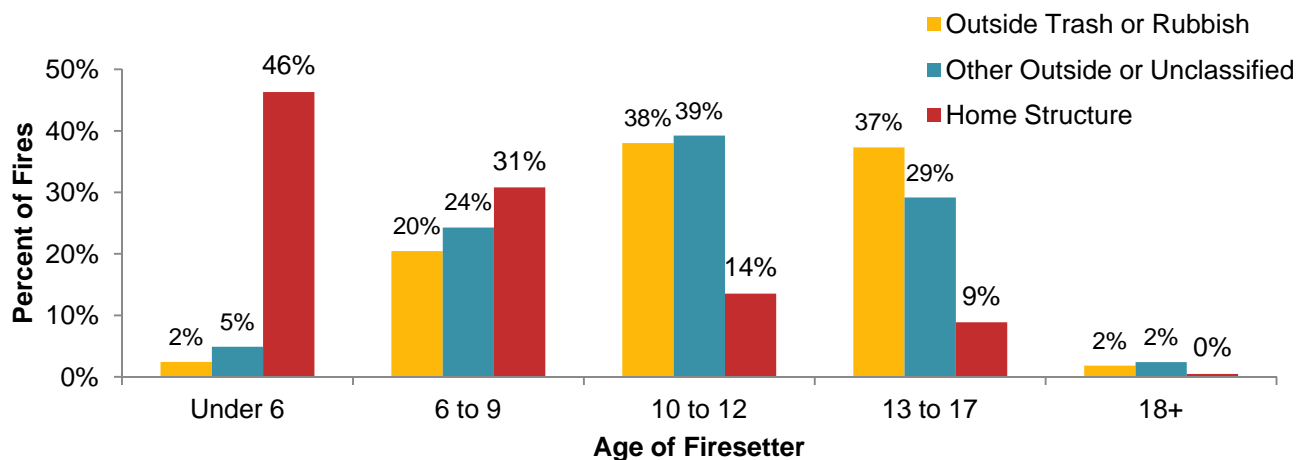


## Children Playing With Fire Fact Sheet

Fires started by children playing accounted for an average of 56,300 fires with associated losses of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries and \$286 million in direct property damage per year between 2005 -2009. These included:

- 25,100 outside or unclassified fires
- 17,900 outside trash or rubbish fires
- 12,500 structure fires
- 900 vehicle fires

**Structure Fires Caused by Children Playing  
By Age (when Age Cited as a Human Factor Involved in Ignition) 2005-2009**



**Younger children were more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside**

- Males were more likely to engage in fire-play than females, as 83% of home structure fires and 93% of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when age was coded as a factor
- Lighters were the heat source in half (50%) of child-playing fires in homes
- 40% of child-playing home fires began in a bedroom

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT COMBINED WITH POSITIVE MESSAGING WORKS FOR CHILDREN:**

NFPA recently contracted with the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy to study the best way to communicate safety messages to children 4-9 years old. The study found that videos featuring positively framed messages are more effective than negatively framed messages and that when parents discuss media content with their children, the children learn more. You can learn more at <http://www.nfpa.org/messaging>

Additional resources can be found at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

