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Episodes of Persons Injured: United States, 1975¹

Each year, as part of its interview survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States, the National Center for Health Statistics collects a limited amount of data on injuries resulting from accidents and other causes. Data on this topic are obtained on the nature of the injury, where the accident happened, whether the person was at his or her job or business when the accident occurred, and whether a motor vehicle was involved.

During 1975 two supplements relating to injuries were included in the Health Interview Survey. Both were developed in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Since respondents were to be asked about injuries occurring during the 6 months prior to interview and memory decay was expected to be a major problem in using a reference period of this length, the first supplement served as an extensive probe to improve recall of accidental injuries during that period. The second supplement was intended to obtain—aside from all of the usual information collected each year on injuries—the following types of additional information: (1) where (if it was medically attended) the person first received medical attention for the injury, (2) more detailed information for accidents in which motor vehicles were involved, (3) how the accident happened, (4) what product or products (if any) were directly or indirectly involved, (5) whether there were any special circumstances which contributed to causing the accidental injury, and (6) whether the injury was intentionally inflicted.

A 6-month reference period was used in order to produce a more extensive data base

than is obtained from the customary 2-week reference period used each year for accidental injuries in the Health Interview Survey. However, in accordance with the usual annual procedure, data on accidental injuries were included only if they met at least one of two conditions: (1) the injury was medically attended, or (2) it caused the person to cut down on his or her usual activity for at least 1 day.

Injury data may be tabulated in at least three different ways, depending on whether the topic of interest is (1) the *person* involved in one or more accidents causing injuries during a given reference period, (2) the particular *episode* resulting in injury, or (3) each individual *injury* itself. The unit used in this report is the *episode* of persons injury, that is, the event which caused the injury or injuries. The estimates shown in the detailed tables are derived from the 1975 accident and injury supplements; they are, however, based on only those reported experiences occurring during the 2 weeks preceding the interview.

The results from the 1975 supplements indicate that during this period there were about 74.2 million episodes of persons injured among the civilian noninstitutionalized population.² Tables 1-6 show these episodes distributed by responses to several supplemental questions according to various sociodemographic and health-related characteristics. Tables 7 and 8 show the types of products involved in the product-related episodes.

²This estimate differs from the estimate of 71,903 million persons injured shown in the 1975 *Current Estimates* because (1) the definition of injury differs somewhat, and (2) the estimates shown in *Current Estimates* are derived from the usual questionnaire and those shown in this report are derived from the data collected in the supplements.

¹This report prepared by Peter W. Ries, Ph.D., *Division of Health Interview Statistics*.

Respondents reporting episodes of accidental injury were asked: "Where did the accident happen?" Tables 1 and 2 show that when unknown places are excluded about half of the episodes (50.4 percent) happened at home, with 28.9 percent happening in the house and 21.5 percent occurring adjacent to the house. Industrial places accounted for 11.7 percent of the episodes, followed by street and highway (9.5 percent), place of recreation (8.8 percent),

school (8.2 percent), and other places (11.4 percent).

Tables 3 and 4 present the number and percent distribution of episodes by what the person was doing when the accidental injury occurred, according to selected characteristics.³ An estimated 25.7 percent of the episodes occurred

³The precise wording was, "What was... doing at the time of the accident?"

Table 1. Number of episodes of persons injured, by place where accident happened and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All places | At home | | | Street and highway | Industrial place | School | Place of recreation | Other place | Place unknown |
|--|------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Total | Inside house | Adjacent to house | | | | | | |
| Number of episodes in thousands | | | | | | | | | | |
| All episodes----- | 74,164 | 35,736 | 20,514 | 15,221 | 6,725 | 8,312 | 5,785 | 6,264 | 8,087 | 3,254 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 39,653 | 15,445 | 6,500 | 8,945 | 2,994 | 6,920 | 3,816 | 4,409 | 5,076 | 993 |
| Female----- | 34,511 | 20,291 | 14,014 | 6,277 | 3,731 | 1,393 | 1,969 | 1,855 | 3,011 | 2,261 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years----- | 25,908 | 14,019 | 6,488 | 7,531 | 1,898 | *217 | 3,963 | 2,369 | 2,396 | 1,047 |
| 17-44 years----- | 32,757 | 12,468 | 8,137 | 4,330 | 3,374 | 6,679 | 1,677 | 3,503 | 3,677 | 1,379 |
| 45-64 years----- | 10,796 | 5,959 | 3,747 | 2,211 | 1,007 | 1,326 | *146 | *354 | 1,507 | *498 |
| 65 years and over----- | 4,703 | 3,290 | 2,142 | 1,149 | *446 | *90 | * | *38 | *508 | *330 |
| Family income | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000----- | 12,327 | 6,938 | 4,293 | 2,645 | 1,253 | 710 | 683 | *462 | 1,513 | 768 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999----- | 16,531 | 7,547 | 4,400 | 3,146 | 1,155 | 2,387 | 1,147 | 1,551 | 2,162 | *583 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | 16,660 | 7,753 | 4,824 | 2,928 | 1,041 | 2,312 | 1,200 | 1,421 | 2,066 | 868 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999----- | 17,481 | 8,477 | 4,630 | 3,848 | 2,006 | 1,550 | 1,611 | 1,476 | 1,459 | 901 |
| \$25,000 or more----- | 6,734 | 3,175 | 1,581 | 1,593 | *596 | *566 | 863 | 977 | *467 | *89 |
| Not reported----- | 4,431 | 1,847 | 786 | 1,061 | 675 | 787 | *281 | *377 | *419 | *44 |
| Geographic region | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 15,677 | 7,120 | 4,153 | 2,966 | 1,485 | 1,603 | 1,143 | 1,908 | 1,384 | 1,034 |
| North Central----- | 20,103 | 9,230 | 5,132 | 4,098 | 1,900 | 2,494 | 1,901 | 1,517 | 1,902 | 1,158 |
| South----- | 21,605 | 10,604 | 5,611 | 4,993 | 1,965 | 2,783 | 1,309 | 1,503 | 2,694 | 747 |
| West----- | 16,779 | 8,782 | 5,618 | 3,164 | 1,375 | 1,431 | 1,432 | 1,336 | 2,108 | *314 |
| Place of residence | | | | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 22,215 | 10,644 | 6,564 | 4,080 | 2,352 | 2,207 | 1,566 | 1,900 | 2,651 | 894 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 29,482 | 14,491 | 8,388 | 6,103 | 2,372 | 3,473 | 2,360 | 2,743 | 2,707 | 1,336 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 22,467 | 10,601 | 5,562 | 5,038 | 2,001 | 2,632 | 1,860 | 1,621 | 2,728 | 1,024 |
| Days of restricted activity | | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 28,442 | 14,415 | 8,210 | 6,205 | 1,847 | 3,397 | 2,166 | 2,197 | 2,876 | 1,545 |
| 1 or more----- | 45,721 | 21,321 | 12,304 | 9,016 | 4,878 | 4,915 | 3,620 | 4,067 | 5,211 | 1,709 |
| Bed days | | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 56,436 | 27,683 | 15,870 | 11,812 | 4,458 | 6,253 | 4,868 | 4,991 | 5,569 | 2,614 |
| 1 or more----- | 17,728 | 8,053 | 4,644 | 3,409 | 2,267 | 2,059 | 917 | 1,273 | 2,517 | 640 |
| Medical attention | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room----- | 25,227 | 11,491 | 5,577 | 5,914 | 3,435 | 2,895 | 1,671 | 2,806 | 2,425 | *505 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 29,936 | 14,942 | 9,142 | 5,800 | 1,661 | 3,952 | 2,528 | 1,391 | 3,773 | 1,687 |
| Attended, place unknown----- | 2,692 | 1,625 | 924 | 701 | *137 | *286 | *183 | *52 | *187 | *221 |
| Not medically attended----- | 16,309 | 7,677 | 4,871 | 2,806 | 1,493 | 1,180 | 1,403 | 2,015 | 1,701 | 841 |

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

while the person was working, 17.5 percent while traveling, and 16.0 percent while the person was participating in some form of recreation. Other forms of activity accounted for 32.5 percent of the total, while no major activity was indicated by the respondent for 8.3 percent of the episodes.

The term "working" as used in tables 3 and 4 applies to any kind of work, including work performed while the person was not at his or her

job or business (for instance, cleaning up the yard). Table 5 shows the number and percent distribution of episodes for persons 17 years and over who were working at their job or business when the episode occurred.⁴ Thus, of the approximately 17.2 million episodes shown in

⁴The question posed was: "Was . . . at work at his job or business when the accident happened?"

Table 2. Percent distribution of episodes of persons injured by place where accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All places ¹ | At home | | | Street and highway | Industrial place | School | Place of recreation | Other place |
|--|-------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | Total | Inside house | Adjacent to house | | | | | |
| All episodes----- | 100.0 | 50.4 | 28.9 | 21.5 | 9.5 | 11.7 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 11.4 |
| Percent distribution | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 100.0 | 40.0 | 16.8 | 23.1 | 7.7 | 17.9 | 9.9 | 11.4 | 13.1 |
| Female----- | 100.0 | 62.9 | 43.5 | 19.5 | 11.6 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 9.3 |
| <u>Age</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years----- | 100.0 | 56.4 | 26.1 | 30.3 | 7.6 | *0.9 | 15.9 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| 17-44 years----- | 100.0 | 39.7 | 25.9 | 13.8 | 10.8 | 21.3 | 5.3 | 11.2 | 11.7 |
| 45-64 years----- | 100.0 | 57.9 | 36.4 | 21.5 | 9.8 | 12.9 | *1.4 | *3.4 | 14.6 |
| 65 years and over----- | 100.0 | 75.3 | 49.0 | 26.3 | *10.2 | *2.1 | * | *0.9 | *11.6 |
| <u>Family income</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000----- | 100.0 | 60.0 | 37.1 | 22.9 | 10.8 | 6.1 | 5.9 | *4.0 | 13.1 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999----- | 100.0 | 47.3 | 27.6 | 19.7 | 7.2 | 15.0 | 7.2 | 9.7 | 13.6 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | 100.0 | 49.1 | 30.5 | 18.5 | 6.6 | 14.6 | 7.6 | 9.0 | 13.1 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999----- | 100.0 | 51.1 | 27.9 | 23.2 | 12.1 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 8.8 |
| \$25,000 or more----- | 100.0 | 47.8 | 23.8 | 24.0 | *9.0 | *8.5 | 13.0 | 14.7 | *7.0 |
| Not reported----- | 100.0 | 42.1 | 17.9 | 24.2 | 15.4 | 17.9 | *6.4 | *8.6 | *9.6 |
| <u>Geographic region</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 100.0 | 48.6 | 28.4 | 20.3 | 10.1 | 10.9 | 7.8 | 13.0 | 9.5 |
| North Central----- | 100.0 | 48.7 | 27.1 | 21.6 | 10.0 | 13.2 | 10.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 |
| South----- | 100.0 | 50.8 | 26.9 | 23.9 | 9.4 | 13.3 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 12.9 |
| West----- | 100.0 | 53.3 | 34.1 | 19.2 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.1 | 12.8 |
| <u>Place of residence</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 100.0 | 49.9 | 30.8 | 19.1 | 11.0 | 10.4 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 12.4 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 100.0 | 51.5 | 29.8 | 21.7 | 8.4 | 12.3 | 8.4 | 9.7 | 9.6 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 100.0 | 49.4 | 25.9 | 23.5 | 9.3 | 12.3 | 8.7 | 7.6 | 12.7 |
| <u>Days of restricted activity</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 100.0 | 53.6 | 30.5 | 23.1 | 6.9 | 12.6 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 10.7 |
| 1 or more----- | 100.0 | 48.4 | 28.0 | 20.5 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 11.8 |
| <u>Bed days</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 100.0 | 51.4 | 29.5 | 21.9 | 8.3 | 11.6 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 10.3 |
| 1 or more----- | 100.0 | 47.1 | 27.2 | 20.0 | 13.3 | 12.1 | 5.4 | 7.5 | 14.7 |
| <u>Medical attention</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room----- | 100.0 | 46.5 | 22.6 | 23.9 | 13.9 | 11.7 | 6.8 | 11.4 | 9.8 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 100.0 | 52.9 | 32.4 | 20.5 | 5.9 | 14.0 | 8.9 | 4.9 | 113.4 |
| Attended, place unknown----- | 100.0 | 65.8 | 37.4 | 28.4 | *5.5 | *11.6 | *7.4 | *2.1 | *7.6 |
| Not medically attended----- | 100.0 | 49.6 | 31.5 | 18.1 | 9.7 | 7.6 | 9.1 | 13.0 | 11.0 |

¹Excludes place unknown.

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 3. Number of episodes of persons injured, by activity status and type of activity when accident happened and selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All activity statuses and types | Working | Recreation | Traveling | Other | No major activity | Activity unknown or not specified |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Number of episodes in thousands | | | | | | | |
| All episodes----- | 74,164 | 18,646 | 11,613 | 12,717 | 23,539 | 6,012 | 1,636 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 39,653 | 12,542 | 8,392 | 5,597 | 9,869 | 2,537 | 717 |
| Female----- | 34,511 | 6,104 | 3,221 | 7,121 | 13,670 | 3,475 | 920 |
| <u>Age</u> | | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years----- | 25,908 | 1,414 | 6,123 | 3,724 | 12,041 | 1,908 | 698 |
| 17-44 years----- | 32,757 | 12,196 | 5,175 | 4,903 | 7,620 | 2,376 | *486 |
| 45-64 years----- | 10,796 | 4,137 | *315 | 2,345 | 2,733 | 1,044 | *223 |
| 65 years and over----- | 4,703 | 898 | *- | 1,745 | 1,145 | 684 | *230 |
| <u>Family income</u> | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000----- | 12,327 | 3,045 | 1,172 | 2,303 | 4,333 | 1,102 | *371 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999----- | 16,531 | 3,693 | 2,641 | 3,064 | 5,270 | 1,416 | *447 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | 16,660 | 4,831 | 2,503 | 2,343 | 5,472 | 1,246 | *265 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999----- | 17,481 | 3,880 | 3,198 | 3,122 | 5,630 | 1,363 | *287 |
| \$25,000 or more----- | 6,734 | 1,980 | 1,669 | 857 | 1,587 | *416 | *226 |
| Not reported----- | 4,431 | 1,217 | *428 | 1,029 | 1,246 | *469 | *41 |
| <u>Geographic region</u> | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 15,677 | 3,140 | 2,831 | 2,710 | 5,361 | 1,409 | *227 |
| North Central----- | 20,103 | 5,427 | 3,342 | 3,510 | 6,180 | 1,335 | *309 |
| South----- | 21,605 | 6,610 | 2,722 | 3,390 | 6,670 | 1,538 | 674 |
| West----- | 16,779 | 3,470 | 2,719 | 3,107 | 5,327 | 1,730 | *426 |
| <u>Place of residence</u> | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 22,215 | 4,967 | 3,393 | 3,593 | 7,621 | 1,985 | 656 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 29,482 | 7,305 | 5,009 | 4,677 | 9,440 | 2,373 | 678 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 22,467 | 6,375 | 3,210 | 4,448 | 6,478 | 1,653 | *302 |
| <u>Days of restricted activity</u> | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 28,442 | 7,282 | 4,191 | 4,264 | 9,751 | 2,166 | 788 |
| 1 or more----- | 45,721 | 11,364 | 7,422 | 8,453 | 13,788 | 3,846 | 848 |
| <u>Bed days</u> | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 56,436 | 14,637 | 9,273 | 9,080 | 18,005 | 4,252 | 1,189 |
| 1 or more----- | 17,728 | 4,009 | 2,340 | 3,638 | 5,533 | 1,760 | *447 |
| <u>Medical attention</u> | | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room----- | 25,227 | 6,931 | 4,145 | 5,693 | 6,082 | 2,151 | *224 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 29,936 | 7,653 | 3,756 | 4,147 | 11,179 | 2,142 | 1,059 |
| Attended, place unknown----- | 2,692 | 601 | *203 | *462 | 1,098 | *193 | *135 |
| Not medically attended----- | 16,309 | 3,461 | 3,509 | 2,415 | 5,180 | 1,526 | *218 |

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 4. Percent distribution of episodes of persons injured by activity status and type of activity when accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All activity statuses and types ¹ | Working | Recreation | Traveling | Other | No major activity |
|--|--|---------|------------|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| Percent distribution | | | | | | |
| All episodes----- | 100.0 | 25.7 | 16.0 | 17.5 | 32.5 | 8.3 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 100.0 | 32.2 | 21.6 | 14.4 | 25.3 | 6.5 |
| Female----- | 100.0 | 18.2 | 9.6 | 21.2 | 40.7 | 10.3 |
| <u>Age</u> | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years----- | 100.0 | 5.6 | 24.3 | 14.8 | 47.8 | 7.6 |
| 17-44 years----- | 100.0 | 37.8 | 16.0 | 15.2 | 23.6 | 7.4 |
| 45-64 years----- | 100.0 | 39.1 | *3.0 | 22.2 | 25.8 | 9.9 |
| 65 years and over----- | 100.0 | 20.1 | *- | 39.0 | 25.6 | 15.3 |
| <u>Family income</u> | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000----- | 100.0 | 25.5 | 9.8 | 19.3 | 36.2 | 9.2 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999----- | 100.0 | 23.0 | 16.4 | 19.0 | 32.8 | 8.8 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | 100.0 | 29.5 | 15.3 | 14.3 | 33.4 | 7.6 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999----- | 100.0 | 22.6 | 18.6 | 18.2 | 32.7 | 7.9 |
| \$25,000 or more----- | 100.0 | 30.4 | 25.6 | 13.2 | 24.4 | *6.4 |
| Not reported----- | 100.0 | 27.7 | *9.7 | 23.4 | 28.4 | *10.7 |
| <u>Geographic region</u> | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 100.0 | 20.3 | 18.3 | 17.5 | 34.7 | 9.1 |
| North Central----- | 100.0 | 27.4 | 16.9 | 17.7 | 31.2 | 6.7 |
| South----- | 100.0 | 31.6 | 13.0 | 16.2 | 31.9 | 7.3 |
| West----- | 100.0 | 21.2 | 16.6 | 19.0 | 32.6 | 10.6 |
| <u>Place of residence</u> | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 100.0 | 23.0 | 15.7 | 16.7 | 35.3 | 9.2 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 100.0 | 25.4 | 17.4 | 16.2 | 32.8 | 8.2 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 100.0 | 28.8 | 14.5 | 20.1 | 29.2 | 7.5 |
| <u>Days of restricted activity</u> | | | | | | |
| None----- | 100.0 | 26.3 | 15.2 | 15.4 | 35.3 | 7.8 |
| 1 or more----- | 100.0 | 25.3 | 16.5 | 18.8 | 30.7 | 8.6 |
| <u>Bed days</u> | | | | | | |
| None----- | 100.0 | 26.5 | 16.8 | 16.4 | 32.6 | 7.7 |
| 1 or more----- | 100.0 | 23.2 | 13.5 | 21.1 | 32.0 | 10.2 |
| <u>Medical attention</u> | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room----- | 100.0 | 27.7 | 16.6 | 22.8 | 24.3 | 8.6 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 100.0 | 26.5 | 13.0 | 14.4 | 38.7 | 7.4 |
| Attended, place unknown----- | 100.0 | 23.5 | *7.9 | *18.1 | 42.9 | *7.5 |
| Not medically attended----- | 100.0 | 21.5 | 21.8 | 15.0 | 32.2 | 9.5 |

¹Excludes activity unknown or not specified.

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 5. Number and percent distribution of episodes of persons injured aged 17 years and over by whether person was at job or business when accident happened, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All episodes | At job or business | Not at job or business | Unknown | All episodes ¹ | At job or business | Not at job or business |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | Number of episodes in thousands | | | | Percent distribution | | |
| All episodes----- | 48,256 | 11,411 | 34,409 | 2,435 | 100.0 | 24.9 | 75.1 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 23,843 | 8,796 | 14,312 | 735 | 100.0 | 38.1 | 61.9 |
| Female----- | 24,413 | 2,615 | 20,097 | 1,700 | 100.0 | 11.5 | 88.5 |
| <u>Age</u> | | | | | | | |
| 17-44 years----- | 32,757 | 8,828 | 22,323 | 1,606 | 100.0 | 28.3 | 71.7 |
| 45-64 years----- | 10,796 | 2,364 | 7,887 | *545 | 100.0 | 23.1 | 76.9 |
| 65 years and over----- | 4,703 | *220 | 4,199 | *284 | 100.0 | *5.0 | 95.0 |
| <u>Family income</u> | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000----- | 8,884 | 1,527 | 6,725 | 633 | 100.0 | 18.5 | 81.5 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999----- | 10,928 | 3,001 | 7,344 | *583 | 100.0 | 29.0 | 71.0 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | 10,139 | 2,911 | 6,568 | 660 | 100.0 | 30.7 | 69.3 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999----- | 10,971 | 2,324 | 8,133 | *514 | 100.0 | 22.2 | 77.8 |
| \$25,000 or more----- | 4,180 | 657 | 3,524 | *- | 100.0 | 15.7 | 84.3 |
| Not reported----- | 3,153 | 992 | 2,116 | *44 | 100.0 | 31.9 | 68.1 |
| <u>Geographic region</u> | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 9,606 | 2,005 | 6,789 | 812 | 100.0 | 22.8 | 77.2 |
| North Central----- | 12,853 | 3,064 | 9,050 | 739 | 100.0 | 25.3 | 74.7 |
| South----- | 14,288 | 4,050 | 9,715 | *524 | 100.0 | 29.4 | 70.6 |
| West----- | 11,509 | 2,293 | 8,856 | *360 | 100.0 | 20.6 | 79.4 |
| <u>Place of residence</u> | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 14,519 | 3,123 | 10,680 | 716 | 100.0 | 22.6 | 77.4 |
| SMSA, not central city---- | 18,893 | 4,380 | 13,430 | 1,083 | 100.0 | 24.6 | 75.4 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 14,844 | 3,909 | 10,300 | 635 | 100.0 | 27.5 | 72.5 |
| <u>Days of restricted activity</u> | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 17,326 | 4,453 | 11,633 | 1,240 | 100.0 | 27.7 | 72.3 |
| 1 or more----- | 30,929 | 6,958 | 22,776 | 1,195 | 100.0 | 23.4 | 76.6 |
| <u>Bed days</u> | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 35,508 | 8,582 | 25,046 | 1,880 | 100.0 | 25.5 | 74.5 |
| 1 or more----- | 12,747 | 2,830 | 9,363 | *555 | 100.0 | 23.2 | 76.8 |
| <u>Medical attention</u> | | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room----- | 15,444 | 4,150 | 10,964 | *330 | 100.0 | 27.5 | 72.5 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 19,687 | 5,168 | 13,135 | 1,384 | 100.0 | 28.2 | 71.8 |
| Attended, place unknown---- | 1,875 | *435 | 1,262 | *178 | 100.0 | *25.6 | 74.4 |
| Not medically attended----- | 11,250 | 1,659 | 9,048 | *543 | 100.0 | 15.5 | 84.5 |

¹Excludes unknown if at job or business when accident happened.

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

table 3 for persons 17 years and over who were doing some type of work when the episode occurred, about 11.4 million occurred while the person was working at his or her job or business. These 11.4 million episodes constitute about 23.6 percent of all of the episodes for this age group.

Respondents who reported medical attention of accidental injuries were asked: "Where did... FIRST see or talk to a doctor—at a clinic, hospital, doctor's office, or some other place?" Table 6 shows the number and percent distribution of all episodes of persons injured by whether or not the injury or injuries were medically attended and, if so, where medical attention was first received. It should be reemphasized that these data do not include episodes in which the injuries were not medically attended or did not cause the person to restrict his or her activity for 1 day or more. As may be noted from table 6, 78.0 percent of the episodes resulted in some form of medical attention, while 22.0 percent led to restricted activity but did not involve medical attention.

This proportion between medically attended episodes and those not medically attended differs from the proportions usually derived from the annual Health Interview Survey. Ordinarily, the proportions are about 84 percent medically attended and 16 percent not medically attended. The difference probably reflects the influence of the supplemental injury probe, which tended to screen in additional relatively minor types of injuries which did not require medical attention.

Of all medically attended episodes, 41.3 percent were first treated at a hospital emergency room, 33.9 percent at a doctor's office, and 24.8 percent at other places ("other places" includes telephone calls to a medical doctor). Of the estimated 25.2 million episodes that were ever treated at a hospital emergency room, 92.5 percent (23.3 million) were first treated there, while 7.4 percent followed a previous contact with a medical person. When use of a hospital emergency room is viewed in relation to all episodes, whether or not they were medically treated, 32.0 percent were first treated at a hospital emergency room and 34.8 percent were treated there at one time or another. All of these percents exclude the episodes for which the place of first medical attention was unknown.

Data on product involvement in episodes of persons injured were obtained in response to the following two questions: "What product or object came into contact with... and actually caused the injury?" and "What other products or objects were involved in the accident?" In interpreting the estimates of product involvement, based on responses to these questions, it should be noted that the data do not in any way indicate whether or not any defect or property of the design of the product was responsible for the accident.

The data on type of product involvement in accidental injuries was coded according to the coding system used in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.⁵ The estimates shown in table 7 are based on the broad categories used in that system. The frequency of product involvement is based on the number of times a category of products was involved one or more times in an episode of accidental injury and *not* on the number of products involved in that episode. As such, the frequency is to some degree a function of the range of products used in any category, and because of this, totals for subgroups of a category will not usually sum to the total for the entire category.

Up to three types of products were coded for each of the two product-related questions. Thus any particular episode might have from zero to six types of products involved. Of the approximately 74.2 million episodes of persons injured, about 56.3 million involved at least one type of product. Using the broad categories of product types found in the NEISS coding system, the estimated 56.3 million episodes involved about 69.5 million instances of type of product involvement during 1975 (table 8).

Table 7 shows the percent of times the categories of product types were involved in episodes of persons injured for episodes among (1) all civilian noninstitutionalized persons, (2) males, (3) females, and episodes resulting in (4) 1 day or more of restricted activity, and (5) a visit to a hospital emergency room.

As an example of the way in which to interpret the estimates shown in table 7, the case of

⁵See *NEISS Coding Manual*, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bureau of Epidemiology.

Table 6. Number and percent distributions of episodes of persons injured by whether medically attended and, if so, place of first medical attention, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | All episodes | Place of first medical attention | | | | | Not medically attended | All episodes ¹ | Medically attended | Not medically attended | Place of first medical attention | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| | | All medically attended episodes | Emergency room | Doc-tor's of- fice | Other | Un- known | | | | | All medi- cally at- tended epi- sodes ¹ | Emer- gency room | Doc- tor's of- fice | Other |
| | | Number of episodes in thousands | | | | | | Percent distribution | | | Percent distribution | | | |
| All epi- sodes----- | 74,164 | 57,855 | 23,252 | 19,048 | 13,955 | 1,600 | 16,309 | 100.0 | 78.0 | 22.0 | 100.0 | 41.3 | 33.9 | 24.8 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | 39,653 | 31,217 | 14,315 | 9,267 | 7,009 | 626 | 8,436 | 100.0 | 78.7 | 21.3 | 100.0 | 46.8 | 30.3 | 22.9 |
| Female----- | 34,511 | 26,639 | 8,938 | 9,782 | 6,946 | 973 | 7,873 | 100.0 | 77.2 | 22.8 | 100.0 | 34.8 | 38.1 | 27.1 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years---- | 25,908 | 20,849 | 8,954 | 6,390 | 5,149 | *356 | 5,059 | 100.0 | 80.5 | 19.5 | 100.0 | 43.7 | 31.2 | 25.1 |
| 17-44 years----- | 32,757 | 25,048 | 10,193 | 7,750 | 6,266 | 840 | 7,709 | 100.0 | 76.5 | 23.5 | 100.0 | 42.1 | 32.0 | 25.9 |
| 45-64 years----- | 10,796 | 8,207 | 2,922 | 3,350 | 1,623 | *312 | 2,589 | 100.0 | 76.0 | 24.0 | 100.0 | 37.0 | 42.4 | 20.6 |
| 65 years and over- | 4,703 | 3,751 | 1,184 | 1,558 | 918 | *91 | 952 | 100.0 | 79.8 | 20.2 | 100.0 | 32.3 | 42.6 | 25.1 |
| Family income | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$5,000-- | 12,327 | 9,391 | 3,941 | 2,923 | 2,250 | *277 | 2,936 | 100.0 | 76.2 | 23.8 | 100.0 | 43.2 | 32.1 | 24.7 |
| \$5,000-\$9,999---- | 16,531 | 12,664 | 5,400 | 3,917 | 2,942 | *406 | 3,867 | 100.0 | 76.6 | 23.4 | 100.0 | 44.0 | 32.0 | 24.0 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999--- | 16,660 | 13,937 | 5,075 | 4,535 | 3,881 | *446 | 2,723 | 100.0 | 83.7 | 16.3 | 100.0 | 37.6 | 33.6 | 28.8 |
| \$15,000-\$24,999--- | 17,481 | 13,213 | 5,094 | 4,863 | 2,926 | *331 | 4,268 | 100.0 | 75.6 | 24.4 | 100.0 | 39.5 | 37.8 | 22.7 |
| \$25,000 or more--- | 6,734 | 5,128 | 1,877 | 1,756 | 1,355 | *140 | 1,606 | 100.0 | 76.2 | 23.8 | 100.0 | 37.6 | 35.2 | 27.2 |
| Not reported----- | 4,431 | 3,522 | 1,866 | 1,055 | 602 | * | 909 | 100.0 | 79.5 | 20.5 | 100.0 | 53.0 | 30.0 | 17.1 |
| Geographic region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | 15,677 | 12,809 | 6,070 | 3,049 | 3,376 | *314 | 2,868 | 100.0 | 81.7 | 18.3 | 100.0 | 48.6 | 24.4 | 27.0 |
| North Central---- | 20,103 | 15,999 | 6,754 | 4,650 | 4,234 | *362 | 4,104 | 100.0 | 79.6 | 20.4 | 100.0 | 43.2 | 29.7 | 27.1 |
| South----- | 21,605 | 16,564 | 6,647 | 6,057 | 3,407 | *453 | 5,041 | 100.0 | 76.7 | 23.3 | 100.0 | 41.3 | 37.6 | 21.1 |
| West----- | 16,779 | 12,483 | 3,782 | 5,292 | 2,938 | *470 | 4,296 | 100.0 | 74.4 | 25.6 | 100.0 | 31.5 | 44.1 | 24.5 |
| Place of residence | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | 22,215 | 16,887 | 7,147 | 4,760 | 4,467 | *513 | 5,328 | 100.0 | 76.0 | 24.0 | 100.0 | 43.7 | 29.1 | 27.3 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 29,482 | 23,435 | 9,423 | 7,529 | 5,881 | 602 | 6,047 | 100.0 | 79.5 | 20.5 | 100.0 | 41.3 | 33.0 | 25.8 |
| Outside SMSA---- | 22,467 | 17,533 | 6,683 | 6,759 | 3,607 | *484 | 4,934 | 100.0 | 78.0 | 22.0 | 100.0 | 39.2 | 39.6 | 21.2 |
| Days of restricted activity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 28,442 | 28,442 | 9,908 | 9,480 | 8,228 | 826 | ... | 100.0 | 100.0 | ... | 100.0 | 35.9 | 34.3 | 29.8 |
| 1 or more----- | 45,721 | 29,413 | 13,344 | 9,568 | 5,727 | 773 | 16,309 | 100.0 | 64.3 | 35.7 | 100.0 | 46.6 | 33.4 | 20.0 |
| Bed days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 56,436 | 45,551 | 17,048 | 15,457 | 11,722 | 1,324 | 10,885 | 100.0 | 80.7 | 19.3 | 100.0 | 38.5 | 34.9 | 26.5 |
| 1 or more----- | 17,728 | 12,304 | 6,204 | 3,592 | 2,233 | *276 | 5,423 | 100.0 | 69.4 | 30.6 | 100.0 | 51.6 | 29.9 | 18.6 |
| Medical attention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attended at emergency room--- | 25,227 | 25,227 | 23,252 | 929 | 961 | *84 | ... | 100.0 | 100.0 | ... | 100.0 | 92.5 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Attended, but not at emergency room----- | 29,936 | 29,936 | ... | 17,657 | 12,234 | *45 | ... | 100.0 | 100.0 | ... | 100.0 | ... | 59.1 | 40.9 |
| Attended, place unknown----- | 2,692 | 2,692 | ... | *461 | 760 | 1,471 | ... | 100.0 | 100.0 | ... | 100.0 | ... | *37.8 | 62.2 |

¹ Excludes unknown place of first medical attention.
*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

Table 7. Number of episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics, percent of episodes of persons injured by product type and selected characteristics; and direct product involvement as a percent of both direct and indirect product involvement by product type: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Episodes of persons injured and product type | Direct and indirect product involvement among: | | | | | Direct product involvement as a percent of both direct and indirect involvement |
|---|--|--------|---------|--|--|---|
| | All persons | Males | Females | Episodes resulting in 1 day or more of restricted activity | Episodes resulting in a visit to a hospital emergency room | |
| Number of episodes in thousands | | | | | | |
| All episodes----- | 74,164 | 39,653 | 34,511 | 45,721 | 25,227 | ... |
| Percent of episodes | | | | | | |
| <u>Product type¹</u> | | | | | | |
| General household appliances (0101-0132)----- | *0.7 | *0.4 | *1.0 | *0.7 | *0.3 | *73.0 |
| Kitchen appliances (0202-0262)----- | 1.0 | *0.7 | *1.4 | *0.9 | *1.0 | *59.5 |
| Space heating, cooling, and ventilating appliances (0301-0355)----- | 1.1 | 1.9 | *0.3 | *1.3 | *0.8 | *66.7 |
| Housewares, nonpowered (0401-0459)----- | 3.2 | 2.4 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 80.9 |
| Home communications, entertainment, and hobby equipment (0501-0542)----- | 0.9 | *1.0 | *0.8 | *0.9 | *0.9 | *47.9 |
| Home furnishings and fixtures (0601-0697)----- | 10.5 | 9.4 | 11.7 | 10.8 | 10.6 | 63.4 |
| Home alarm, escape, and protection devices (0701-0708)----- | *0.1 | *0.2 | * | * | *0.2 | *48.4 |
| Home workshop apparatus, tools, and attachments (0801-0853)----- | 3.4 | 5.9 | *0.4 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 67.9 |
| Home and family maintenance products (0902-0950)----- | 1.5 | 1.9 | *1.1 | 1.4 | *2.2 | 70.6 |
| Farm supplies and equipment (1001-1051)----- | 0.9 | *1.4 | *0.3 | *1.1 | *1.1 | *66.5 |
| Packages and containers for household products (1101-1122)----- | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 62.0 |
| Sports and recreational equipment (1201-1299; 3200-3209)----- | 14.1 | 19.2 | 8.2 | 14.6 | 17.3 | 37.3 |
| Toys (1301-1383)----- | 0.9 | *1.5 | *0.3 | *0.9 | *1.8 | *40.0 |
| Yard and garden equipment (1401-1440)----- | 1.9 | 3.1 | *0.5 | 2.2 | *2.2 | 74.7 |
| Child nursery equipment and supplies (1502-1541)----- | *0.5 | *0.5 | *0.6 | *0.3 | * | *54.5 |
| Personal use items (1601-1656)----- | 4.4 | 2.9 | 6.0 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 70.6 |
| Miscellaneous products (1701-1726)----- | 1.3 | *1.2 | *1.4 | 1.7 | *1.1 | *56.7 |
| Home structures and construction materials (1803-1860)----- | 20.6 | 21.6 | 19.4 | 18.9 | 24.5 | 80.9 |
| Motor vehicles (1901)----- | 9.6 | 9.1 | 10.1 | 9.6 | 13.9 | 62.8 |
| Foods (1904)----- | 3.7 | 2.3 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 49.7 |
| Prescribed drugs (1920-1922; 1924)----- | 7.0 | 2.9 | 11.7 | 7.3 | *1.9 | 99.0 |
| Industrial equipment, not used at work (2200)----- | 1.2 | 2.0 | *0.3 | 1.2 | *1.3 | *52.7 |
| Medical equipment (2400-2465)----- | *0.2 | *0.2 | *0.1 | *0.1 | * | *100.0 |
| Other products in the 1901-2465 range (1902-1903; 1905-1918; 1923; 2300)----- | 1.6 | 2.1 | *1.0 | 1.7 | *2.0 | 70.1 |
| Cosmetics (2500-2700)----- | *0.7 | *0.1 | *1.3 | *0.5 | * | *89.6 |

¹The numbers in parentheses represent the code range for the types of products specified in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System coding manual.

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

“housewares” may be used. Housewares were involved in 3.2 percent of all episodes of persons injured. Among those episodes occurring to males, they were involved 2.4 percent of the time and for females 4.1 percent. For all episodes resulting in 1 or more days of restricted activity or in a visit to a hospital, housewares were involved 3.3 and 4.1 percent of the time,

respectively. All of these estimates include both direct and indirect product involvement in the accidental injury. The last column of table 7 shows that of all the times housewares were involved, the involvement was the direct “cause” of the injury in 80.9 percent of the cases.

The large number of relatively unreliable estimates shown in table 7 indicates that the pro-

Table 8. Number of episodes of persons injured, number of episodes of persons injured involving one or more product types, and number of instances product type involved in episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Item | All persons | Male | Female | Resulting in 1 or more days of restricted activity | Resulting in a visit to an emergency room |
|---|---------------------|--------|--------|--|---|
| | Number in thousands | | | | |
| Episodes of persons injured----- | 74,164 | 39,653 | 34,511 | 45,721 | 25,227 |
| Episodes of persons injured involving 1 or more product types----- | 56,302 | 30,822 | 25,481 | 34,952 | 20,140 |
| Number of instances product type involved in episodes of persons injured----- | 69,502 | 38,432 | 31,070 | 43,182 | 25,477 |

Table 9. Percent distribution of times a type of product was involved in episodes of persons injured by selected characteristics, according to type of product: United States, 1975

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in the technical notes]

| Selected characteristic | Housewares, nonpowered | Home furnishings and fixtures | Home workshop apparatus, tools, and attachments | Packages and containers for household products | Sports and recreational equipment | Personal use items | Home structures and construction materials | Motor vehicles (including vehicle parts) | Foods | Prescribed medicines |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|-------|----------------------|
| | Percent distribution | | | | | | | | | |
| All episodes ¹ ----- | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| <u>Sex</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male----- | *39.9 | 48.1 | 94.3 | 52.7 | 72.9 | 36.0 | 56.1 | 50.7 | 33.0 | 22.4 |
| Female----- | 60.0 | 51.9 | *5.6 | 47.3 | 27.1 | 64.0 | 43.9 | 49.3 | 66.9 | 77.6 |
| <u>Age</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 17 years----- | *19.0 | 34.8 | *11.7 | 29.2 | 60.9 | 43.1 | 36.4 | 17.9 | *17.3 | 29.1 |
| 17-44 years----- | 60.4 | 33.7 | 70.4 | 57.1 | 34.8 | 41.3 | 34.5 | 57.9 | 53.5 | 48.6 |
| 45 years and over----- | *20.5 | 31.6 | *17.9 | *13.7 | *4.3 | *15.6 | 29.1 | 24.1 | 29.3 | 22.3 |
| <u>Family income²</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$10,000----- | 50.5 | 53.5 | 44.5 | 41.8 | 32.8 | 45.7 | 44.2 | 38.5 | 38.4 | 50.6 |
| \$10,000-\$14,999----- | *20.8 | 21.9 | 25.2 | *16.7 | 22.0 | *18.7 | 24.5 | 19.5 | 31.6 | 26.8 |
| \$15,000 or more----- | 28.7 | 24.6 | 30.3 | 41.5 | 45.3 | 35.6 | 31.3 | 42.0 | 30.0 | 22.6 |
| <u>Geographic region</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast----- | *18.0 | 19.5 | 28.9 | *23.9 | 22.0 | 15.5 | 19.2 | 13.8 | *14.7 | 21.1 |
| North Central----- | *23.1 | 21.9 | *24.0 | *25.0 | 34.4 | 29.9 | 31.6 | 27.2 | *19.6 | 25.5 |
| South----- | 47.0 | 39.3 | 28.4 | *27.3 | 22.5 | 27.4 | 28.0 | 35.8 | 38.0 | 27.6 |
| West----- | 11.9 | 19.2 | *18.7 | *23.8 | 21.1 | 27.3 | 21.2 | 23.2 | 27.8 | 25.8 |
| <u>Place of residence</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| SMSA, central city----- | *23.9 | 36.8 | 24.3 | *26.6 | 28.0 | 36.2 | 32.0 | 29.9 | 25.2 | 40.4 |
| SMSA, not central city----- | 35.9 | 27.6 | 39.2 | 43.2 | 42.2 | 35.7 | 36.6 | 44.1 | 34.3 | 35.3 |
| Outside SMSA----- | 40.2 | 35.5 | 36.4 | 30.2 | 29.8 | 28.0 | 31.4 | 25.9 | 40.5 | 24.3 |
| <u>Days of restricted activity</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| None----- | 35.6 | 36.5 | 33.3 | 35.6 | 36.3 | 32.9 | 43.4 | 38.2 | 39.2 | 35.7 |
| 1 or more----- | 64.4 | 63.5 | 66.7 | 64.4 | 63.7 | 67.1 | 56.6 | 61.8 | 60.8 | 64.3 |
| <u>Place treated³</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emergency room----- | 54.0 | 45.7 | 53.4 | 43.4 | 57.2 | 42.7 | 52.9 | 61.6 | 40.9 | *12.9 |
| Not at emergency room----- | 46.1 | 54.3 | 46.6 | 56.6 | 42.8 | 57.3 | 47.1 | 38.4 | 59.0 | 87.1 |

¹Includes unknown family income, injuries not medically attended, and unknown place of medical attention.²Excludes unknown family income.³Excludes episodes not medically attended and unknown if person visited an emergency room.

*Numbers preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of more than 30 percent; estimates given solely for combining with other cells.

duct involvement categories produced too few sample cases, based on a 2-week reference period, for extensive cross-classification of the data. Table 9 shows percent distributions according to the larger product groups and a reduced set of variables. A more inclusive list of product types and a more extensive cross-classification of variables would produce a table including relatively unreliable estimates.

At this writing, plans are underway to attempt a report on product involvement using all of the data from the 6-month reference period. While such a procedure would reduce the variances of the estimates, it will tend to underestimate the true number of times various product types were involved in episodes of persons injured because of the large memory decay associated with a 6-month reference period.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The estimates shown in this report are based on data obtained in household interviews in a continuing nationwide survey. Each week a probability sample of households is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information about the health and other characteristics of each member of the household in the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. During 1975 there were about 40,000 interviewed households containing about 116,000 persons.

The appendixes of the 1975 *Current Estimates* (Series 10, No. 115) should be consulted

for a more detailed discussion of the sample design (appendix I), definitions of certain terms used in the report (appendix II), and the questionnaire used during 1975 (excluding the accident supplement) (appendix III).

As noted above, the estimates shown in this report are based on a sample of the population. The approximate standard errors of the estimates of episodes of persons injured are shown in table I; the approximate standard errors for the percents are shown in table II.

Table I. Standard errors of estimates of aggregates

| Size of estimate in thousands | Standard error in thousands |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 100..... | 73 |
| 300..... | 126 |
| 600..... | 178 |
| 1,000..... | 230 |
| 5,000..... | 519 |
| 10,000..... | 741 |
| 20,000..... | 1,067 |
| 30,000..... | 1,331 |
| 40,000..... | 1,563 |
| 50,000..... | 1,777 |
| 60,000..... | 1,978 |
| 70,000..... | 2,170 |

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percents, of estimated percentages

| Base of percentage in thousands | Estimated percentage | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|----------|------|
| | 2 or 98 | 5 or 95 | 10 or 90 | 20 or 80 | 50 |
| 100 | 10.2 | 15.8 | 21.8 | 29.1 | 36.3 |
| 300 | 5.9 | 9.1 | 12.6 | 16.8 | 21.0 |
| 600 | 4.2 | 6.5 | 8.9 | 11.9 | 14.8 |
| 1,000 | 3.2 | 5.0 | 6.9 | 9.2 | 11.5 |
| 5,000 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 5.1 |
| 10,000 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 3.6 |
| 20,000 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.6 |
| 30,000 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| 40,000 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| 50,000 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| 60,000 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| 70,000 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 |

SYMBOLS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Data not available----- | --- |
| Category not applicable----- | ... |
| Quantity zero----- | |
| Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05----- | 0.0 |
| Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision----- | * |

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