

## PREVENTING CHILDHOOD INJURIES

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children age 1 and older in the United States and homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for children 1 to 9 years of age.
- In 2001, a total of 1,579 child passengers 0 to 14 years of age died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States, and more than 250,000 sustained injuries requiring treatment in an emergency department.
- In 2001, an estimated 903,000 U.S. children experienced or were at risk for child abuse or neglect. An estimated 1,300 children died from such maltreatment.
- Each year between 20% and 25% of all children sustain a severe injury requiring medical attention, missing school, or bed rest.

### WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

#### *Booster Seats*

CDC-supported extramural research evaluated the effectiveness of a multifaceted community-based booster seat campaign to increase booster seat use among child passengers in motor vehicles. Fifteen months after the campaign began booster seat use nearly doubled to 26% in communities where it had been implemented.

The University of Washington was funded for a 3-year study to use ethnographic research methods to develop a deeper understanding of behavioral barriers to booster seat use among Latinos in Washington State. These results will be used to develop a tailored community-based intervention. The long-term goal of this study is to disseminate proven child safety technology to Latino families to better protect children in motor vehicle crashes.

#### *Child Maltreatment Prevention*

CDC has funded the University of South Carolina to implement and evaluate a multilevel parenting program to prevent child maltreatment by improving positive parenting skills. With this \$1.5 million grant, the university is implementing the *Triple-P: Positive Parenting Program* in communities throughout South Carolina. This is an important step toward understanding the effect of parental skill building on the problem of child maltreatment.

CDC is also funding three state organizations to form statewide collaborations: Prevent Child Abuse Georgia; Project Pathfinder, Inc., in Minnesota; and Massachusetts Citizens for Children. These collaborative partnerships will develop and implement child sexual abuse prevention programs that focus on adult and community responsibility for prevention. The funding will support projects that use existing infrastructures to broaden their prevention efforts.

#### *Sports and Recreational Injuries*

CDC recently conducted a study to estimate the impact of sports and recreational injuries in the United States. Sixty-eight percent of sports and recreational injuries occur among 5 to 24 year olds, accounting for more than one-fifth of all emergency department visits in this age group.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Parents and caregivers play a critical role in the prevention of injuries among children. CDC is examining the dimensions of age-appropriate, adequate parental and caregiver supervision to better understand the role it has in preventing unintentional injuries among children. Results will also help inform parenting programs working to prevent child abuse and neglect.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/program](http://www.cdc.gov/program)

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