

# —National Center Quick-Look—

## Accidental Deaths of Children due to Fireplay



### Collect

The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention collects information on accidental deaths of children due to fire in the National Fatality Review - Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS).



### Data

From 2004-2016, child fatality teams reviewed deaths of 1,479 children ages 1-14 who died in accidental fires. Fireplay was responsible for 175 (12%) of the deaths. This Quick-Look focuses on these 175 fireplay deaths.<sup>1</sup>



### Learn

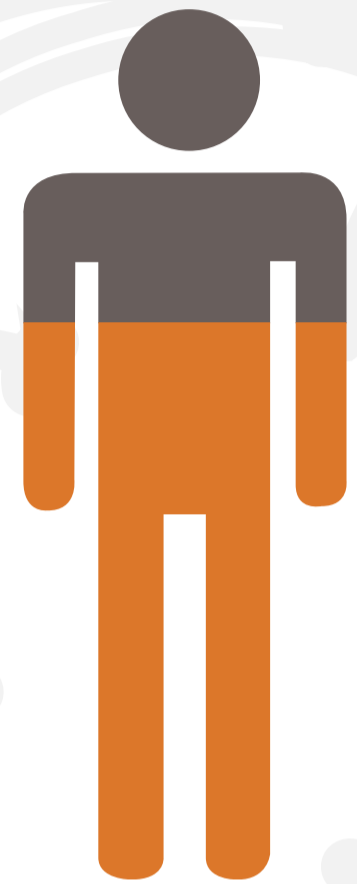
To see other Quick-Looks and learn more, visit the National Center's website at [ncfrp.org](http://ncfrp.org).



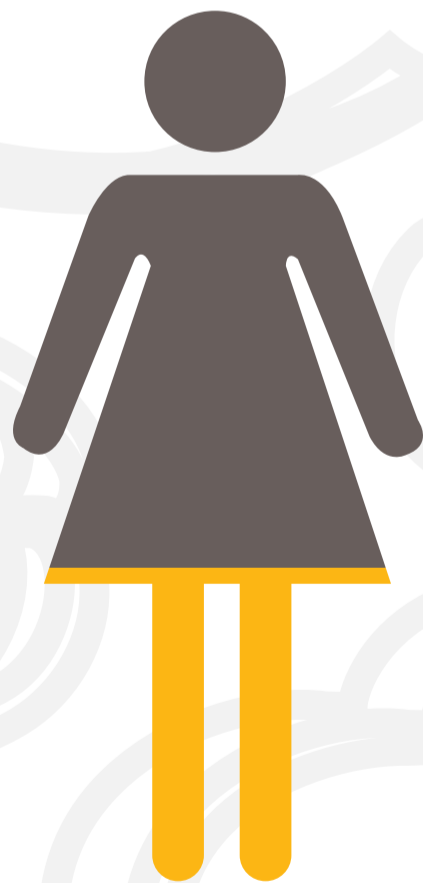
### What is fireplay?

Children playing with fire or fire-starting materials such as matches, lighters, and other fire sources (like candles).

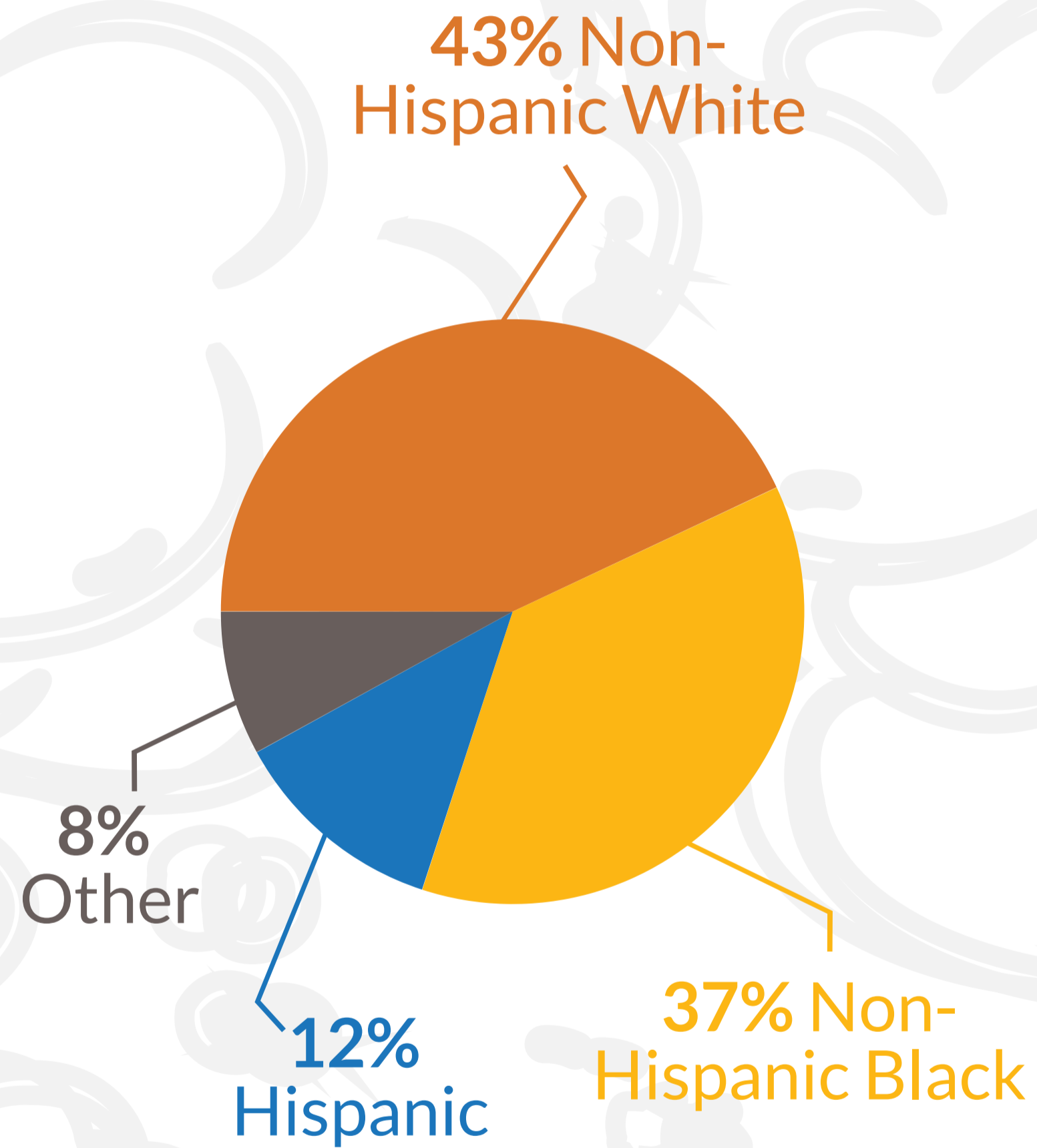
# Demographics



64%  
Male



36%  
Female



64%  
1-4 years old



26%  
5-9 years old



10%  
10-14 years old

# Incident Details

## Place

90%

of fireplay deaths occurred in the child's or a relative's home



## Time of Day

61%

of fireplay deaths occurred at night (10pm-7am)



## Supervision

49%

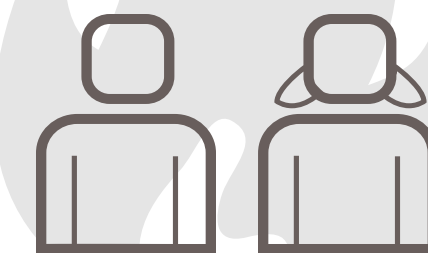
of children who died were not supervised at the time of the fire



## Number of Deaths

49%

of fireplay deaths involved more than 1 child



# Fire Characteristics

**49%** Nearly half of deaths occurred in single family homes, and 43% occurred in apartments, duplexes, or mobile homes

**59%** Over half of deaths occurred in rental properties

**43%** Two-fifths of deaths occurred in a structure with a smoke alarm present

**34%** One-third of deaths occurred in fires where a barrier prevented exit (locked or blocked door or window)

**79%** In nearly four-fifths of deaths someone attempted to put out the fire

Compared to fire deaths that were not related to fireplay (n=1303), children who died in fires caused by fireplay (n=175) were:

**3X** as likely to be younger (between 1- 4 years of age)

**2X** as likely to be male

**9X** as likely to be unsupervised

**2X** as likely to have an open Child Protective Services case at time of death

# Prevention Resources

1

National Fire Protection  
Association

<https://nfpa.org/>

2

United States Fire  
Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

3

Safe Kids Worldwide

<https://www.safekids.org/>



To learn more about children who died in fires caused by fireplay see " Social and demographic characteristics and the contribution of fireplay to fire-related mortality in the US, 2004-2016" published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepr.2020.05.029>

## National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention Supporting Fetal and Infant Mortality Review and Child Death Review Teams

There are many ways to stay in touch with the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention:



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800.656.2434



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1. These deaths have been reviewed and recorded into the NFR-CRS by participating fatality review teams. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

These data represent a smaller percent of the cases entered into the NFR-CRS. For more information about the data contained in this Quick-Look, please visit [https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/NCRPCD-Docs/NCFRP\\_Quick\\_Looks\\_Analysis.pdf](https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/NCRPCD-Docs/NCFRP_Quick_Looks_Analysis.pdf)