

**Title of Intervention:** Redesigning of Furniture to Prevent Tipping

**Intervention Strategies:** Environments and Policies

**Purpose of the Intervention:** To prevent the tipping of furniture made for public use

**Population:** Customers of a national postal utility

**Setting:** A national postal utility; community-based

**Partners:** None mentioned

**Intervention Description:**

- Environments and Policies: Furniture was assessed for overturning forces, tipping angle, sliding forces and whether or not the furniture could withstand a weight of 91 kg at a distance of 310 mm from the furniture edge. Concourse furniture used by the public was redesigned and tested before releasing it for field use.

**Theory:** Not mentioned

**Resources Required:**

- Staff/Volunteers: Not mentioned
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Not mentioned
- Space: Not mentioned
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Newly designed furniture
- Evaluation: Telephone interviews

**Evaluation:**

- Design: Observational
- Methods and Measures:
  - Public interaction with concourse furniture items was evaluated by observing and classifying examples of interaction directly and by asking those who regularly observe public interactions to recall instances of potentially unsafe interaction. After furniture was redesigned, it was tested before being sent out for public use.

**Outcomes:**

- Short Term Impact: All furniture for public use was fastened to the floor to prevent tipping. All furniture met specific weight requirements.
- Long Term Impact: No reports of tipping accidents were received (3 years after implementation started).

**Maintenance:** Not mentioned

**Lessons Learned:** This intervention demonstrates how ergonomics techniques can be used to develop safe furniture for public use.

**Citation(s):**

Drury, C. G., S. J. Czaja, et al. (1998). "Furniture tipping accidents: redesign for prevention." *Accid Anal Prev* 30(5): 625-39.