



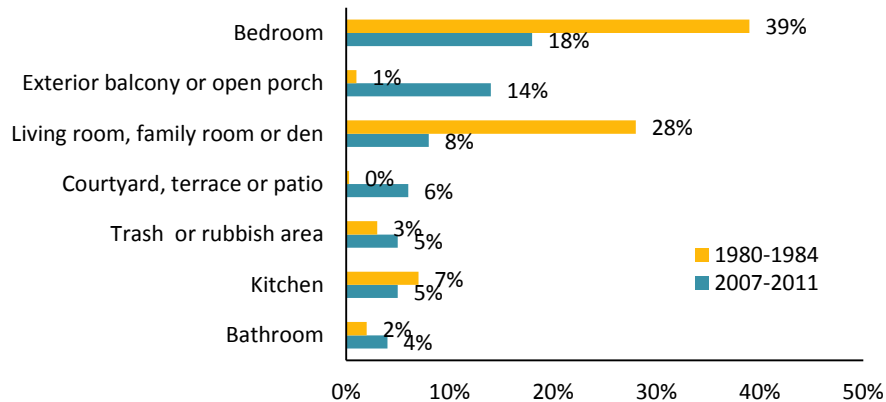
Changes in Area of Origin In Home Structure Fires Started by Smoking Materials

As concern about the health effects of second-hand smoke has increased, the number of households banning indoor smoking has grown. A recent study by King, Patel and Babb noted that in 1992-1993, 43% of all households, and 10% of households with at least one smoker, said that no one was allowed to smoke inside the home. In 2010-2011, 83% of all households and almost half (46%) of all households with one or more smokers banned indoor smoking.¹ NFPA also encourages people who smoke to smoke outside to reduce the risk of a deadly fire.

Not surprisingly, changes in where people smoke have been accompanied by changes in where home structure fires caused by smoking materials are most likely to start. The graph below compares the leading areas of fire origin for these fires for two-five year periods: 1980-1984, the earliest period of available data, and 2007-2011.² There has been a definite increase in smoking material fires starting in outdoor areas of the home.

- Only 1% of home smoking material fires started on the exterior balcony or open porch and less than 1% started in a courtyard, terrace or patio in 1980-1984, compared to 14% and 6% in these areas, respectively, in 2007-2011.
- In 2007-2011, the percentage of home smoking fires starting in the bedroom (18%) was less than half the 39% in 1980-1984.
- Home structure fires from smoking materials were more than three times as likely to have begun in the living room, family room or den (28%) in 1980-1984 as in 2007-2011 (8%).

**Leading Areas of Origin in Home Structure Fires
Started by Smoking Materials: 1980-1984 vs. 2007-2011**



Careful disposal of smoking materials is as important outside as inside. Do not throw out cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, or similar items—they can easily catch fire. The resulting fire can spread to the home’s siding, deck or porch and from there, into the home itself.

¹ Brian A. King, Roshni Patel and Stephen D. Babb, “[Prevalence of Smokefree Home Rules — United States, 1992–1993 and 2010–2011](#),” *MMWR*, September 5, 2014 / 63(35);765-769

² Estimates were derived by NFPA from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and NFPA’s annual fire department experience survey.