	6,082	2,151	*224
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	29,936	7,653	3,756	4,147	11,179	2,142	1,059
Attended, place unknown-----	2,692	601	*203	*462	1,098	*193	*135
Not medically attended-----	16,309	3,461	3,509	2,415	5,180	1,526	*218

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 4. Percent distribution of episodes of persons injured by activity status and type of activity when accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All activity statuses and types <sup>1</sup>	Working	Recreation	Traveling	Other	No major activity
Percent distribution						
All episodes-----	100.0	25.7	16.0	17.5	32.5	8.3
<u>Sex</u>						
Male-----	100.0	32.2	21.6	14.4	25.3	6.5
Female-----	100.0	18.2	9.6	21.2	40.7	10.3
<u>Age</u>						
Under 17 years-----	100.0	5.6	24.3	14.8	47.8	7.6
17-44 years-----	100.0	37.8	16.0	15.2	23.6	7.4
45-64 years-----	100.0	39.1	*3.0	22.2	25.8	9.9
65 years and over-----	100.0	20.1	*-	39.0	25.6	15.3
<u>Family income</u>						
Less than \$5,000-----	100.0	25.5	9.8	19.3	36.2	9.2
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	100.0	23.0	16.4	19.0	32.8	8.8
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	100.0	29.5	15.3	14.3	33.4	7.6
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	100.0	22.6	18.6	18.2	32.7	7.9
\$25,000 or more-----	100.0	30.4	25.6	13.2	24.4	*6.4
Not reported-----	100.0	27.7	*9.7	23.4	28.4	*10.7
<u>Geographic region</u>						
Northeast-----	100.0	20.3	18.3	17.5	34.7	9.1
North Central-----	100.0	27.4	16.9	17.7	31.2	6.7
South-----	100.0	31.6	13.0	16.2	31.9	7.3
West-----	100.0	21.2	16.6	19.0	32.6	10.6
<u>Place of residence</u>						
SMSA, central city-----	100.0	23.0	15.7	16.7	35.3	9.2
SMSA, not central city-----	100.0	25.4	17.4	16.2	32.8	8.2
Outside SMSA-----	100.0	28.8	14.5	20.1	29.2	7.5
<u>Days of restricted activity</u>						
None-----	100.0	26.3	15.2	15.4	35.3	7.8
1 or more-----	100.0	25.3	16.5	18.8	30.7	8.6
<u>Bed days</u>						
None-----	100.0	26.5	16.8	16.4	32.6	7.7
1 or more-----	100.0	23.2	13.5	21.1	32.0	10.2
<u>Medical attention</u>						
Attended at emergency room-----	100.0	27.7	16.6	22.8	24.3	8.6
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	100.0	26.5	13.0	14.4	38.7	7.4
Attended, place unknown-----	100.0	23.5	*7.9	*18.1	42.9	*7.5
Not medically attended-----	100.0	21.5	21.8	15.0	32.2	9.5

<sup>1</sup>Excludes activity unknown or not specified.

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 5. Number and percent distribution of episodes of persons injured aged 17 years and over by whether person was at job or business when accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All episodes	At job or business	Not at job or business	Unknown	All episodes <sup>1</sup>	At job or business	Not at job or business
	Number of episodes in thousands				Percent distribution		
All episodes-----	48,256	11,411	34,409	2,435	100.0	24.9	75.1
<u>Sex</u>							
Male-----	23,843	8,796	14,312	735	100.0	38.1	61.9
Female-----	24,413	2,615	20,097	1,700	100.0	11.5	88.5
<u>Age</u>							
17-44 years-----	32,757	8,828	22,323	1,606	100.0	28.3	71.7
45-64 years-----	10,796	2,364	7,887	*545	100.0	23.1	76.9
65 years and over-----	4,703	*220	4,199	*284	100.0	*5.0	95.0
<u>Family income</u>							
Less than \$5,000-----	8,884	1,527	6,725	633	100.0	18.5	81.5
\$5,000-\$9,999-----	10,928	3,001	7,344	*583	100.0	29.0	71.0
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	10,139	2,911	6,568	660	100.0	30.7	69.3
\$15,000-\$24,999-----	10,971	2,324	8,133	*514	100.0	22.2	77.8
\$25,000 or more-----	4,180	657	3,524	*-	100.0	15.7	84.3
Not reported-----	3,153	992	2,116	*44	100.0	31.9	68.1
<u>Geographic region</u>							
Northeast-----	9,606	2,005	6,789	812	100.0	22.8	77.2
North Central-----	12,853	3,064	9,050	739	100.0	25.3	74.7
South-----	14,288	4,050	9,715	*524	100.0	29.4	70.6
West-----	11,509	2,293	8,856	*360	100.0	20.6	79.4
<u>Place of residence</u>							
SMSA, central city-----	14,519	3,123	10,680	716	100.0	22.6	77.4
SMSA, not central city----	18,893	4,380	13,430	1,083	100.0	24.6	75.4
Outside SMSA-----	14,844	3,909	10,300	635	100.0	27.5	72.5
<u>Days of restricted activity</u>							
None-----	17,326	4,453	11,633	1,240	100.0	27.7	72.3
1 or more-----	30,929	6,958	22,776	1,195	100.0	23.4	76.6
<u>Bed days</u>							
None-----	35,508	8,582	25,046	1,880	100.0	25.5	74.5
1 or more-----	12,747	2,830	9,363	*555	100.0	23.2	76.8
<u>Medical attention</u>							
Attended at emergency room-----	15,444	4,150	10,964	*330	100.0	27.5	72.5
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	19,687	5,168	13,135	1,384	100.0	28.2	71.8
Attended, place unknown----	1,875	*435	1,262	*178	100.0	*25.6	74.4
Not medically attended-----	11,250	1,659	9,048	*543	100.0	15.5	84.5

<sup>1</sup>Excludes unknown if at job or business when accident happened.

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

table 3 for persons 17 years and over who were doing some type of work when the episode occurred, about 11.4 million occurred while the person was working at his or her job or business. These 11.4 million episodes constitute about 23.6 percent of all of the episodes for this age group.

Respondents who reported medical attention of accidental injuries were asked: "Where did... FIRST see or talk to a doctor—at a clinic, hospital, doctor's office, or some other place?" Table 6 shows the number and percent distribution of all episodes of persons injured by whether or not the injury or injuries were medically attended and, if so, where medical attention was first received. It should be reemphasized that these data do not include episodes in which the injuries were not medically attended or did not cause the person to restrict his or her activity for 1 day or more. As may be noted from table 6, 78.0 percent of the episodes resulted in some form of medical attention, while 22.0 percent led to restricted activity but did not involve medical attention.

This proportion between medically attended episodes and those not medically attended differs from the proportions usually derived from the annual Health Interview Survey. Ordinarily, the proportions are about 84 percent medically attended and 16 percent not medically attended. The difference probably reflects the influence of the supplemental injury probe, which tended to screen in additional relatively minor types of injuries which did not require medical attention.

Of all medically attended episodes, 41.3 percent were first treated at a hospital emergency room, 33.9 percent at a doctor's office, and 24.8 percent at other places ("other places" includes telephone calls to a medical doctor). Of the estimated 25.2 million episodes that were ever treated at a hospital emergency room, 92.5 percent (23.3 million) were first treated there, while 7.4 percent followed a previous contact with a medical person. When use of a hospital emergency room is viewed in relation to all episodes, whether or not they were medically treated, 32.0 percent were first treated at a hospital emergency room and 34.8 percent were treated there at one time or another. All of these percents exclude the episodes for which the place of first medical attention was unknown.

Data on product involvement in episodes of persons injured were obtained in response to the following two questions: "What product or object came into contact with... and actually caused the injury?" and "What other products or objects were involved in the accident?" In interpreting the estimates of product involvement, based on responses to these questions, it should be noted that the data do not in any way indicate whether or not any defect or property of the design of the product was responsible for the accident.

The data on type of product involvement in accidental injuries was coded according to the coding system used in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.<sup>5</sup> The estimates shown in table 7 are based on the broad categories used in that system. The frequency of product involvement is based on the number of times a category of products was involved one or more times in an episode of accidental injury and *not* on the number of products involved in that episode. As such, the frequency is to some degree a function of the range of products used in any category, and because of this, totals for subgroups of a category will not usually sum to the total for the entire category.

Up to three types of products were coded for each of the two product-related questions. Thus any particular episode might have from zero to six types of products involved. Of the approximately 74.2 million episodes of persons injured, about 56.3 million involved at least one type of product. Using the broad categories of product types found in the NEISS coding system, the estimated 56.3 million episodes involved about 69.5 million instances of type of product involvement during 1975 (table 8).

Table 7 shows the percent of times the categories of product types were involved in episodes of persons injured for episodes among (1) all civilian noninstitutionalized persons, (2) males, (3) females, and episodes resulting in (4) 1 day or more of restricted activity, and (5) a visit to a hospital emergency room.

As an example of the way in which to interpret the estimates shown in table 7, the case of

<sup>5</sup>See *NEISS Coding Manual*, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bureau of Epidemiology.

Table 6. Number and percent distributions of episodes of persons injured by whether medically attended and, if so, place of first medical attention, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	All episodes	Place of first medical attention					Not medically attended	All episodes <sup>1</sup>	Medically attended	Not medically attended	Place of first medical attention			
		All medically attended episodes	Emergency room	Doc-tor's of- fice	Other	Un- known					All medi- cally at- tended epi- sodes <sup>1</sup>	Emer- gency room	Doc- tor's of- fice	Other
		Number of episodes in thousands						Percent distribution			Percent distribution			
All epi- sodes-----	74,164	57,855	23,252	19,048	13,955	1,600	16,309	100.0	78.0	22.0	100.0	41.3	33.9	24.8
<b>Sex</b>														
Male-----	39,653	31,217	14,315	9,267	7,009	626	8,436	100.0	78.7	21.3	100.0	46.8	30.3	22.9
Female-----	34,511	26,639	8,938	9,782	6,946	973	7,873	100.0	77.2	22.8	100.0	34.8	38.1	27.1
<b>Age</b>														
Under 17 years----	25,908	20,849	8,954	6,390	5,149	*356	5,059	100.0	80.5	19.5	100.0	43.7	31.2	25.1
17-44 years-----	32,757	25,048	10,193	7,750	6,266	840	7,709	100.0	76.5	23.5	100.0	42.1	32.0	25.9
45-64 years-----	10,796	8,207	2,922	3,350	1,623	*312	2,589	100.0	76.0	24.0	100.0	37.0	42.4	20.6
65 years and over-	4,703	3,751	1,184	1,558	918	*91	952	100.0	79.8	20.2	100.0	32.3	42.6	25.1
<b>Family income</b>														
Less than \$5,000--	12,327	9,391	3,941	2,923	2,250	*277	2,936	100.0	76.2	23.8	100.0	43.2	32.1	24.7
\$5,000-\$9,999----	16,531	12,664	5,400	3,917	2,942	*406	3,867	100.0	76.6	23.4	100.0	44.0	32.0	24.0
\$10,000-\$14,999---	16,660	13,937	5,075	4,535	3,881	*446	2,723	100.0	83.7	16.3	100.0	37.6	33.6	28.8
\$15,000-\$24,999---	17,481	13,213	5,094	4,863	2,926	*331	4,268	100.0	75.6	24.4	100.0	39.5	37.8	22.7
\$25,000 or more---	6,734	5,128	1,877	1,756	1,355	*140	1,606	100.0	76.2	23.8	100.0	37.6	35.2	27.2
Not reported-----	4,431	3,522	1,866	1,055	602	*	909	100.0	79.5	20.5	100.0	53.0	30.0	17.1
<b>Geographic region</b>														
Northeast-----	15,677	12,809	6,070	3,049	3,376	*314	2,868	100.0	81.7	18.3	100.0	48.6	24.4	27.0
North Central----	20,103	15,999	6,754	4,650	4,234	*362	4,104	100.0	79.6	20.4	100.0	43.2	29.7	27.1
South-----	21,605	16,564	6,647	6,057	3,407	*453	5,041	100.0	76.7	23.3	100.0	41.3	37.6	21.1
West-----	16,779	12,483	3,782	5,292	2,938	*470	4,296	100.0	74.4	25.6	100.0	31.5	44.1	24.5
<b>Place of residence</b>														
SMSA, central city-----	22,215	16,887	7,147	4,760	4,467	*513	5,328	100.0	76.0	24.0	100.0	43.7	29.1	27.3
SMSA, not central city-----	29,482	23,435	9,423	7,529	5,881	602	6,047	100.0	79.5	20.5	100.0	41.3	33.0	25.8
Outside SMSA----	22,467	17,533	6,683	6,759	3,607	*484	4,934	100.0	78.0	22.0	100.0	39.2	39.6	21.2
<b>Days of restricted activity</b>														
None-----	28,442	28,442	9,908	9,480	8,228	826	...	100.0	100.0	...	100.0	35.9	34.3	29.8
1 or more-----	45,721	29,413	13,344	9,568	5,727	773	16,309	100.0	64.3	35.7	100.0	46.6	33.4	20.0
<b>Bed days</b>														
None-----	56,436	45,551	17,048	15,457	11,722	1,324	10,885	100.0	80.7	19.3	100.0	38.5	34.9	26.5
1 or more-----	17,728	12,304	6,204	3,592	2,233	*276	5,423	100.0	69.4	30.6	100.0	51.6	29.9	18.6
<b>Medical attention</b>														
Attended at emergency room---	25,227	25,227	23,252	929	961	*84	...	100.0	100.0	...	100.0	92.5	3.7	3.8
Attended, but not at emergency room-----	29,936	29,936	...	17,657	12,234	*45	...	100.0	100.0	...	100.0	...	59.1	40.9
Attended, place unknown-----	2,692	2,692	...	*461	760	1,471	...	100.0	100.0	...	100.0	...	*37.8	62.2

<sup>1</sup> Excludes unknown place of first medical attention.  
\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.



Table 7. Number of episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics, percent of episodes of persons injured by product type and selected characteristics; and direct product involvement as a percent of both direct and indirect product involvement by product type: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Episodes of persons injured and product type	Direct and indirect product involvement among:					Direct product involvement as a percent of both direct and indirect involvement
	All persons	Males	Females	Episodes resulting in 1 day or more of restricted activity	Episodes resulting in a visit to a hospital emergency room	
Number of episodes in thousands						
All episodes-----	74,164	39,653	34,511	45,721	25,227	...
Percent of episodes						
<u>Product type<sup>1</sup></u>						
General household appliances (0101-0132)-----	*0.7	*0.4	*1.0	*0.7	*0.3	*73.0
Kitchen appliances (0202-0262)-----	1.0	*0.7	*1.4	*0.9	*1.0	*59.5
Space heating, cooling, and ventilating appliances (0301-0355)-----	1.1	1.9	*0.3	*1.3	*0.8	*66.7
Housewares, nonpowered (0401-0459)-----	3.2	2.4	4.1	3.3	4.1	80.9
Home communications, entertainment, and hobby equipment (0501-0542)-----	0.9	*1.0	*0.8	*0.9	*0.9	*47.9
Home furnishings and fixtures (0601-0697)-----	10.5	9.4	11.7	10.8	10.6	63.4
Home alarm, escape, and protection devices (0701-0708)-----	*0.1	*0.2	*	*	*0.2	*48.4
Home workshop apparatus, tools, and attachments (0801-0853)-----	3.4	5.9	*0.4	3.6	4.3	67.9
Home and family maintenance products (0902-0950)-----	1.5	1.9	*1.1	1.4	*2.2	70.6
Farm supplies and equipment (1001-1051)-----	0.9	*1.4	*0.3	*1.1	*1.1	*66.5
Packages and containers for household products (1101-1122)-----	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	62.0
Sports and recreational equipment (1201-1299; 3200-3209)-----	14.1	19.2	8.2	14.6	17.3	37.3
Toys (1301-1383)-----	0.9	*1.5	*0.3	*0.9	*1.8	*40.0
Yard and garden equipment (1401-1440)-----	1.9	3.1	*0.5	2.2	*2.2	74.7
Child nursery equipment and supplies (1502-1541)-----	*0.5	*0.5	*0.6	*0.3	*	*54.5
Personal use items (1601-1656)-----	4.4	2.9	6.0	4.8	3.7	70.6
Miscellaneous products (1701-1726)-----	1.3	*1.2	*1.4	1.7	*1.1	*56.7
Home structures and construction materials (1803-1860)-----	20.6	21.6	19.4	18.9	24.5	80.9
Motor vehicles (1901)-----	9.6	9.1	10.1	9.6	13.9	62.8
Foods (1904)-----	3.7	2.3	5.3	3.6	3.0	49.7
Prescribed drugs (1920-1922; 1924)-----	7.0	2.9	11.7	7.3	*1.9	99.0
Industrial equipment, not used at work (2200)-----	1.2	2.0	*0.3	1.2	*1.3	*52.7
Medical equipment (2400-2465)-----	*0.2	*0.2	*0.1	*0.1	*	*100.0
Other products in the 1901-2465 range (1902-1903; 1905-1918; 1923; 2300)-----	1.6	2.1	*1.0	1.7	*2.0	70.1
Cosmetics (2500-2700)-----	*0.7	*0.1	*1.3	*0.5	*	*89.6

<sup>1</sup>The numbers in parentheses represent the code range for the types of products specified in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System coding manual.

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

“housewares” may be used. Housewares were involved in 3.2 percent of all episodes of persons injured. Among those episodes occurring to males, they were involved 2.4 percent of the time and for females 4.1 percent. For all episodes resulting in 1 or more days of restricted activity or in a visit to a hospital, housewares were involved 3.3 and 4.1 percent of the time,

respectively. All of these estimates include both direct and indirect product involvement in the accidental injury. The last column of table 7 shows that of all the times housewares were involved, the involvement was the direct “cause” of the injury in 80.9 percent of the cases.

The large number of relatively unreliable estimates shown in table 7 indicates that the pro-

Table 8. Number of episodes of persons injured, number of episodes of persons injured involving one or more product types, and number of instances product type involved in episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Item	All persons	Male	Female	Resulting in 1 or more days of restricted activity	Resulting in a visit to an emergency room
	Number in thousands				
Episodes of persons injured-----	74,164	39,653	34,511	45,721	25,227
Episodes of persons injured involving 1 or more product types-----	56,302	30,822	25,481	34,952	20,140
Number of instances product type involved in episodes of persons injured-----	69,502	38,432	31,070	43,182	25,477

Table 9. Percent distribution of times a type of product was involved in episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics, according to type of product: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

Selected characteristic	Housewares, nonpowered	Home furnishings and fixtures	Home workshop apparatus, tools, and attachments	Packages and containers for household products	Sports and recreational equipment	Personal use items	Home structures and construction materials	Motor vehicles (including vehicle parts)	Foods	Prescribed medicines
	Percent distribution									
All episodes <sup>1</sup> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<u>Sex</u>										
Male-----	*39.9	48.1	94.3	52.7	72.9	36.0	56.1	50.7	33.0	22.4
Female-----	60.0	51.9	*5.6	47.3	27.1	64.0	43.9	49.3	66.9	77.6
<u>Age</u>										
Under 17 years-----	*19.0	34.8	*11.7	29.2	60.9	43.1	36.4	17.9	*17.3	29.1
17-44 years-----	60.4	33.7	70.4	57.1	34.8	41.3	34.5	57.9	53.5	48.6
45 years and over-----	*20.5	31.6	*17.9	*13.7	*4.3	*15.6	29.1	24.1	29.3	22.3
<u>Family income<sup>2</sup></u>										
Less than \$10,000-----	50.5	53.5	44.5	41.8	32.8	45.7	44.2	38.5	38.4	50.6
\$10,000-\$14,999-----	*20.8	21.9	25.2	*16.7	22.0	*18.7	24.5	19.5	31.6	26.8
\$15,000 or more-----	28.7	24.6	30.3	41.5	45.3	35.6	31.3	42.0	30.0	22.6
<u>Geographic region</u>										
Northeast-----	*18.0	19.5	28.9	*23.9	22.0	15.5	19.2	13.8	*14.7	21.1
North Central-----	*23.1	21.9	*24.0	*25.0	34.4	29.9	31.6	27.2	*19.6	25.5
South-----	47.0	39.3	28.4	*27.3	22.5	27.4	28.0	35.8	38.0	27.6
West-----	11.9	19.2	*18.7	*23.8	21.1	27.3	21.2	23.2	27.8	25.8
<u>Place of residence</u>										
SMSA, central city-----	*23.9	36.8	24.3	*26.6	28.0	36.2	32.0	29.9	25.2	40.4
SMSA, not central city-----	35.9	27.6	39.2	43.2	42.2	35.7	36.6	44.1	34.3	35.3
Outside SMSA-----	40.2	35.5	36.4	30.2	29.8	28.0	31.4	25.9	40.5	24.3
<u>Days of restricted activity</u>										
None-----	35.6	36.5	33.3	35.6	36.3	32.9	43.4	38.2	39.2	35.7
1 or more-----	64.4	63.5	66.7	64.4	63.7	67.1	56.6	61.8	60.8	64.3
<u>Place treated<sup>3</sup></u>										
Emergency room-----	54.0	45.7	53.4	43.4	57.2	42.7	52.9	61.6	40.9	*12.9
Not at emergency room-----	46.1	54.3	46.6	56.6	42.8	57.3	47.1	38.4	59.0	87.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes unknown family income, injuries not medically attended, and unknown place of medical attention.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes unknown family income.

<sup>3</sup>Excludes episodes not medically attended and unknown if person visited an emergency room.

\*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

duct involvement categories produced too few sample cases, based on a 2-week reference period, for extensive cross-classification of the data. Table 9 shows percent distributions according to the larger product groups and a reduced set of variables. A more inclusive list of product types and a more extensive cross-classification of variables would produce a table including relatively unreliable estimates.

At this writing, plans are underway to attempt a report on product involvement using all of the data from the 6-month reference period. While such a procedure would reduce the variances of the estimates, it will tend to underestimate the true number of times various product types were involved in episodes of persons injured because of the large memory decay associated with a 6-month reference period.

### TECHNICAL NOTES

The estimates shown in this report are based on data obtained in household interviews in a continuing nationwide survey. Each week a probability sample of households is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information about the health and other characteristics of each member of the household in the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During 1975 there were about 40,000 interviewed households containing about 116,000 persons.

The appendixes of the 1975 *Current Estimates* (Series 10, No. 115) should be consulted

for a more detailed discussion of the sample design (appendix I), definitions of certain terms used in the report (appendix II), and the questionnaire used during 1975 (excluding the accident supplement) (appendix III).

As noted above, the estimates shown in this report are based on a sample of the population. The approximate standard errors of the estimates of episodes of persons injured are shown in table I; the approximate standard errors for the percents are shown in table II.

Table I. Standard errors of estimates of aggregates

Size of estimate in thousands	Standard error in thousands
100.....	73
300.....	126
600.....	178
1,000.....	230
5,000.....	519
10,000.....	741
20,000.....	1,067
30,000.....	1,331
40,000.....	1,563
50,000.....	1,777
60,000.....	1,978
70,000.....	2,170

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percents, of estimated percentages

Base of percentage in thousands	Estimated percentage				
	2 or 98	5 or 95	10 or 90	20 or 80	50
100 .....	10.2	15.8	21.8	29.1	36.3
300 .....	5.9	9.1	12.6	16.8	21.0
600 .....	4.2	6.5	8.9	11.9	14.8
1,000 .....	3.2	5.0	6.9	9.2	11.5
5,000 .....	1.4	2.2	3.1	4.1	5.1
10,000 .....	1.0	1.6	2.2	2.9	3.6
20,000 .....	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.1	2.6
30,000 .....	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.7	2.1
40,000 .....	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.8
50,000 .....	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.6
60,000 .....	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.5
70,000 .....	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.4

## SYMBOLS

Data not available-----	---
Category not applicable-----	...
Quantity zero-----	
Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----	0.0
Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision-----	*

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