



## Children Playing with Fire Fact Sheet

In 2006, an estimated 14,500 structure fires involving fire-play were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated

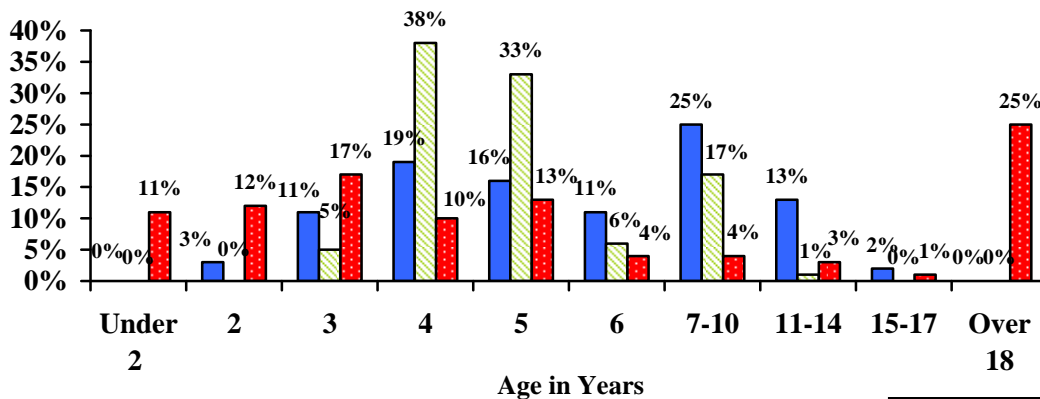
- 130 civilian deaths,
- 810 civilian injuries, and
- \$328 million in direct property damage, annually.

Most child-playing home fires are started with lighters or matches.

Almost half (42%) of child-playing home structure fires begin in the bedroom.

The items ignited by home fire-play are principally mattresses, bedding, or clothing.

**Civilian Deaths by the Age of the Firesetter and by Age of Victim,  
2003-2006 Annual Averages**



Most fire-play fires start outside

■ % of child playing fires by age of firesetter  
■ % of civilian deaths by age of firesetter  
■ % of civilian deaths by age of victim

July is the peak month for outdoor fire-play. Most of these fires involve fireworks.

50% of people who start reported fires by playing are 5 years old and younger

63% of all fatal victims of fires by playing are children 5 year old and younger

Non-fatal injuries often involve parents or other caregivers, but fatal injuries rarely do

## Legislation

- In 1994, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) set a mandatory safety standard requiring the manufacturing and importation of most cigarette lighters to be child-resistant
- As of August 2008, eight states have enacted novelty lighter legislation to protect against lighters that are being mistaken for toys.