

Summary of Facts & What Works to Prevent Children Injury Hospitalization

<p>Falls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leading cause of hospitalization for all age groups under 15 - Hospitalizations due to falls from beds or chairs happen most in children less than 5 years (65%) <p>What works to prevent injury: not using baby walkers with wheels, education and using window stops / guards to avoid falls from windows, putting infant seats and car seats on the floor</p>
<p>Bicycle Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2nd leading cause of hospitalizations for children aged 1 - 14 years - Traumatic brain injury account for 21% of all bicycle related hospital admissions - An overall decline in hospitalizations may be in part due to changes in helmets laws and introduction of helmet laws - 89% of bicycle related hospitalizations are non-traffic related <p>What works to prevent injury: wearing bike helmets, keeping children under 10 years off the road, reducing traffic speeds</p>
<p>Poisoning Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poisonings are the 2nd leading cause of injury hospitalization for children aged 1 to 4 years - Medication is involved in 63% of all unintentional poisonings for children under 15 years - Children under 5 account for 79% of hospitalizations <p>What works to prevent injury: using child-resistant packaging, keeping all potential poisons in their original containers-out of reach and locked up, using a poison centre for reliable information</p>
<p>Playground Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Playground related injuries are the 2nd leading cause of injury hospitalizations for children aged 5 to 9 years - About 12% of children are hospitalized for serious head injuries; 98% of injuries to upper/ lower extremities are fractures or dislocations - Boys are more likely than girls to suffer injuries of any type, which holds true for playground injuries <p>What works to prevent injury: improving playgrounds to meet current standards & ensuring regular inspection, removing strangulation hazards, closely supervising children under 5 years of age, improving the safety of home playgrounds</p>
<p>Burns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Almost 60 children are hospitalized every year because of fire and other burns - Children aged 1 - 4 yrs are at the highest risk for hospitalization (and account for 53% of admissions due to fires and other burns) - 60% of fire / burn hospitalizations are due to scalds <p>What works to prevent injury: reducing water temperature to 49°, preventing access to hot liquids/hot appliances, regulating products that increase the risk of fires and burns, installing smoke alarms on every level of the home and in every sleeping areas</p>
<p>Child passengers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic Canada has a significantly lower death rate for children in motor vehicle crashes than the overall national rate - The peak months for child passenger hospitalizations are July and August <p>What works to prevent injury: using occupant restraints (car seats, booster seats, seat belts) correctly, using legislation, education and enforcement to increase the correct use of restraints, keeping children in the back seat of vehicles</p>
<p>All-terrain vehicle, off road vehicle and snowmobile safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children are at particular risk because they lack knowledge, physical development and cognitive/motor skills to safely operate the vehicle - Between 2001 and 2005, 46 children under 14 years of age were hospitalized due to an ATV/ORV related incident; 11 were hospitalized due to a snowmobile related incident <p>What works to prevent injury: keeping children aged 16 and under off ATVs / ORVs</p>
<p>Threats to breathing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority (78%) of children treated for threats to breathing are under age 5 - Threats to breathing are the second leading cause of injury hospitalization to children ages less than one year - Almost all hospitalizations are from choking on food/objects, others are related to mechanical causes (i.e. strangulation by blind cord) <p>What works to prevent injury: keeping choking hazards away from children < 3, eliminating/modifying items in the home that could cause strangulation, ensuring children have safe sleeping place (e.g. free of soft bedding), creating/enforcing legislation (i.e. regulations for cribs/cradles)</p>

For more information about child and youth injury prevention

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