

# Study: Furniture and TV tip-overs send a child to a U.S. emergency department every 46 minutes

*Experts say current standards are inadequate, call for strengthened mandates for stability and injury prevention*

**\*Note: Embargoed until Monday August 26, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. eastern**

*Nationwide Children's Hospital*

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## NEWS PACKAGE

<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	A NEW STUDY REVEALS A COMMON HOUSEHOLD DANGER THAT SERIOUSLY INJURES THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EACH YEAR. COMING UP, WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	FROM COVERING ELECTRICAL OUTLETS TO BLOCKING ACCESS TO STAIRS, PARENTS TAKE A LOT OF PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP THEIR KIDS SAFE AT HOME. BUT A NEW STUDY FINDS AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED HOUSEHOLD DANGER STILL POSES A MAJOR THREAT TO CHILDREN'S SAFETY. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE INJURED BY FURNITURE AND T-V TIP-OVERS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE.
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</b> <b>:00 - :03</b> Shot of small child pulling toy on bookshelf	(Nats - Sound) :02  TO YOU, IT'S A BOOKSHELF. BUT TO A SMALL CHILD, IT MAY LOOK LIKE A WAY TO REACH THAT TOY THEY WANT. :05
<b>CG: Gary Smith, MD, DrPH</b> <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>	<i>"They're curious, they don't recognize danger, and they often see furniture as a climbing opportunity and they pull the furniture down on themselves."</i> :07
Shots of baby playing with toys on shelf (blur for graphic) <b>Graphic: Furniture and TV tip-over injuries study</b> <b>-560,000 children treated in EDs</b>	A NEW STUDY <sup>1</sup> BY THE CENTER FOR INJURY RESEARCH AND POLICY AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUND THAT 560,000 CHILDREN WERE TREATED IN U.S. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY

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<p><b>over 30 years</b></p> <p>Shot of small child playing near shelf</p> <p><b>Dr. Smith (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shot of young girl grabbing book off shelf</p> <p><b>Graphic: Furniture and TV tip-over injuries study</b>  <b>-11,000 children treated in EDs in 2019</b>  <b>-One every 46 minutes</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Smith (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Animation of parent removing objects from dresser</p> <p>Animation of anchors on dresser and TV preventing tip-overs</p> <p>Shot of parent taking anchor out of packaging</p> <p>Shots of parent drilling anchor to wall</p> <p>Shots of parent attaching strap on wall anchor</p> <p><b>Dr. Smith (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Dr. Smith</p> <p>Shots of baby playing with book</p> <p><b>(PACKAGE END) -----</b></p> <p><b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>FURNITURE AND T-V TIP-OVERS OVER A THIRTY-YEAR PERIOD, WITH CHILDREN UNDER SIX ACCOUNTING FOR SEVENTY PERCENT OF THOSE INJURIES. :16</p> <p><i>“Young children are at especially high risk for injuries to the head and neck. In fact, children under six are almost twice as likely to have a concussion or a closed head injury compared to older children.” :12</i></p> <p>WHILE THE NUMBERS HAVE DECREASED IN RECENT YEARS, DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE TRANSITION TO LIGHTER FLAT-SCREEN T-VS, THEY REMAIN MUCH TOO HIGH.</p> <p>IN 2019, MORE THAN ELEVEN THOUSAND CHILDREN WERE TREATED FOR FURNITURE AND T-V TIP-OVER INJURIES, ABOUT ONE EVERY FORTY-SIX MINUTES. :14</p> <p><i>“It happens quickly, and these injuries can be life threatening.” :03</i></p> <p>PARENTS CAN HELP PREVENT INJURIES BY USING DEVICES DESIGNED TO ANCHOR FURNITURE AND T-VS TO THE WALL.</p> <p>REMOVING OBJECTS FROM THE TOP OF FURNITURE LIKE TOYS OR STUFFED ANIMALS THAT MIGHT TEMPT A CHILD TO CLIMB OR PULL THEMSELVES UP TO REACH THEM IS ALSO IMPORTANT. :13</p> <p>(NATS - parent drilling anchor into wall) :01</p> <p><i>“While straps and anchors are absolutely important and parents should use them, we need to do much more to prevent these injuries. And that's why we need manufacturers to step up and to make their products more stable to begin with.” :13</i></p> <p>EXPERTS ARE NOW CALLING ON MANUFACTURERS AND POLICY-MAKERS TO ADOPT CHANGES TO MAKE FURNITURE MORE STABLE TO HELP PREVENT FUTURE TRAGEDIES.</p> <p>AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :08</p> <hr/> <p>CURRENT STABILITY STANDARDS<sup>2</sup> DO NOT ACCOUNT FOR COMMON HOUSEHOLD CONDITIONS LIKE CARPETED SURFACES AND DRAWERS FILLED WITH OBJECTS OR CLOTHING.</p>
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	<p>AND ALTHOUGH TIP PREVENTION DEVICES, SUCH AS ANCHOR STRAPS, ARE PART OF THESE STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN FURNITURE, MANUFACTURERS OFTEN DON'T INCLUDE THEM AND PARENTS MAY NOT HAVE THE TOOLS OR SKILLS TO INSTALL THEM.</p> <p>A BILL IS CURRENTLY MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS THAT WOULD REQUIRE DEVELOPMENT OF STRICTER STANDARDS THAT WOULD BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TIP-OVERS.</p>
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> <b>Share it! Suggested tweet:</b></p>	<p>Despite current safety standards, a new study by <a href="#">@CIRPatNCH</a> finds a child is treated in a U.S. emergency department for an injury caused by a furniture or TV tip-over every 46 minutes. Experts are calling for strengthened mandates to make furniture more stable to prevent future tragedies. <a href="https://bit.ly/3md7lxP">https://bit.ly/3md7lxP</a></p>
<p> <b>Suggested post:</b></p>	<p>A new study by researchers at the <a href="#">Center for Injury Research and Policy</a> at <a href="#">Nationwide Children's Hospital</a> finds thousands of children are treated in U.S. emergency departments for furniture and TV tip-over injuries each year, despite current safety standards. Experts offer tips to help parents prevent injuries and are calling for strengthened stability standards for furniture used for storing clothes. <a href="https://bit.ly/3md7lxP">https://bit.ly/3md7lxP</a></p>

## EXTRA BITES

<p><b>CG: Gary Smith, MD, DrPh</b> Nationwide Children's Hospital</p>	<p>Smith says small children are injured while climbing on furniture:</p> <p><i>"They often see dressers and other types of furniture as climbing opportunities. They pull out a drawer and use it as a step, and that often leads to the tipping over of the furniture on top of them, and that can result in very serious injury and even death."</i>:14</p> <p>Smith says safety standards need to be strengthened and enforced:</p> <p><i>"Safety education, warning labels, and the use of anti-tip devices such as straps, while very important, aren't enough. We need to strengthen, and then enforce, the current tip over standards for clothing storage units and TVs."</i>:19</p> <p>Smith says toys and attractive items should not be placed on furniture or TVs:</p> <p><i>"TV remote controls, toys, and other attractive items for young children should not be placed up on top of the TV</i></p>
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<p><b>CG: Gary Smith, MD,DrPh</b> Nationwide Children's Hospital</p>	<p><i>or on top of the furniture that's supporting a TV, because that will encourage children to climb up to try to reach them, and that may cause a tip over."</i>:14</p> <p>Smith says current voluntary safety standards are inadequate: <i>"The current voluntary standard for clothing units is woefully inadequate when it comes to its stability tests. It doesn't mimic the real world reality of where these units are installed in people's homes."</i>:15</p> <p>Smith says place TVs on furniture designed to support it and anchor both to the wall: <i>"If a parent decides to place a TV on top of furniture, they should use a TV stand or an entertainment center. 40:14 Those types of furniture are designed for that purpose and are more stable. They should then anchor both the TV and the furniture to the wall."</i>:16</p> <p>Smith say he hopes proposed policy changes are successful: <i>"A bill has recently passed the US House of Representatives and is awaiting action in the Senate. We also have a new rule that's been proposed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to increase the stability of clothing storage units. We'd really like to see both of those efforts succeed."</i>:17</p>
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### References

<sup>1</sup>*Furniture and Television Tip-over Injuries to Children Treated in United States Emergency Departments, Injury Epidemiology, Aug. 26, 2021*. Online:  
<https://injejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-021-00346-6>

<sup>2</sup>*ASTM Releases Updates to Clothing Storage Standard, SGS, August 26, 2019*. Online:  
<https://www.sgs.com/en/news/2019/08/safeguards-12319-astm-releases-updates-to-clothing-storage-standard>

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