

NACCHO Injury Prevention Newsletter

News, Resources, and Events for Local Health Departments

Featured Topic: Baby Proofing the Home

February 2010

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Baby Proofing the Home



Home safety for infants and young children is often a pressing concern for parents. Children under 1 year of age have the highest rate of unintentional home injury deaths compared with all other childhood age groups at the rate of 12.19 per 100,000 infants. Children between 1 and 4 years of age have the highest rate of unintentional nonfatal home injuries with an annual rate of 3,965 per 100,000 children^[1].

Children's increasing and unstable mobility, coupled with

Related Organizations and Resources on Child Home Safety

[CDC Resources](#)

[Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)

[Home Safety Council](#)

[National Center for Healthy Housing](#)

[Safe Kids U.S.A.](#)

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their natural curiosity, makes them especially susceptible to getting hurt by everyday household objects and products. The primary concerns for infant and baby home safety include keeping chemicals out of reach, closely supervising babies around water, keeping children away from peeling paint and other potential sources of lead, clearing the home of plastic bags, small objects, and other choking/suffocation hazards, and preventing accidental falls and burns. Infants and young children must be closely monitored around water, even very small bodies of water, because they can drown very quickly.

Although these concerns are numerous and can often be overlooked, local health departments can educate parents and other caregivers and ensure they have the assistance necessary in making the home a safe place for their young children. Some interventions and tools used by health professionals to improve home safety for babies include home visiting, home safety checklists, and home safety kits.

[1] Home Safety Council. http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/AboutUs/Research/re_sohs_w009.asp

Featured Resource

CPSC Choking Awareness Posters

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) developed choking awareness posters to increase awareness among parents and caregivers about the potential hazards of small objects to young children. The posters warn parents to keep small objects like marbles, balloons, small balls, and coins out of reach of children.

The posters are available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded from the CPSC Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml04/04216.html>.

Featured Publication

Study on the Effectiveness of an Infant Home Safety Program



A randomized trial published in the June 2007 issue of the *International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion* tested an intervention aimed at addressing the risk of injury in infants 2-12 months of age. The intervention was a standardized home visit from a community health nurse. Parents in the control and intervention groups received a home safety kit, an instructional brochure, and a risk assessment checklist. Based on the results of the trial, the study authors concluded that home visitation may be a beneficial addition to the provision of safety tools and can increase its use by parents.

The full journal article can be accessed at
<http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Article0760.pdf>.

Conferences and Events

NACCHO Annual 2010 July 14-16, 2010 Memphis, TN

Online registration is now open for the NACCHO Annual 2010 Conference. The goal of the NACCHO Annual 2010 Conference is to enhance the ability of participants to create and build upon a forward-looking vision of local public health through disease prevention interventions and wellness promotion, elimination of health inequities among individuals and communities, and expanded leadership capacity within local health departments. Register early for the best prices!

For more information and to register, visit
<http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2010/index.cfm>

NSC Fact Sheet

National Safety Council Baby Proofing Fact Sheet

This National Safety Council publication provides practical tips for babyproofing the home. The fact sheet is divided into three categories: suffocation and choking, falls and burns, and drowning.

View the fact sheet at
http://downloads.nsc.org/pdf/factsheets/Baby-Proofing_Your_Home.pdf.

CPSC Child Safety Resources

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Child Safety Publications



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for ensuring the safety of consumer products. The CPSC has a list of downloadable child safety publications. The list includes various resources, such as a babyproofing checklist, a guide to creating a safe nursery, water safety tips for babies, baby products safety tips, and a brochure on safety devices for childproofing the home. To access these resources, visit http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/chld_sfy.html.

Minnesota Department of Health Guidebook

Home Safety Checklist Program Guidebook

The *Home Safety Checklist Program Guidebook*, developed by the Minnesota Department of Health Community and Family Health Division, can be used by a public health professional to identify conditions in the home that could put children at risk for burns, poisonings, falls, and other hazards. The Guide provides information about conducting a Home Safety Check, identifying home hazards, and assisting parents to install safety supplies. It also provides counseling ideas for encouraging safe behaviors.

View the Guide at

<http://h1n1resource.net/divs/fh/mch/fhv/hscb/hscguide.pdf>.

NACCCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

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