



Unintentional injuries to Children

WHEREAS, each year 1,000 children die and 80,000 are injured in the United States by residential fire, burns, scald burns, and contact burns due to the absence of smoke detectors, failure to plan and practice fire escape routes, lack of following safety precautions in the kitchen, and hot water tanks set too high; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, just under 600 children between 0-4 years of age died and 133,000 were injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes when correct use of a safety seat reduces a child's chance of being killed or injured by 70%; and

WHEREAS, each year 140 children die and more than 3 million are treated in the emergency department for injuries related to falls, many as the result of using infant walkers or the absence of window guards; and

WHEREAS, bicycle crashes result in approximately 250 deaths and 400,000 injuries annually and bicycle helmets prevent 52-60% of bike-related injury deaths as well as 74-85% of nonfatal head and scalp injuries and up to 50% of other injuries; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 children drown and 4,000 are hospitalized for near-drowning due to lack of adequate fencing around pools, supervision in pools and tubs, and limited use of life preservers; and

WHEREAS, in-line skating (roller-blading) injuries accounted for 18,640 emergency room visits in 1993 (and this number is likely on the rise) and most in-line skating injuries are caused by lack of protective gear, lack of skill or coordination, and risky behavior; and

WHEREAS, 40,000 children and adolescents are injured in pedestrian traffic incidents each year, due to busy streets, lack of safe play areas away from busy streets and developmental inability to navigate busy streets; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100 children die annually and 1 million are injured by poisonous substances and 86% of these were treated over the phone by poison control centers which prevented costly hospitalization,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED: That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago engage in policy and program initiatives that reduce unintentional injuries to children.