Measuring the Impact of Voluntary Consensus Standards: UL’s Data Experience

Casey Granata
UL Standards
October 28, 2021
UL Standards – At a Glance

- **Over 400 UL STPS**
- **Over 1600 Standards Published**
- **Over 120 Years of Experience in Standards Development**
- **Over 4000 Volunteers Actively Participating in UL Standards Development**
- **86 Dedicated Standards Professionals Around the World**
- **30+ Countries Represented on UL STPS and Committees**
- **Over 4000 Volunteers Actively Participating in UL Standards Development**

World Standards Week
Case Study Approach

• In March 2021, UL Standards launched an initiative that was tasked to identify effective ways to measure the impact of UL and ULC standards and other published content focusing on the prevention of injuries and deaths.

• During 2021, the initiative focused on three specific standards in our case study:
  - ANSI/CAN/UL 325, ANSI/CAN/UL Standard for Door, Drapery, Gate, Louver, and Window Operators and Systems
  - ANSI/UL 859, Standard for Household Electric Personal Grooming Appliances
  - ANSI/CAN/UL 2272, Standard for Electrical Systems for Personal E-Mobility Devices

• UL Standards launched a complete case study approach utilizing data avenues from the following sources, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s Clearinghouse and National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).
Three Limitations with Available Outcome Data

1. Limited coverage of adverse incidents
   • Minor injuries are not captured in NEISS

2. Limited usefulness of incident counts
   • Raw counts can be deceiving

3. Weaknesses in inferring effects
   • Unable to demonstrate cause and effect
1. Limited coverage of adverse incidents:
   • Use all available incident data including “non-injury” incidents as reported through the Clearinghouse

2. Limited usefulness of incident counts
   • Include proportion of incident statistics; Seek industry participation in the future to get market data on number of products sold

3. Weaknesses in inferring cause and effect
   • Include additional formative assessment measures designed to shed light on process by which standards eventually affect the design and construction of products in the market.