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VITAL SIGNS

# Hazards: Injuries From Falling Furniture Are Rising

By ERIC NAGOURNEY  
Published: May 4, 2009

Injuries involving overturned televisions, shelves and other household items are on the rise, raising questions about whether enough is being done to make them safer, researchers said Monday.

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[Injuries From Furniture Tip-overs Among Children and Adolescents in the United States, 1990-2007 \(Clinical Pediatrics\)](#)

After looking at information about furniture tip-over injuries for an 18-year period, the researchers said they had found a 40 percent increase. On average, they said, more than 14,000 Americans a year are injured.

The researchers, at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, looked at injuries involving 12 types of furniture, including desks, dressers and cabinets. [The study appears](#) in the journal Clinical Pediatrics.

Most of the injuries were to children 6 and younger, and the most common involved televisions, which are sometimes placed on furniture not intended to hold them.

In many cases, children pulled furniture onto themselves, perhaps when they were reaching for something. In other injuries, the furniture fell because children bumped into it or were climbing it.

Many of the injuries could have been prevented with simple steps like strapping TVs to their stands and bracketing shelves and dressers to the wall. Parents should also avoid putting things that a child might want on top of furniture, the study said.

A version of this article appeared in print on May 5, 2009, on page D6 of the New York edition.

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