



Unintentional Injuries to Children

WHEREAS, each year more than 5,200 children and adolescents in the United States die and 5.1 million visit a hospital Emergency Department from an unintentional injury; and*

WHEREAS, in the U.S. more than 2,100 children years of age 17 and younger died and 220,000 were injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes when correct use of a safety seat, and/or seat belts and new driver programs and licensing restrictions reduce a child or adolescents chance of being killed or injured in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, bicycle crashes result in approximately 75 deaths and 102,000 injuries annually for children and adolescents and bicycle helmets reduce the odds of a serious brain injury by 50% and the odds of head, face, or neck injury by 33% ¹; and

WHEREAS, more than 440 children and adolescents die and 23,000 children and adolescents are injured in pedestrian traffic incidents each year, due to busy streets, hazards in the built environment, lack of safe play areas away from busy streets and developmental inability to navigate busy streets; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 children die and 80,000 are injured 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, each year 54 children die and more than 1.7 million are treated in the emergency department for injuries related to falls, many as the result of the absence of window safety precautions, lack of adequate playground surfacing and lack of protective equipment while playing sports and

WHEREAS, more than 800 fatal drownings occur and more than 7,000 children are treated in hospital ED's for non-fatal drownings due to lack of availability and usage of learn to swim programs, lack of adequate fencing around pools, inadequate adult supervision in pools and tubs, and limited use of life preservers; and

WHEREAS, approximately 220 children die annually and more than 1 million nonfatal poisonings occur ¹ due to lack of safe storage and lack of usage of carbon monoxide detectors, more than 70% of these were treated over the phone by poison control centers which prevented costly hospitalization and ED visits; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3,500 infants under one year of age die from sudden unexpected death syndrome annually due, in part, to lack of adherence to recommended safe sleep practices; and

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.

*unless otherwise noted statistics are from:

Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. Data, children ages 17 and younger. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

¹ SafeKids Worldwide. (2020). Retrieved from www.safekids.org.