

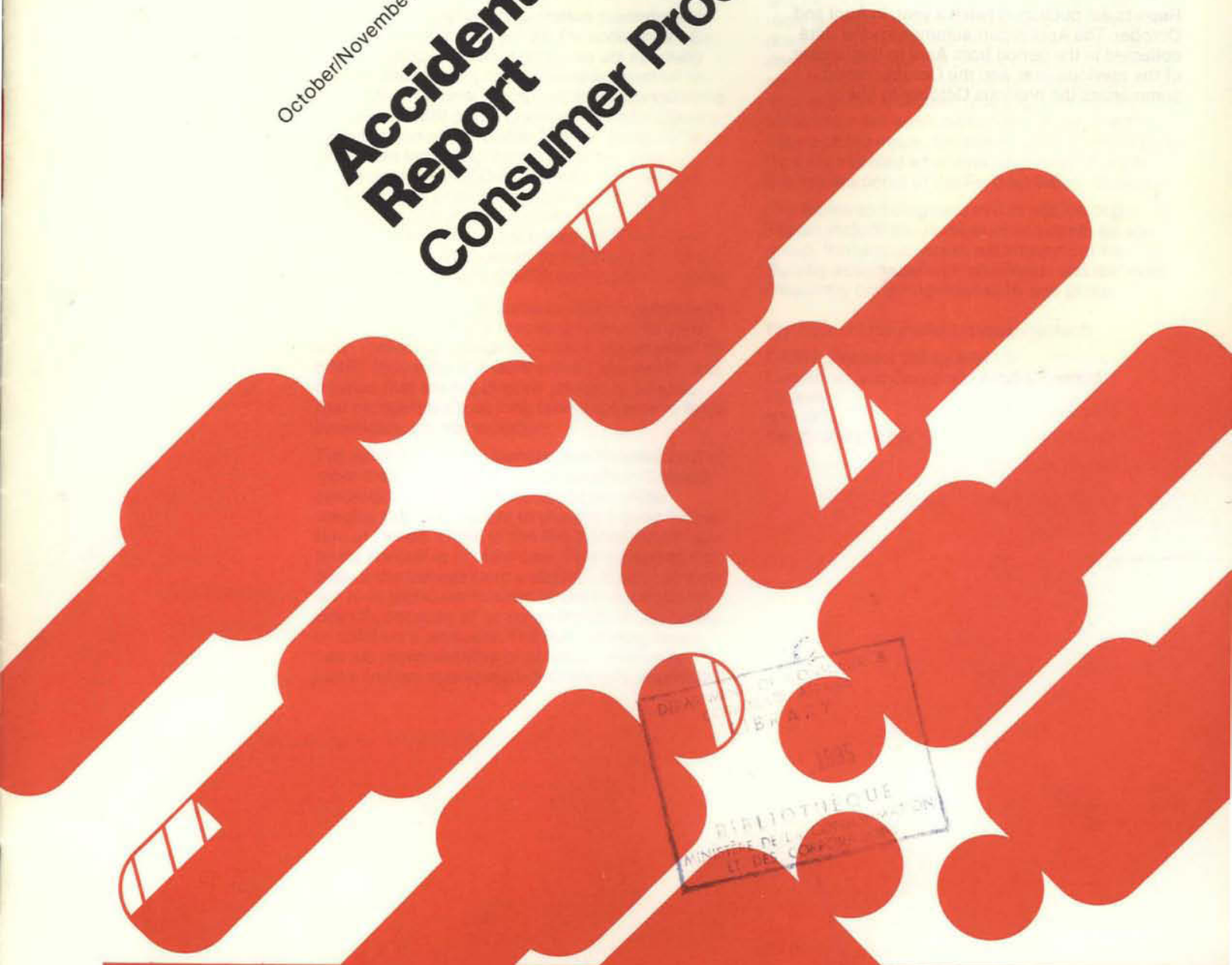
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Introduction

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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 information on accidents and injuries, which in turn will help organizations concerned with product safety to establish priorities and evaluate programs.

Reports are published twice a year, in April and October. The April report summarizes the data collected in the period from April to September of the previous year, and the October report summarizes the previous October to March.

Methodology

Five hospitals are participating in the data collection:

Isaac Walton Killam Hospital, Halifax, N.S.
Montreal Children's Hospital, Montreal,
Quebec
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 for accidental injuries involving consumer products are specially coded. The product coding used is identical to that of the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) of the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States. At the same time, data including the nature of the injury (according to the ICD-9N code on international classification of diseases), the cause of injury (according to the ICD-9E code), and the age group of the casualty are collected. These data are collated and tabulated by the Hospital Medical Records Institute (HMRI) on a quarterly basis.

All admissions to the participating hospitals that result from accidents involving consumer products, including emergency cases, are reported to HMRI. Industrial and work-related accidents, and injuries that are not directly related to a consumer product, such as long-term exposure to toxic chemicals, are not included.

The small size of the sample (five 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. Three of the five 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 its circumstances and environment, 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 and diagrams in this edition of the Report include the number of accidents by age group, those products or activities most frequently associated with accidents, and the most frequently occurring injuries by age group.

For further information, please contact:

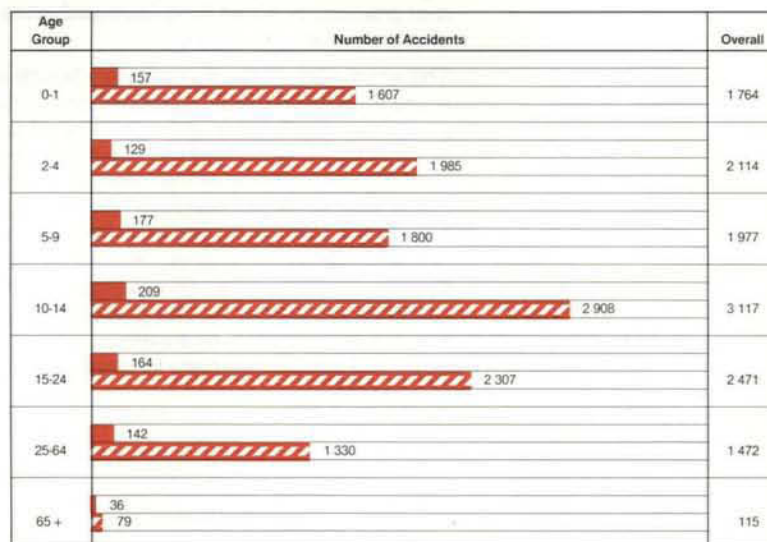
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CAIRE Highlights — Winter 1984/85

- The number of accidents reported was 12 per cent less than in the corresponding period a year ago because the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children did not collect data in January 1985.
- There were two new entries in the "top 20" products and activities compared with a year ago — drugs and medications, and volleyball — although the former did appear in the Summer 1984 report.
- The number of accidents involving toboggans decreased considerably in the winter of 1984/85, even allowing for the absence of some data as noted previously. There is no obvious reason for this reduction.
- Accidents involving other winter sports either held steady or increased. Skiing injuries increased by 21 per cent from the same period last year, but are still less than one-third the number of injuries from hockey.
- Half of the 472 reported skiing injuries were to the legs, knees, ankles and feet of victims, including 43 fractures and 95 strained knee ligaments.
- The most common types of injuries (table 2) are very similar from year to year, but skull fractures to children under two years of age appear to be increasing. The accidents are mostly falls down stairs or steps.
- Accidents involving hot water are always more frequent in the winter, but the number of serious burns and scalds has declined slightly compared with a year ago. More than half of the injuries were suffered by children under two years old.
- Poisonings from drugs and medications appear to be becoming a serious problem. Over 70 per cent of such accidents are to under fives, and drugs and medications are closing in on stairs and steps as the number one year-round danger. Attempted suicides are not included in the data collected.

Figure 1
Number of Accidents
by Age Group
October 1984 - March 1985



Total number of accidents (N) = 13 030

Inpatients
 Emergency patients

Table 1
Top 20 Products or Activities
Involved in Accidents by Age Group
October 1984 - March 1985

Product/Activity**Age Groups**

	TOTAL		0-1		2-4		5-9		10-14		15-24		25-64		65+	
	Number (n)	% of N	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n	Freq.	% of n
Hockey	1 486	11.4	5	*	6	*	125	9	642	43	606	41	102	7	—	—
Stairs or steps	987	7.6	250	25	195	20	142	14	159	16	125	13	101	10	15	2
Basketball	517	3.9	—	—	2	*	9	2	253	49	231	45	20	4	2	*
Skiing	472	3.6	1	*	6	1	51	11	193	41	160	34	60	13	1	*
Drugs or medications	423	3.2	87	21	206	49	23	5	22	5	44	10	29	7	12	3
Tables	416	3.2	155	37	163	39	58	14	17	4	14	3	8	2	1	2
Doors	397	3.0	77	19	96	24	92	22	79	20	34	9	17	4	2	*
Beds	349	2.6	91	26	144	41	67	19	25	7	6	2	9	3	7	2
Knives	339	2.6	1	*	10	3	38	11	59	17	99	29	125	37	7	2
Chairs	291	2.2	79	27	111	38	45	15	21	7	9	3	17	6	9	3
Ice skating	276	2.1	1	*	13	5	106	38	110	40	35	13	11	4	—	—
Football	276	2.1	—	—	—	—	21	8	110	40	135	49	10	4	—	—
Gymnastics	275	2.1	—	—	5	2	75	27	166	60	29	11	—	—	—	—
Bicycles	272	2.0	11	4	46	17	76	28	101	37	29	11	8	3	1	*
Volleyball	187	1.4	4	2	—	—	3	2	74	40	86	46	20	11	—	—
Hot water	176	1.3	95	54	22	13	22	13	11	6	11	6	11	6	4	2
Soccer	167	1.2	—	—	—	—	14	8	89	53	57	34	6	4	1	2
Ceilings or walls	159	1.2	21	14	40	25	32	20	45	28	21	13	—	—	—	—
Sofas, couches, davenport	127	0.9	36	28	60	47	20	16	5	4	3	2	2	2	1	1
Desks, chests, bureaus	101	0.7	14	14	32	32	29	29	15	15	6	6	5	5	—	—
TOTALS	7 693	59.0	928	12	1 157	15	1 048	14	2 196	29	1 740	23	561	7	63	0.82

*Less than 0.5%

Relative percentage by age group as compared to the total number of accidents (N):

TOTALS

7 693	59.0	928	7	1 157	9	1 048	8	2 196	17	1 740	13	561	4	63	0.48
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Total number of accidents (N) = 13 030

Table 2
Most Common Types of Injuries
by Age Group
October 1984 - March 1985

Injury Type	Number of Injuries							
	Age Groups							
	TOTAL	0-1	2-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-64	65+
Open wound of head and neck, including face and eyes	2 153	409	715	456	213	179	172	9
Sprain or strain	1 547	28	52	187	538	581	159	2
Contusion with intact skin surface	1 252	46	80	182	448	322	165	9
Open wound of upper limb(s)	1 110	53	58	103	191	312	389	4
Fracture of upper limb(s)	844	26	64	148	347	180	68	11
Superficial injury	836	81	95	113	383	137	27	—
Intracranial injury, excluding skull fractures	691	288	143	112	104	27	13	4
Fracture of lower limb(s)	440	30	42	76	149	72	58	13
Poisoning	437	88	215	19	28	45	29	13
Burn	423	159	79	32	28	55	64	6
Foreign body injury	301	61	111	58	23	24	24	—
Fracture of rib(s)/pelvis/trunk/collarbone	193	14	44	27	49	41	13	5
Fracture of skull, including face	158	49	22	25	26	24	11	1
TOTALS	10 385	1 332	1 720	1 538	2 527	1 999	1 192	77

Total number of accidents (N) = 13 030

Figure 2
Three Most Common
Types of Injuries
by Age Group
October 1984 - March 1985

