
FIRE FACT NO. 052 CHECKLIST(s) :

TITLE : SCHOOL FIRE STATISTICS

CHECKLIST ITEM(s) :

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Educational facilities account for approximately 1% of the reported structure fires each year. Both Kansas State Fire Marshal Fire inspectors and fire inspectors with local jurisdictions inspect educational facilities. These inspections ensure the facility exits allow immediate evacuation and the detection systems are operating properly. The success of these inspections can be reflected in the limited number of injuries compared to the number of threatening fires or smoke. There were 31 fires that got beyond the room of origin during the years 2000 - 2004. There were 238 fires *reported* during this period. Over the past ten years we have averaged between 50 and 70 reported school fires per year. There were 13 fire service injuries and 2 civilian injuries reported during this period. Eleven of the thirteen fire service injuries and one of the two civilian injuries were during non-school hours.

Set fires (incendiary/child playing) accounted for 36% of the educational fires reported. Inspections will not prevent these fires. Sixty-four percent of the set fires occurred during school hours when the potential for loss of life or injury is the greatest. Sedgwick, Johnson, Riley, Douglas, Shawnee, and Wyandotte counties had 59% of all reported educational facility fires. These same six counties had 71% of the set fires.

Seventy percent of the set fires were in bathrooms, assembly areas, and hallways. Most were set in trash cans and were set with trash paper and matches or lighters.

Dollar losses over the past five years have fluctuated from a low of \$117,000 in 2001 to over \$950,000 in 2002.

The other 64% of the fires in educational facilities were caused by electrical faults (12%), dryers (4%), cutting/welding torches (6%), cooking (8%), heating (6%), and other/unknown (28%). Smoking used to be a major cause but in the past five years, no fires were attributed to smoking.

The percentage of fires per each type of educational facility is as follows: Jr/Sr high school (39%), elementary (20%), college/trade (17%), day care (8%), and other schools (13%). The state map reflects the number of fires reported per each county over the past five years. The number of reported fires is greatly exaggerated towards the eastern half of the state. This tends to follow the general population density of Kansas.



Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

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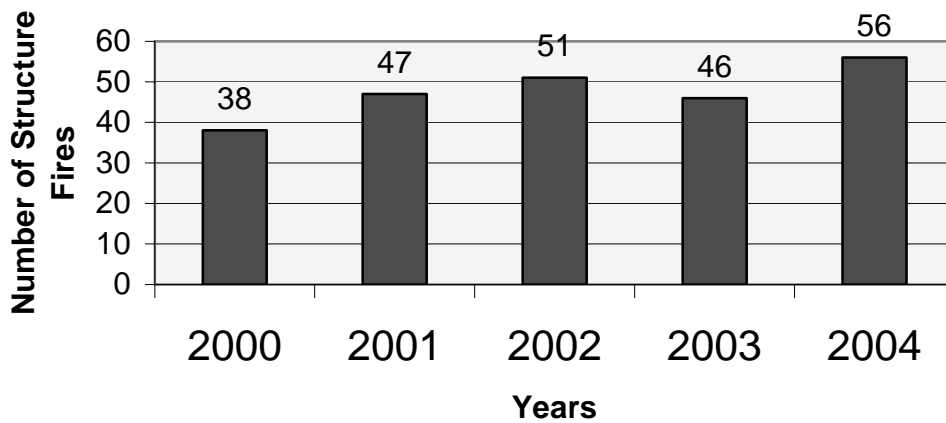
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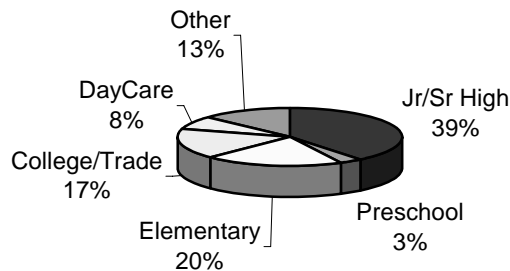
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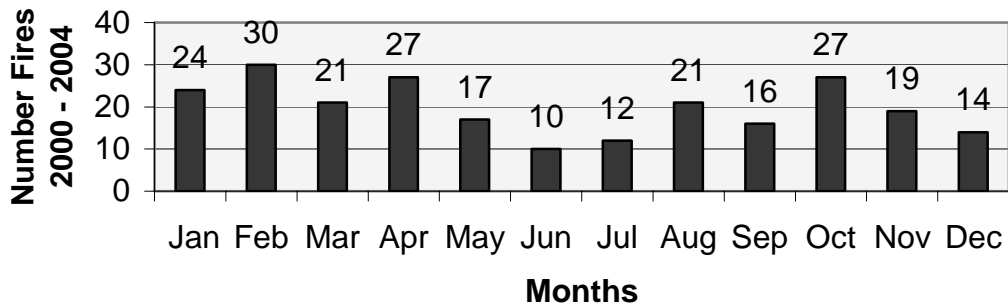
School Structure Fires 2000 - 2004



Educational Property Fires 2000 - 2004



School Structure Fires By Month



Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

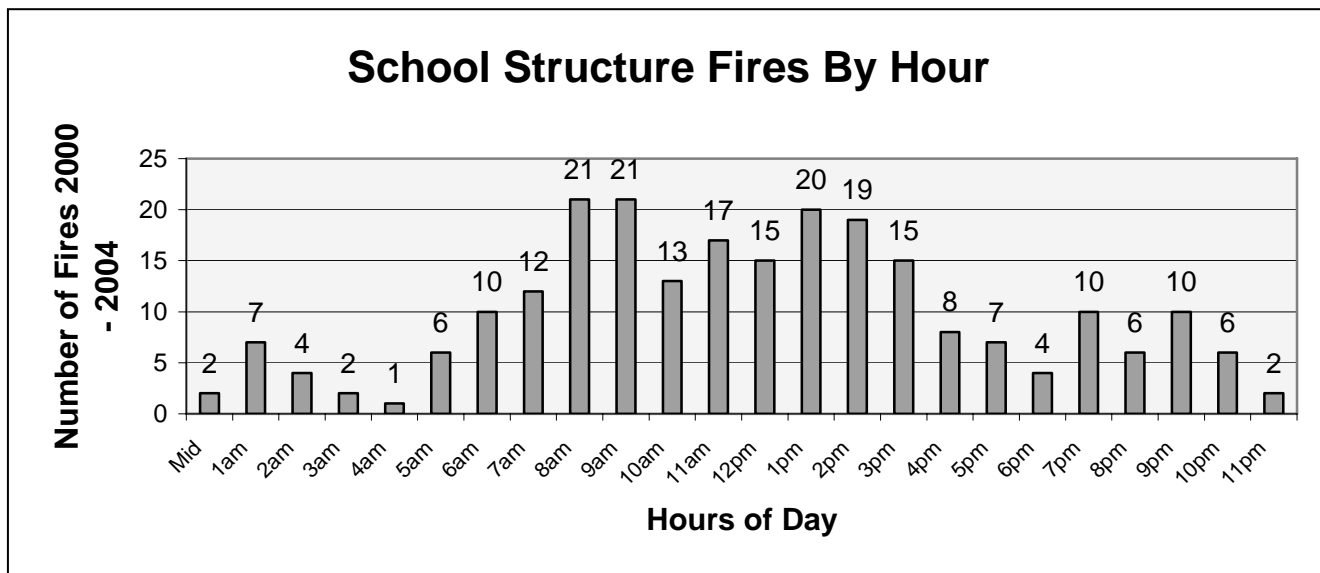
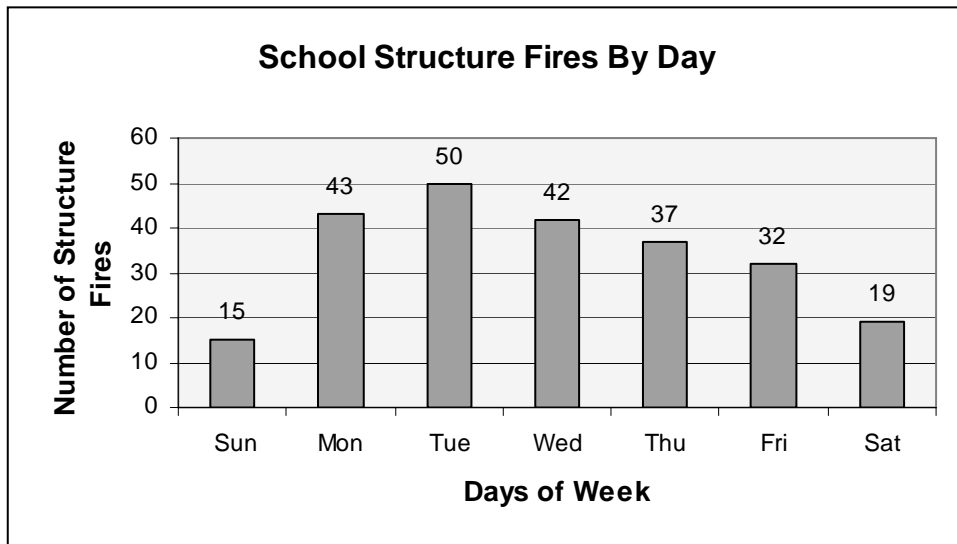
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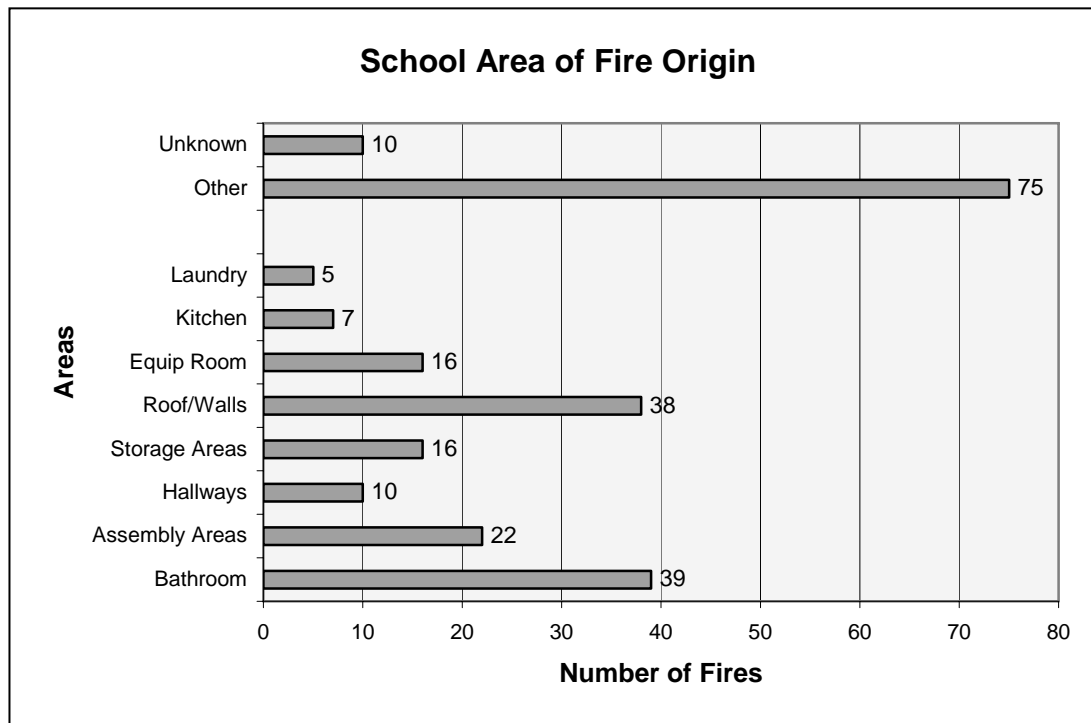
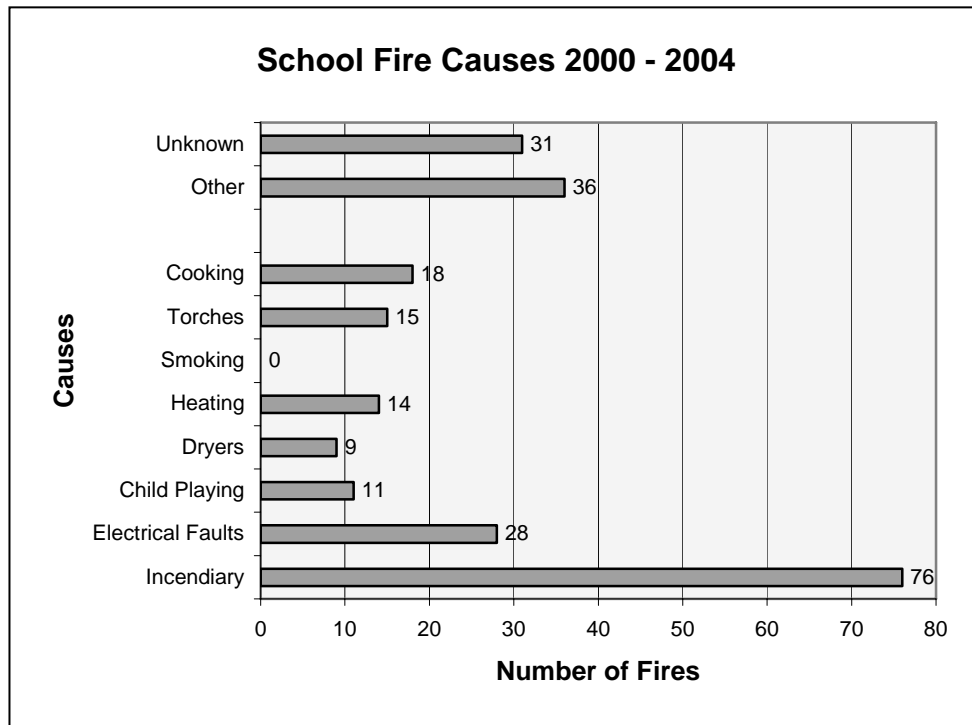
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School Fires By County 2000 - 2004

