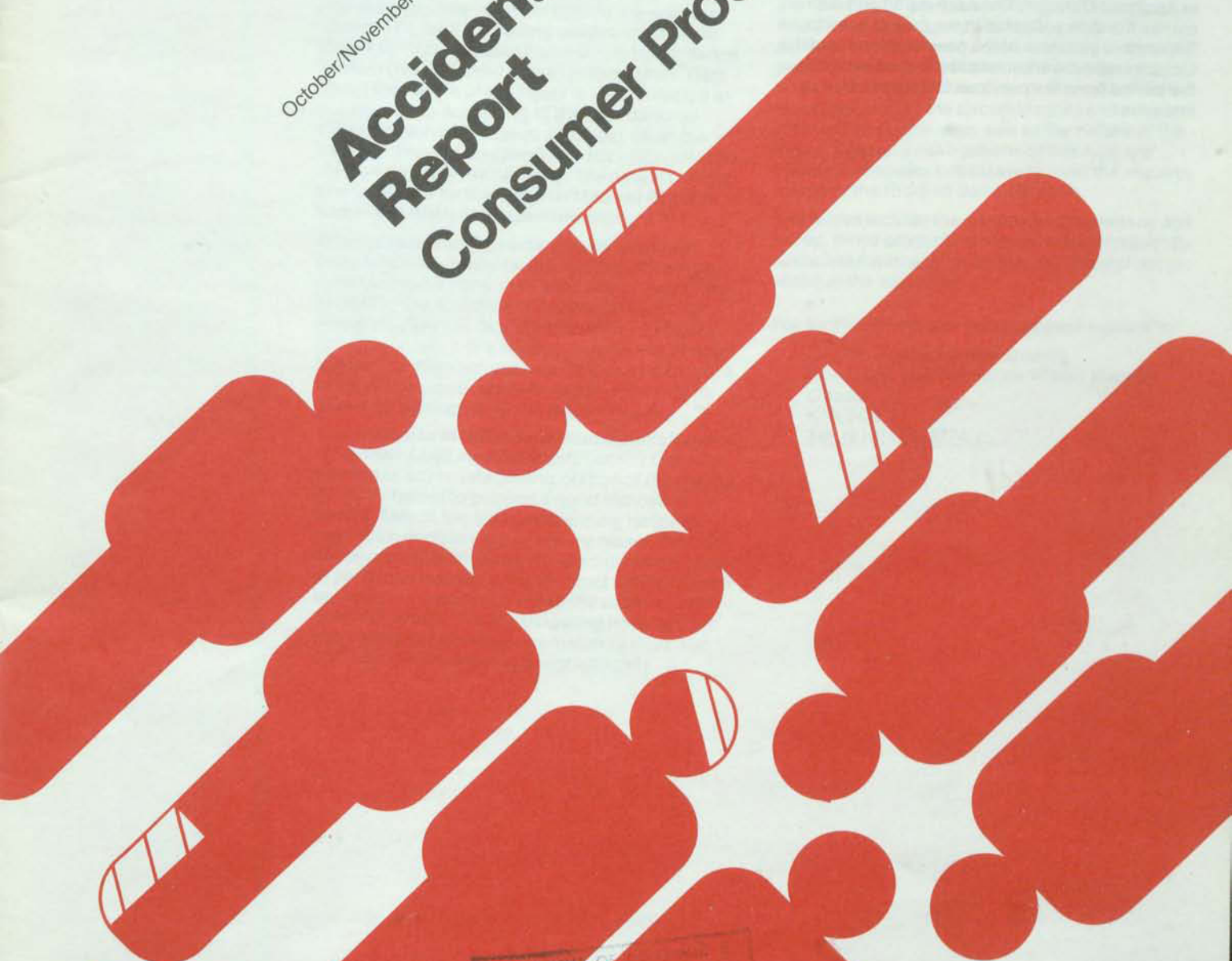


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Accidental Injuries Report Consumer Products



Canada



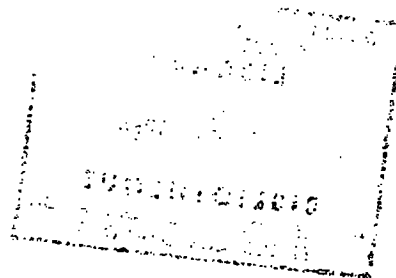
Consumer and
Corporate Affairs
Canada

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Canada

Introduction

The Canadian Accident Injury Reporting and Evaluation (CAIRE) project was initiated by the Product Safety Branch of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada in January 1982. The objective of the project is to provide a data bank of accident/injury information which, in turn, will help organizations concerned with product safety to establish priorities and evaluate programs.

A series of reports will be published twice yearly, in April and October. The April report will summarize the data collected in the period April to September inclusive of the previous year, and the October report will summarize that collected in the period from the previous October to March inclusive.



Methodology

Four hospitals participated in the data collection:

Isaac Walton Killam Hospital, Halifax, N.S.
Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario
Pasqua Hospital, Regina, Saskatchewan
Prince George Hospital, Prince George, B.C.

As part of the patient registration procedure at the hospitals, all admissions with accidental injuries that are consumer product related are specially coded. The product coding used is identical to that of the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) used in the United States. Data about the nature of the injury is also collected at the same time according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9N) code, the cause of injury according to the ICD-9E code, and the age group of the casualty. The data is collated and tabulated by the Hospital Medical Records Institute (HMRI) on a quarterly basis.

All admissions to the participating hospitals, including emergency cases, that result from accidents involving consumer products are reported to HMRI. The statistics, therefore, exclude accidental injuries not requiring hospital treatment. Other exclusions are injuries that are not directly related to a product, such as long-term exposure to toxic chemicals, and accidents occurring in industrial settings or at the place of work.

The small size of the sample (*four hospitals out of more than 1,000 medical institutions in Canada*) precludes any reliable extrapolation of the results but is sufficient to provide a good indication of trends. Two of the four participating hospitals specialize in child care — this increases the bias of the sample from a statistical point of view but is of particular interest to the Product Safety Branch because of its commitment to the safety of children's products. The participating hospitals are representative of various community sizes and are strategically located geographically.

The NEISS code used to classify products divides the range of consumer products into some 1,000 classifications. Some of these are very specific, for example, waffle irons, and others much more general, such as stairs and steps. The codes referring to sports injuries are intended to be used only when sports equipment is involved, but, in practice, it is difficult to distinguish between injuries inherent to the sport and those related to the equipment used. In a more general sense, the mention of a product does not imply that the product caused the accident, but only that the product was associated with the accident. To define the cause of an accident requires a detailed investigation into the circumstances and environment of the accident, as well as the nature of the injury. Special investigations of this type are initiated whenever necessary to meet the requirements of the Product Safety Branch.

The tables include the number of accidents by age group, those products or activities most frequently associated with accidents and the place of occurrence of the accidents.

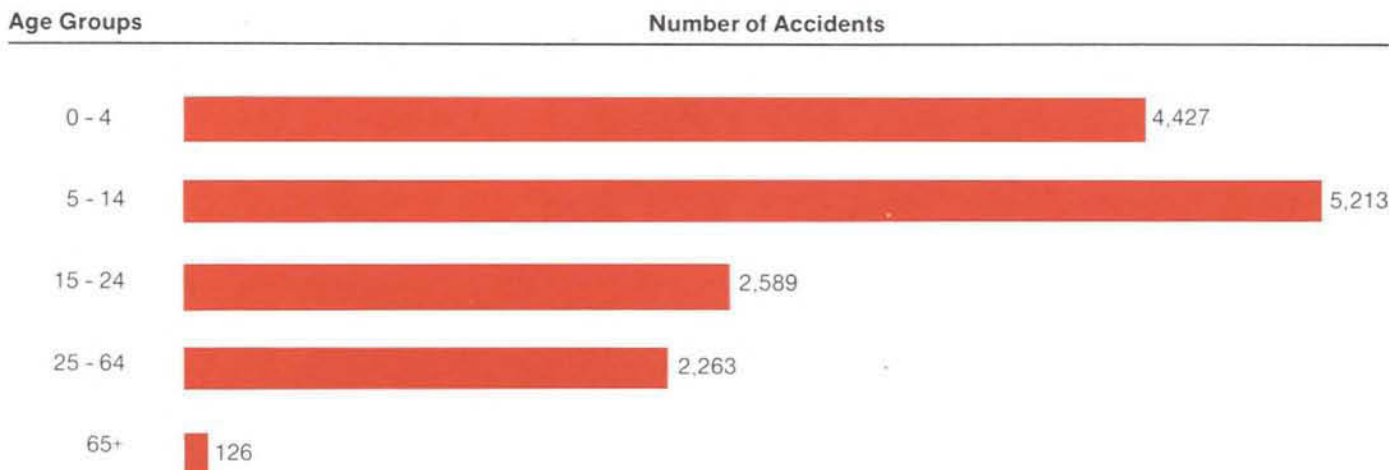
For further information address your request to:

CAIRE, Product Safety Branch
Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada
Ottawa
K1A 0C9
Tel. (819) 997-4774

CAIRE Highlights — Winter 1982/83

- There were 3,418 (19 per cent) fewer accidents reported during the six months covered by this report than during the previous six months. Accidents involving motor vehicles or parts, metal parts and pieces, and nails, screws and carpet tacks all decreased significantly more than the average. Accidents involving hot water and foods increased substantially.
- Two-thirds of the accidents reported were to children under 15 years old. As two of the four hospitals specialize in the treatment of children, this proportion of accidents is not representative for the population as a whole.
- The locations of accidents are similar in winter and summer, with a slight increase in winter in the number occurring at home and a corresponding decrease in those happening in the street.
- More accidents involve hockey than any other activity or product. This is particularly true for the under-25 age groups; in the 10-24 age groups, 13 per cent of all accidents involved the sport. Hockey includes both ice hockey and street hockey. The most frequent injury was to the head (28 per cent of all hockey accidents) including 15 skull fractures.
- Sports, other than hockey, are associated with a large number of accidents. Basketball, football, gymnastics and ice-skating are particularly prominent. The winter of 1982/83 was relatively mild with less snow than usual over much of the country; this could explain the appearance of bicycles among the top 20 for this period.
- Among all age groups, stairs and steps were again associated with a high number of accidents. They were particularly hazardous for young children (30 per cent of all accidents in the under-five age group) and people over 65. Of the 209 accidents reported for the latter age group, 67 involved stairs and steps.
- Household furniture continues to be associated with a large number of accidents, particularly those to children. Doors, beds, chairs and tables were involved in 9.6 per cent of accidents reported in the under-15 age groups. Head injuries predominate in all age groups.
- Scalding by hot water is a frequent injury for children in the under-five age group, particularly for infants up to a year old. Over four per cent of all injuries in the under-five age group involve hot water.
- Burns involving substances and products other than hot water are also frequent injuries for children under five years old. A wide variety of products are involved including foods, curling irons and wood stoves.
- Although poisonings do not appear in the top ten injuries, they are nevertheless serious, particularly among children. Over 70 per cent of the 485 reported poisonings were to the under-five age groups.

Figure 1
Number of Accidents by Age Groups
October 1982 — March 1983



Total number of accidents = 14,618

Table 1
Top 20 Products or Activities
Involved in Accidents
October 1982 — March 1983

Product/Activity	Frequency	%
Hockey	1,165	8.0
Stairs or Steps	982	6.8
Basketball	354	2.5
Doors	333	2.3
Knives	311	2.2
Glass Parts or Pieces	310	2.2
Beds	299	2.1
Motor Vehicles or Parts	281	2.0
Lumber, Boards, Panel Pieces	273	1.9
Chairs	272	1.9
Football	245	1.7
Skiing	203	1.4
Foods	194	1.4
Gymnastics	190	1.3
Hot water	185	1.3
Ice skating	176	1.2
Bicycles or Accessories	170	1.2
Metal Parts or Pieces	139	1.0
Soccer	108	0.8
Tables	103	0.7
TOTAL	6,293	43.1%

Total number of accidents = 14,618

Note : Due to rounding, the total of the percentage column does not equal the sum of the components.

Figure 2
Accident/Injury
Place of Occurrence/Frequency Distribution
October 1982 — March 1983

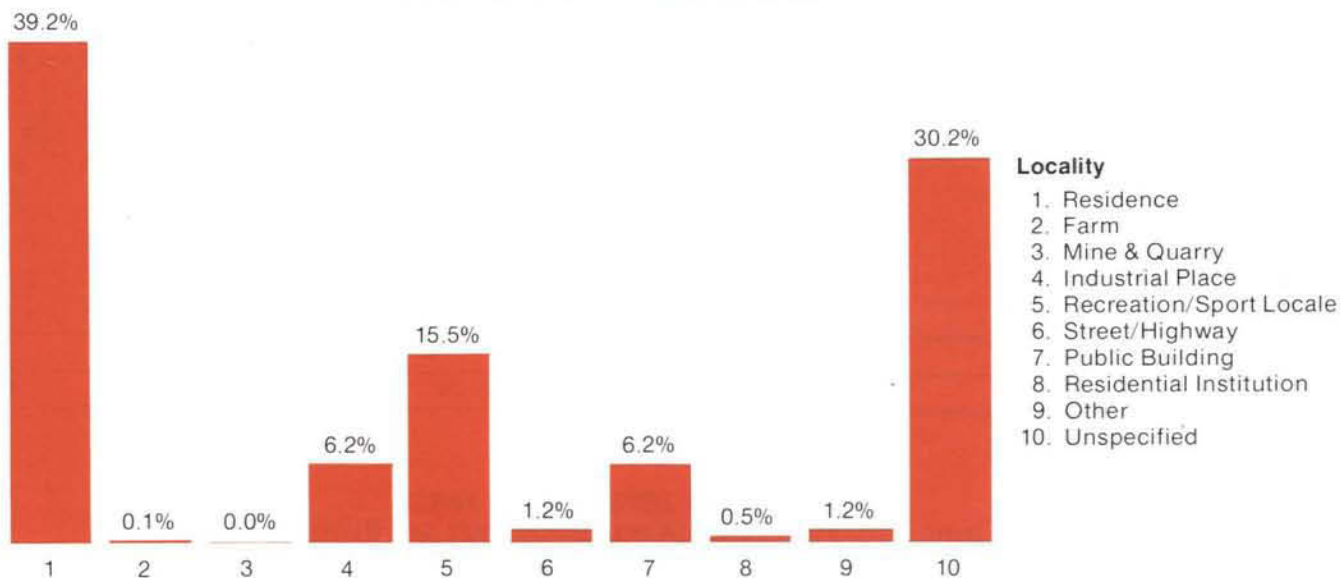


Table 2
Top 20 Products or Activities
Involved in Accidents by Age Group
October 1982 — March 1983

Product/Activity	Age Groups											
	Overall		0 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 64		65+	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
Hockey	1,165	100	14	1.2	576	49.5	394	34.0	181	16.0	—	—
Stairs or Steps	982	100	430	43.8	201	20.5	132	13.4	152	15.4	67	7.0
Basketball	354	100	3	0.9	253	71.5	91	26.0	7	2.0	—	—
Doors	333	100	133	40.0	124	37.3	41	12.3	34	10.2	1	0.3
Knives	311	100	23	7.4	68	21.9	90	29.0	126	41.0	4	1.2
Glass Parts or Pieces	310	100	40	12.9	78	25.2	111	36.0	81	26.1	—	—
Beds	299	100	221	74.0	54	18.1	12	4.0	7	2.3	5	2.0
Lumber, Boards, Panel Pieces	281	100	38	13.6	79	28.2	64	23.0	92	33.0	8	3.0
Chairs	272	100	181	66.6	64	23.6	15	6.0	11	4.0	1	0.4
Football	245	100	1	0.4	148	60.4	85	35.0	11	5.0	—	—
Skiing	203	100	1	0.5	121	59.6	57	28.0	24	12.0	—	—
Food	194	100	95	49.0	46	23.8	22	11.3	30	15.4	1	0.5
Gymnastics	190	100	5	2.7	165	86.9	19	10.0	1	0.5	—	—
Hot water	185	100	129	69.8	26	14.1	12	6.4	17	9.1	1	0.5
Ice skating	176	100	3	1.7	130	73.9	26	15.0	17	10.0	—	—
Bicycles or Accessories	170	100	28	16.5	115	67.7	23	14.0	4	2.3	—	—
Metal Parts or Pieces	139	100	3	2.2	33	23.8	34	24.4	68	49.0	1	0.7
Soccer	108	100	1	1.0	85	78.7	22	20.3	—	—	—	—
Tables	103	100	70	68.0	22	21.4	5	5.0	6	6.0	—	—
TOTAL	6,293	100	1,436	22.9	2,457	39.1	1,332	21.1	978	16.0	90	1.4
Relative percentage, by age group as compared to the total of accidents N = 14,618												
	6,293	43.1	1,436	9.9	2,457	16.8	1,332	9.2	978	6.7	90	0.5