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MORTALITY FROM HOME ACCIDENTS

1956

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MORTALITY FROM HOME ACCIDENTS
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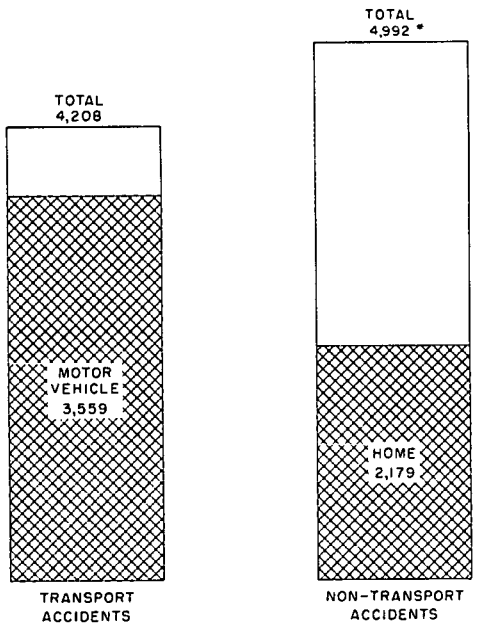
The broad picture of Canada's accidental deaths is composed of two general categories, transport accidents in which motor vehicles play the most lethal role and non-transport accidents in which home accidents pose the greatest menace. Over the past decade almost 22,000 persons have lost their lives as a result of home accidents and in 1956 the fatal toll was 2,179. The home accident fatality rate was 13.6 per 100,000 population with males at 13.4 and females 13.7. However, for infants the rate was more than 90 and for the age group of 70 and over exceeded 100.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND THE HOME DOMINATE ACCIDENT MORTALITY

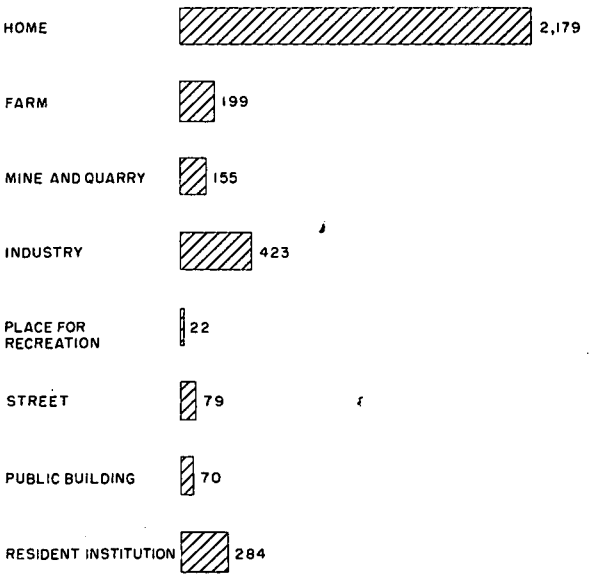


* SEE FOOTNOTE, TABLE 2.

Of Canada's 9,271 accident fatalities in 1956 there were 4,208 transport and 5,063 non-transport accidents. In the case of non-transport accidents the location was specified in 4,992 fatalities; the comparative significance of the home for each type of accident will be found in Table II. The home accounted for 2,179 fatalities or 44 per cent while industrial premises, public places and recreational locations were each responsible for only a fraction of the total. Moreover the tragic impact of home accidents was by no means fully described in records of fatalities. Special studies* have provided evidence that for each accidental home death, as many as 150 injuries resulting in disability for a period of 24 hours or more, and four injuries resulting in permanent disability, may occur; furthermore for every serious injury there are possibly four or five injuries resulting in disability of less than a day.

*Lossing and Goyette: *Review of 1,000 Home Accidents*, Canadian Journal of Public Health, April 1957.

HOME LOCATIONS PREDOMINATE IN SPECIFIED NON-TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS



Yearly Toll of Fatal Home Accidents Adds to High Cumulative Total

	Total
1950	2,049
1951	2,051
1952	2,101
1953	2,058
1954	2,128
1955	2,230
1956	2,165*

*2,179 with the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

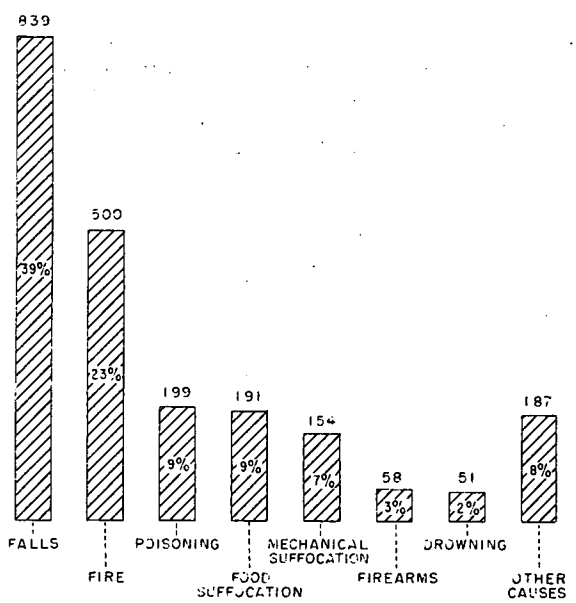
The present study, however, is particularly concerned with fatalities and "home" is defined to include home premises and any non-institutional place of residence. Examples would include apartment houses, farm houses and home premises such as driveway, garden, yard and garage. It should be kept in mind also that accidents exclude deaths from suicide and homicide. Of the 2,179 fatal home accidents during 1956 seven specific causes accounted for 1,992 or over 90 per cent of the total. Heading the list was accidental falls which were responsible for 839 fatalities or 39 per cent of total accidental home fatalities, followed by fire with 500 fatalities or 23 per cent, poisoning 199 fatalities or 9 per cent, food suffocation 191 fatalities or nearly 9 per cent, mechanical suffocation 154 fatalities or 7 per cent, firearms 58 or 3 per cent and drowning 51 or 2 per cent.

Age and Sex of Victims

Fatal home accidents pose a particular problem at the two extremes of life and victims under 5 years and over 69 accounted for two-thirds of these fatalities. Nearly 31 per cent of all fatal home accidents occurred in the former group and 36 per cent

LEADING CAUSES OF HOME ACCIDENTS, 1956

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF ACCIDENTAL HOME FATALITIES



Fatal Home Accidents by Age and Sex, 1956*

Age Group	Both Sexes	Males	Females
	Number		
All ages	**2,179**	**1,094**	**1,085**
Under 1 year	389	212	177
1- 4 years	279	158	121
5-14 "	144	85	59
15-29 "	97	63	34
30-49 "	229	150	79
50-69 "	260	149	111
70+	779	275	504
Not specified	2	2	–
	Percentage distribution		
All ages	**100**	**100**	**100**
Under 1 year	18	19	17
1- 4 years	13	14	11
5-14 "	7	8	5
15-29 "	4	6	3
30-49 "	10	14	7
50-69 "	12	14	10
70+	36	25	47
Not specified	--	--	–
	Rate per 100,000 population		
All ages	**13.6**	**13.4**	**13.7**
Under 1 year	93.6	100.0	86.8
1- 4 years	17.8	19.8	15.8
5-14 "	4.4	5.1	3.7
15-29 "	2.8	3.6	2.0
30-49 "	5.4	7.0	3.8
50-69 "	11.1	12.3	9.7
70+	100.2	72.0	127.6
Not specified	--	--	–

*Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

in the latter. The rate for accidental home fatalities varied from a low of less than 3 per 100,000 population for the age group 15-29 to over 100 for the age group of 70 and over.

Males and females accounted for approximately equal fatalities as a whole from home accidents in 1956, 1,094 males to 1,085 females. Yet in the broad working period from 15 to 70 when males in general would not be around the house for a large part of the day male fatalities from accidents at home exceeded female deaths by 362 to 224. However in the age group of 70 and over there was a female preponderance of 504 compared with 275 males.

International Variation

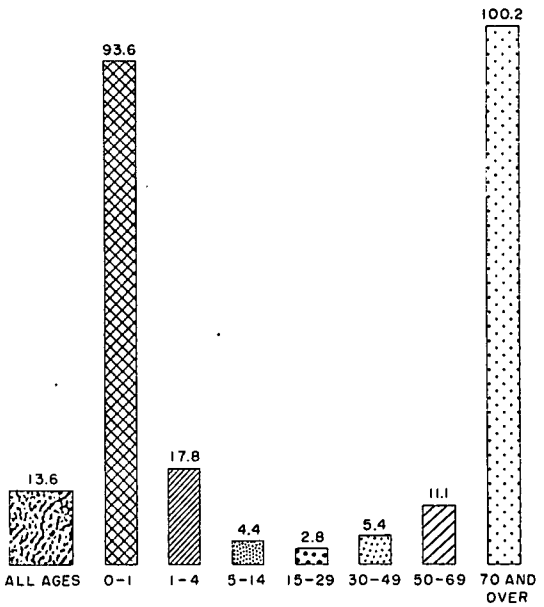
Canada's home accident fatality rate is lower than that of the United States but higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales.

Canada's Home Accident Rate Between United States and England

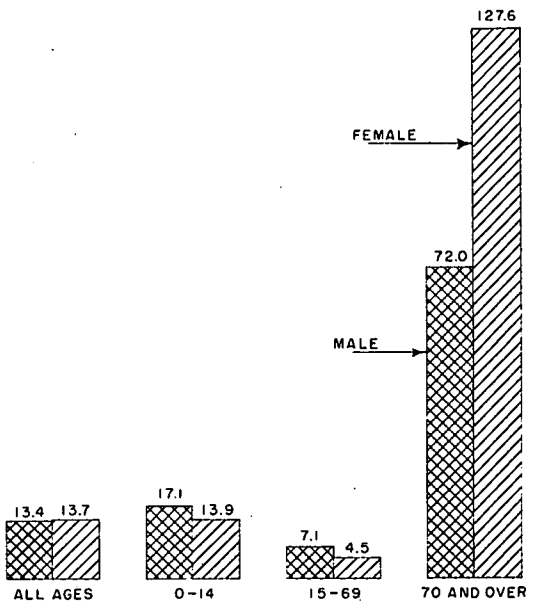
	Rate per 100,000 population
Canada, 1956	13.6
England, 1955	12.9
United States, 1955	13.9

Detailed statistical totals published by the United States and the United Kingdom reveal that these countries face problems similar to Canada in regard to the main causes of home accident fatalities. While specified home accidents accounted for 44 per cent of total non-transport accidents in Canada for 1956, comparative figures for 1955 for the United States show a proportion of 47 per cent and for England and Wales a ratio of 56 per cent. In the case of falls and fire Canada's rate is lower than that of the two other countries while the proportion for poisoning is the same as that for the United States. However the home accident fatality total from food suffocation and mechanical suffocation forms a higher proportion of total non-transport accidents in Canada than in either the United States or England and Wales.

AGE-GROUP VARIATION IN HOME ACCIDENT MORTALITY, 1956
(RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION)



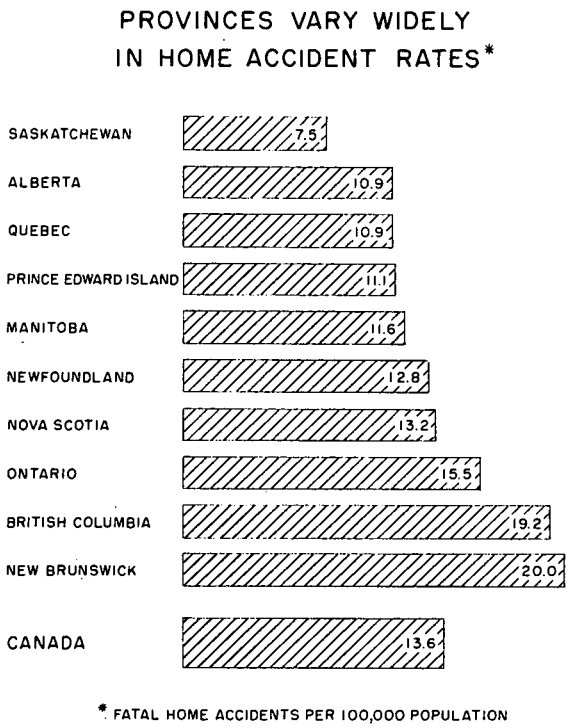
HIGHER HOME ACCIDENT RATE FOR MALES UNDER 70 AND FEMALES OVER 70
(RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION)



Home Accident Fatalities a Significant Proportion of Non-Transport Totals

	Canada, 1956			England, 1955			United States, 1955		
	Non-Transport accidents*	Home accidents	%	Non-Transport accidents	Home accidents	%	Non-Transport accidents	Home accidents	%
Total	**4,992**	**2,179**	**44**	**10,245**	**5,743**	**56**	**49,102**	**22,935**	**47**
Falls	1,582	839	53	5,329	3,354	63	20,192	11,375	56
Fire	628	500	80	692	604	87	6,352	5,200	82
Poisoning	328	199	61	1,158	939	81	2,594	1,575	61
Food suffocation	290	191	66	424	273	64	1,305	566	43
Mechanical suffocation	203	154	76	257	194	75	1,501	1,088	72
Firearms	163	58	36	71	12	17	2,120	935	44
Drowning and submersion	783	51	7	984	51	5	5,046	392	8

*See footnote Table II.



Regional Variation

The provincial death rates for home accident fatalities varied widely around the national average of 13.6 per 100,000 population. New Brunswick had the highest rate at 20 in 1956 followed by British Columbia with 19, Ontario with over 15 and Nova Scotia with 13. Saskatchewan, on the other hand had a low rate of only 7.5 per 100,000 population followed by Alberta and Quebec with a rate of 11.

Of the total 2,179 fatalities in 1956 Ontario and Quebec accounted for 1,343 or more than 60 per cent. In five provinces the number of fatalities was less than 100 in 1956. The national total of home accident fatalities increased during the years from 1953 to 1955 but showed a decrease in 1956. Trends in particular provinces are shown in comparison with national tendencies since 1937 in a reference table at the end of this report.

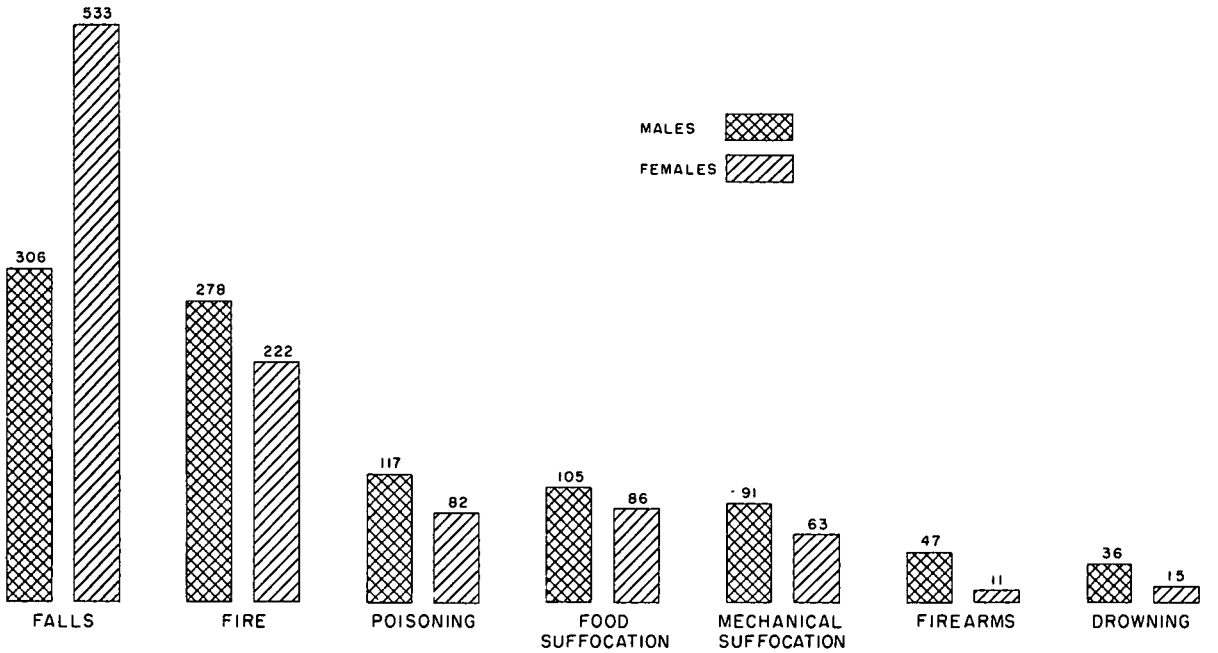
Danger Periods for Home Accidents

While the fall and winter periods present the greatest danger for home accidents as a whole there are many threats at other seasons. Accidental falls take a fairly regular toll of men and women every month of the year. The danger from fire is at its height from November until March. Poisoning is a particular threat in every season except summer. Food and mechanical suffocation as well as other main causes of home accidents show a greater fre-

quency in the fall and winter months. Home accidents occur regularly on every day of the week but many studies have pointed up the particular dangers of Saturday and Sunday. Other studies have proven home accidents to be most frequent during the period 4:00-7:00 p.m. with the period from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the next most dangerous time. These are, of course, the two three-hour periods of greatest household activity.

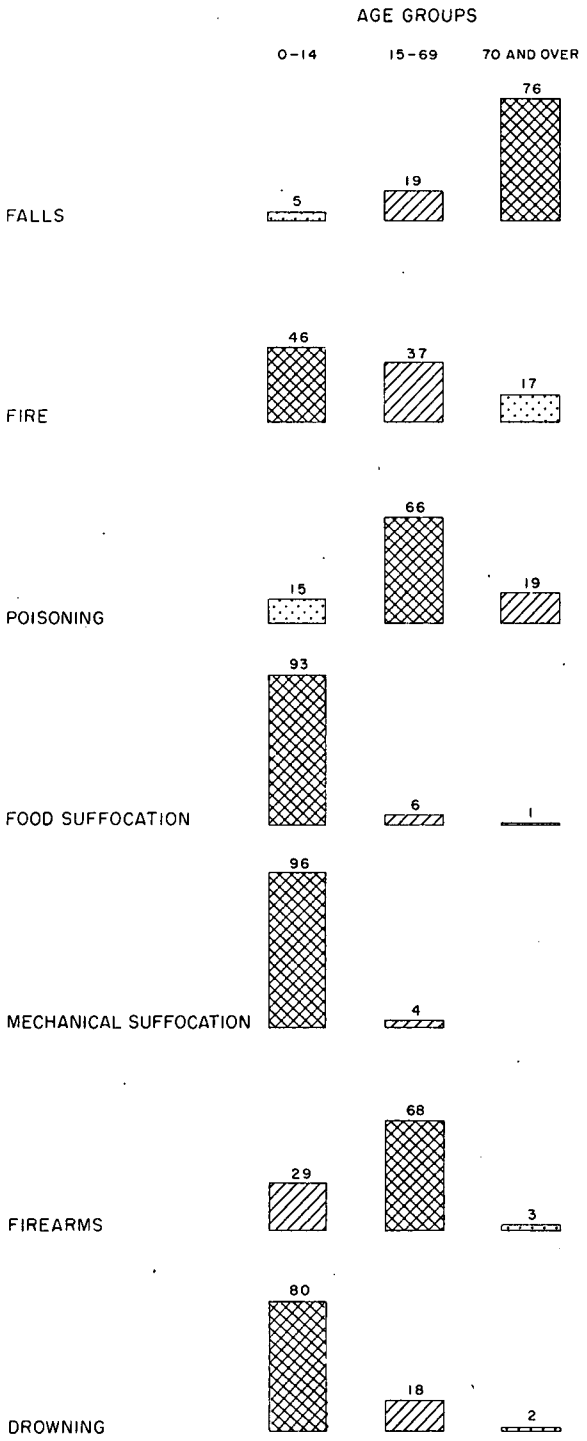
WIDE SEX DIFFERENTIAL IN LEADING TYPES OF HOME ACCIDENT

ACCIDENTAL HOME FATALITIES, 1956



PROPORTIONATE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOME ACCIDENTS BY AGE GROUPS

(PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOME ACCIDENTS IN EACH AGE GROUP)



Of the 2,179 fatal home accidents in 1956, seven major causes, falls, fire, poisoning, food suffocation, mechanical suffocation, firearms and drowning and submersion accounted for 1,992 or nearly 92 per cent. The particular types of accident had widely varying implications for the broad age groups, however, and preceding the brief analysis of each type below it is useful to take a preliminary glance at each age group separately. For children under 15 the greatest danger arises from fire accounting for nearly 30 per cent of the victims closely followed by food and mechanical suffocation. In the age groups from 15-69 fire remains a greater danger than any other cause of home fatality followed by falls and poisoning. The impact of fatal falls on the age groups of 70 and over is difficult to overemphasize as it accounts for more than four-fifths of total home accident fatalities in the age group, with most of the balance taken up by fire and poisoning.

Main Causes of Fatal Home Accidents, 1956

	All ages	0-14	15-69	70 +
	Number			
Falls	839	46	156	637
Fire	500	232	184	84
Poisoning	199	29	132	38
Food suffocation	191	178	11	2
Mechanical suffocation	154	148	6	—
Firearms	58	17	39	2
Drowning and submersion	51	41	9	1
Other	187	121	49	17
All home accidents	**2,179**	**812**	**586**	**781**
	Percentage distribution			
Falls	39	6	27	82
Fire	23	28	31	11
Poisoning	9	4	22	5
Food suffocation	9	22	2	--
Mechanical suffocation	7	18	1	—
Firearms	3	2	7	--
Drowning and submersion	2	5	2	--
Other	8	15	8	2
All home accidents	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Accidental Falls (39% of accidental home fatalities)

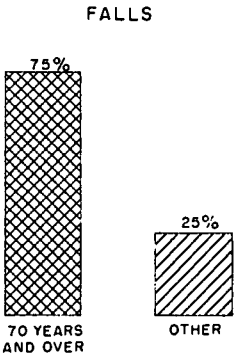
Accidental fatal falls at home accounted for 839 fatalities in 1956 or 53 per cent of the total 1,582 accidental deaths from falls. Fatalities at home comprised 306 males and 533 females. It is particularly noteworthy that the largest proportion of falls, amounting to 31 per cent, involved falls on the same level. The special danger to elderly people from this kind of danger is often not fully enough recognized. In addition to the 256 fatal falls on the same level there were 177 fatalities on stairs, 9 fatal falls from ladders and 151 other fatal falls from on level to another.

The special hazard of falls generally for older people was indicated in the fact that some 637 deaths were of people of 70 years of age and over while people of 50 and over accounted for 90 per cent of the total fatalities. In the age group of 70 and over there were 439 women compared with 198 men.

While fatal falls accounted for 39 per cent of all home accidental deaths this cause was responsible for no less than 82 per cent of all home accidents suffered by the age group of 70 years of age and over compared with 27 per cent of all fatal home accidents for the age group 15-69 and only 6 per cent of all fatal home accidents suffered by children of 14 and under. Contrary to the general trend of accidental deaths fatal falls took a greater toll of females than males. The problem is one of growing magnitude because of the increasing numbers of people in the advanced age groups in which the great majority of these fatalities occur.

Age Distribution

	%
Under 1 year	2
1- 4	3
5-14	1
15-29	1
30-49	4
50-69	14
70 and over	75
All ages	**100**



Types of Fall

	%
Fall on stairs	21
Fall from ladders	1
Other falls from one level to another	18
Falls on same level	31
Unspecified falls	29
All falls at home	**100**

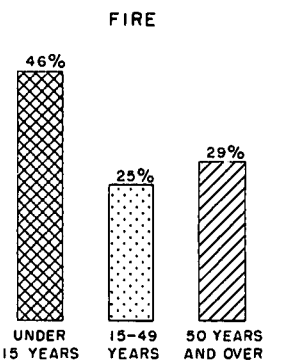
Fire (23% of accidental home fatalities)

This title includes injuries resulting from fire and explosion of combustible material with the exception of firearms and explosives. It is the second largest category of home accidents and in 1956 was responsible for 500 deaths or 23 per cent of accidental home fatalities. The home location accounted for 80 per cent of the total 628 fire fatalities in Canada in 1956. Home fire fatalities comprised 278 males and 222 females. From the viewpoint of life years lost it was shocking to observe that in 1956 no less than 232 children under 15 years of age died as a result of fire. This was also a particularly great peril to those over 70 in which age group some 82 lives were lost. In many cases people in the prime of life fall victims to home fires and there were 84 deaths of men and women between 30 and 49.

Perhaps the chief factor to be stressed in fire prevention is the leaving of children unattended; many wish this could be made a legal offense. In addition fire departments have particularly emphasized such factors as the removal of old papers, rags and rubbish, especially in cellar and attic; adequate wiring and proper fuses in the electrical system; protection against over-heated stovepipes, faulty electrical cords, and a number of related hazards.

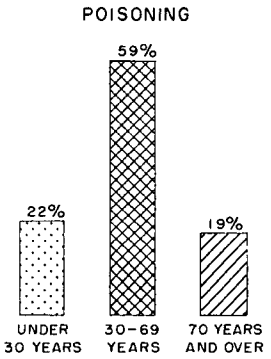
Age Distribution

	%
Under 1 year	5
1- 4	22
5-14	19
15-29	8
30-49	17
50-69	12
70 and over	17
All ages	**100**



Accidental Poisoning (9% of accidental home fatalities)

Age Distribution



	%
Under 1 year	–
1- 4	13
5-14	2
15-29	7
30-49	33
50-69	26
70 and over	19
All ages	**100**

Types of Poisoning

	%
Utility gas	39
Barbituric acid and derivatives	17
Motor-vehicle exhaust gas	16
Alcohol	5
Other	23
All poisonings at home	**100**

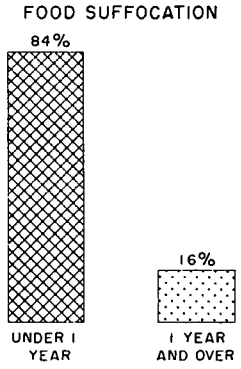
It must be kept in mind that accidental poisoning excludes suicides, homicides and chronic poisoning from narcotic, soporific and analgesic drugs. Accidental poisoning fatalities at home cost 199 lives in 1956 or 61 per cent of the total 328 deaths from accidental poisoning as a whole. Poisoning accounted for 9 per cent of all accidental home fatalities and was the third major cause of home accidents. Males predominated with 117 lives lost compared with 82 females. Although generally speaking poisoning was a problem for both sexes at all ages, nearly 60 per cent of fatalities were between the ages of 30 and 70.

Of the 117 male deaths, 12 were from 1 to 4 years, 2 between 5-14, 8 between 15-29, 44 between 30-49, 34 from 50-69 and 17 over 70. Of the 82 female deaths, 13 were between 1-4, 2 from 5-14, 7 from 15-29, 21 from 30-49, 18 between 50-69 and 21 over 70.

Utility gas accounted for 39 per cent of poisonings in the home involving 78 lives, followed by barbituric acid and derivatives with 33 fatalities, motor vehicle exhaust gas 31 fatalities and alcohol 10 fatalities excluding victims of alcoholic psychosis and alcoholism. (Non-accidental deaths from alcoholism claimed 114 victims in 1956). In the case of poisoning by utility gas, 43 males died compared with 35 females, in deaths from motor-vehicle exhaust gas there were only 2 females compared with 29 males and in deaths from alcohol 7 males were lost compared with only 3 females. A strong contrast is provided by barbituric acid and derivatives in which 22 females lost their lives compared with 11 males.

Food Suffocation (9% of accidental home fatalities)

Age Distribution

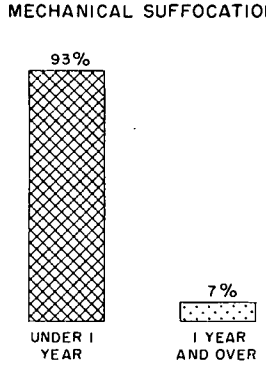


	%
Under 1 year	84
1- 4	8
5-14	–
15-29	2
30-49	3
50-69	2
70 and over	1
All ages	**100**

Food suffocation at home accounted for 191 deaths in 1956 or two-thirds of the overall total of 290 such deaths. The sex ratio for home deaths from this cause was 105 males to 86 females. This title includes injuries from accidental inhalation or ingestion of food into larynx and other respiratory passages, with resulting obstruction or suffocation. It is difficult to over-emphasize this problem for children under one year as infant deaths from this cause amounted to 161 or 84 per cent of the total.

Mechanical Suffocation (7% of accidental home fatalities)

Age Distribution



	%
Under 1 year	93
1- 4	2
5-14	1
15-29	–
30-49	3
50-69	1
70 and over	–
All ages	**100**

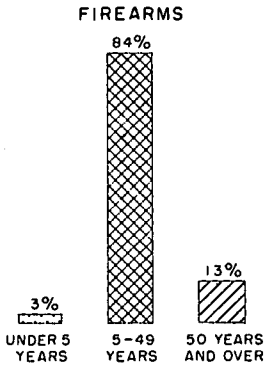
This title includes asphyxia from accidental mechanical suffocation in bed and cradle, except by ingestion or inhalation of a foreign object. Of the 203 deaths from this cause in 1956, 154 took place in the home. There were 91 males involved compared with 63 females. Mechanical suffocation was almost entirely a problem of infant deaths involving smothering and suffocation in bed, cot, cradle and perambulator. No less than 144 or 93 per cent of these deaths were of infants under one year of age.

Firearms (3% of accidental home fatalities)

Age Distribution

In addition to various kinds of guns this title includes deaths from dynamite and other explosives. It is rather surprising to observe that 58 of the total 163 deaths from this cause occurred in the home environment. There were 47 male fatalities in the home in 1956 compared with only 11 female fatalities. Of the total 58 deaths, 48 or 84 per cent were from 5 to 49 years of age. Precautions against this threat must begin early as there were 15 fatal accidents in the 5-14 year age group involving 9 males and 6 females and accounting for 26 per cent of home firearm fatalities.

	%
Under 1 year	—
1- 4	3
5-14	26
15-29	30
30-49	28
50-69	10
70 and over	3
All ages	**100**

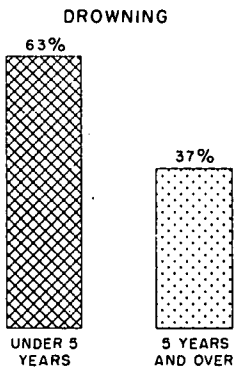


Drowning and Submersion (2% of accidental home fatalities)

Age Distribution

This title includes effects of accidental submersion resulting in drowning. Unexpectedly, 51 of Canada's drownings occurred at home. As with all drownings the male sex predominated, in the case of home drownings by 36 to 15. Particular attention should be paid in any preventive program to the age group from 1 to 5 years. This group accounted for no less than 30 deaths or nearly 60 per cent of the total home drownings in 1956. The danger to boys is particularly noteworthy in that the sex ratio comprised 25 males to 5 females.

	%
Under 1 year	4
1- 4	59
5-14	17
15-29	4
30-49	4
50-69	10
70 and over	2
All ages	**100**



Prevention of Home Accidents

The problem posed by home accidents to-day is comparable to the threat presented by infectious diseases a few decades ago. Efforts aimed at prevention by a number of safety groups have emphasized both human and environmental factors. It has been reported that the study of mental, emotional and physical states of individuals predisposed to accidents is yielding useful ideas for home accident prevention. Current study is also going into a careful evaluation of the environmental factors and this has already led to various safety programs covering every aspect of the home from heating appliances in the basement and food preparation in the kitchen to the steps in the attic.

Conclusion

It is now twenty years since the public health movement in North America considered and accepted the proposition that home safety be made a part of the public health administrative program. During this period while the annual toll of infective and parasitic diseases has dropped from nearly 11,000 in 1937 to 2,352 in 1956, home accident fatalities have moved upward from 2,068 to 2,179 for Canada inclusive of the Territories. The attack on this problem is not the responsibility of any one group or single discipline but requires cooperative efforts by administrators, public health nurses and doctors, sanitarians and health educators. It must be a two-pronged attack on personal and environmental hazards at a community and a family level. In the past the safety movement has been characterized by a multitude of small, independent programs and activities each designed to combat some single type or group of accidents. Newer techniques are now supplementing traditional methods of safety propaganda; one of the most promising of these is the recent establishment of poison control centres.

Statistics on home accident fatalities reveal that in spite of greatly improved living conditions the home remains a very dangerous place in which during 1956 over 800 lives were lost in falls, 500 in fires, nearly 350 in suffocation and almost 200 in poisonings. This fatal toll was concentrated at the two extremes of life; while the mortality rate per 100,000 population for all ages was 13.6 it rose above 90 for the infant population and over 100 for those over 69. Among the old, falls were by far the greatest menace while the vary young were faced with the greatest dangers from fire and suffocation.

Poisoning took many adults in the prime of life. There were many more female victims of falls than male victims and many more male than female victims of firearms and drowning. Fire, poisoning and suffocation took major portions of each sex. There were wide regional differences in home accident rates from 7.5 per 100,000 population in Saskatchewan to 20 in New Brunswick. While the home was a dangerous centre of activity all year there were major perils such as fire and falls particularly in the fall and winter seasons.

Environmental hazards such as faulty design and construction of houses, inadequate repairs and maintenance, and careless and haphazard housekeeping all contributed to the toll of home accidents. Important too, and presenting a formidable challenge to public health were such human failings as carelessness, preoccupation and impulsiveness.

Finally it should be stated that Canada was by no means alone in the magnitude of the home accident problem.

REFERENCE TABLES

TABLE I. Seven Leading Causes of Home Accidents, 1956

	Total			Home					
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	%	Male	%	Female	%
Accidental Falls (900-904):									
All ages	**1,582**	**775**	**807**	**839**	**100.0**	**306**	**100.0**	**533**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	15	5	10	15	1.8	5	1.6	10	1.9
1- 4 years	30	16	14	27	3.2	13	4.2	14	2.6
5-14 "	18	16	2	4	0.5	4	1.3	–	–
15-29 "	70	64	6	11	1.3	9	2.9	2	0.4
30-49 "	116	102	14	31	3.7	20	6.5	11	2.1
50-69 "	241	154	87	114	13.6	57	18.6	57	10.7
70 + "	1,092	418	674	637	75.9	198	64.7	439	82.4
Not specified	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fire (916):									
All ages	**628**	**393**	**235**	**500**	**100.0**	**278**	**100.0**	**222**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	27	13	14	27	5.4	13	4.7	14	6.3
1- 4 years	116	62	54	110	22.0	60	21.6	50	22.5
5-14 "	101	53	48	95	19.0	50	18.0	45	20.3
15-29 "	66	46	20	42	8.4	23	8.3	19	8.6
30-49 "	142	105	37	84	16.8	51	18.3	33	14.9
50-69 "	78	51	27	58	11.6	32	11.5	26	11.7
70 + "	96	61	35	82	16.4	47	16.9	35	15.8
Not specified	2	2	–	2	0.4	2	0.7	–	–
Poisoning (870-895):									
All ages	**328**	**218**	**110**	**199**	**100.0**	**117**	**100.0**	**82**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1- 4 years	33	19	14	25	12.6	12	10.3	13	15.9
5-14 "	6	3	3	4	2.0	2	1.7	2	2.4
15-29 "	62	45	17	15	7.5	8	6.8	7	8.5
30-49 "	101	70	31	65	32.7	44	37.6	21	25.6
50-69 "	81	59	22	52	26.1	34	29.1	18	22.0
70 + "	43	20	23	38	19.1	17	14.5	21	25.6
Not specified	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Food Suffocation (921):									
All ages	**290**	**155**	**135**	**191**	**100.0**	**105**	**100.0**	**86**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	224	115	109	161	84.3	87	82.9	74	86.0
1- 4 years	28	16	12	17	8.9	10	9.5	7	8.1
5-14 "	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15-29 "	8	5	3	3	1.6	1	1.0	2	2.3
30-49 "	15	10	5	5	2.6	3	2.9	2	2.3
50-69 "	8	4	4	3	1.6	2	1.9	1	1.2
70 + "	7	5	2	2	1.0	2	1.9	–	–
Not specified	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mechanical Suffocation (924-5):									
All ages	**203**	**133**	**70**	**154**	**100.0**	**91**	**100.0**	**63**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	156	91	65	144	93.5	84	92.3	60	95.2
1- 4 years	4	1	3	3	1.9	1	1.1	2	3.2
5-14 "	5	4	1	1	0.6	1	1.1	–	–
15-29 "	15	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
30-49 "	17	16	1	4	2.6	3	3.3	1	1.6
50-69 "	6	6	–	2	1.3	2	2.2	–	–
70 + "	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Not specified	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

TABLE I. Seven Leading Causes of Home Accidents, 1956 – Concluded

	Total			Home					
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	%	Male	%	Female	%
Firearms (919):									
All ages	**163**	**149**	**14**	**58**	**100.0**	**47**	**100.0**	**11**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1- 4 years	2	1	1	2	3.4	1	2.1	1	9.1
5-14 "	23	16	7	15	25.9	9	19.1	6	54.5
15-29 "	62	60	2	17	29.3	15	31.9	2	18.2
30-49 "	48	44	4	16	27.6	14	29.8	2	18.2
50-69 "	26	26	–	6	10.3	6	12.8	–	–
70 + "	2	2	–	2	3.4	2	4.3	–	–
Not specified	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drowning and Submersion (929):									
All ages	**783**	**672**	**111**	**51**	**100.0**	**36**	**100.0**	**15**	**100.0**
Under 1 year	3	2	1	2	3.9	2	5.6	–	–
1- 4 years	148	111	37	30	58.8	25	69.4	5	33.3
5-14 "	201	160	41	9	17.6	5	13.9	4	26.7
15-29 "	201	190	11	2	3.9	2	5.6	–	–
30-49 "	123	116	7	2	3.9	1	2.8	1	6.7
50-69 "	68	59	9	5	9.8	1	2.8	4	26.7
70 + "	36	32	4	1	2.0	–	–	1	6.7
Not specified	3	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–

TABLE II. Comparative Significance of Home Accidents, 1956

	All Deaths	At Home	%
Falls	1,582	839	53
Fire	628	500	80
Poisoning	328	199	61
Food Suffocation	290	191	66
Mechanical Suffocation	203	154	76
Firearms	163	58	36
Drowning and Submersion	783	51	7
Blow from falling objet	247	18	7
Accident caused by vehicle	29	1	3
Accident caused by machinery	254	11	4
Accident caused by cutting and piercing instruments	12	4	33
Accident caused by electric current	75	11	15
Accident caused by explosion of pressure vessel	2	1	50
Accident caused by hot substance, corrosive liquid and steam	62	40	65
Inhalation and ingestion of other object causing obstruction or suffocation	31	24	77
Foreign body entering other orifice	10	4	40
Lack of care of infants under 1 year of age	9	8	89
Bites and stings of venomous animals and insects	3	1	33
Other accidents caused by animals	31	3	10
Excessive heat and insolation	7	4	57
Excessive cold	59	8	14
Hunger, thirst, and exposure	15	4	27
Cataclysm	9	1	11
Lightning	17	4	24
Unspecified	143	40	28
Total	**4,992***	**2,179**	**44**

*This is the total for all non-transport accident fatalities in which the location was specified. In 1956 there were 5,063 non-transport accident fatalities. The 71 deaths in which the location was not specified included late effects of injury and poisoning, therapeutic misadventure and complications due to nontherapeutic medical and surgical procedures.

TABLE III. Number of Deaths from Home Accidents in Canada, 1937-1956

Year	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
1937	2,068		20	105	83	465	848	102	160	130	155
1938	2,056		17	90	66	508	845	132	129	123	146
1939	2,092		16	113	88	467	896	133	115	108	156
1940	2,129		21	115	81	426	938	128	135	141	144
1941	2,353		16	144	66	499	1,029	145	145	156	153
1942	2,310		14	107	73	490	992	125	131	151	227
1943	2,456		20	127	107	518	993	137	169	168	217
1944	2,286		12	117	106	467	945	161	129	153	196
1945	2,261		21	96	74	453	960	148	127	159	223
1946	2,284		11	130	96	472	966	135	146	134	194
1947	2,280		14	121	97	455	941	161	126	149	216
1948	2,398		18	167	124	444	926	153	136	171	259
1949	2,440	31	17	117	94	439	1,058	145	116	153	270
1950	2,049	31	17	98	87	384	823	128	77	148	256
1951	2,051	43	10	104	81	439	790	118	95	152	219
1952	2,101	49	16	128	84	447	810	105	94	122	246
1953	2,058	20	11	104	74	480	783	125	64	149	248
1954	2,128	32	13	124	72	463	847	114	91	146	226
1955	2,230	55	9	104	83	513	867	122	83	178	216
1956	2,165*	53	11	92	111	506	837	99	66	122	268

*2,179 with the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

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