

THE FACTS ABOUT CHILD SAFETY

According to the Home Safety Council's State of Home Safety Report 2004, an average of 2,096 children younger than 15 die each year in the United States as a result of a home injury. Fires and burns, choking and suffocation, and drowning and submersions are leading causes of unintentional home injury death among children in this age group. In addition, consider this:

- Children less than a year old have the highest rate of home injury death, compared to all other childhood age groups.
- An average of 468 children younger than one die each year in the United States as a result of home injury, the majority of which are due to choking and suffocation incidents (62.8%).
- Children between one- and four-years-old have the second highest rate of home injury death per year, and nearly 50 percent of these injuries results from residential fires (43.7%).
- For infants, choking and suffocation cause most unintentional home injury fatalities. Fire and burns is the second leading cause.
- For children ages one to 14, fires and burns cause the most unintentional home injury fatalities.

For every single home injury death among a child younger than 15, there are nearly 1,500 nonfatal home injuries. Children experience an average of more than 3 million unintentional nonfatal injuries in the home each year. Here are some additional facts to think about:

- Falls are the leading cause of nonfatal home injuries across all childhood age groups, accounting for an average of nearly 1.3 million injuries each year.
- Unintentional poisonings are the second leading cause of nonfatal injury for children less than 5 years of age.
- Children between the ages of 1 and 4 have the highest rate of unintentional nonfatal home injury with falls accounting for half (49.5%).
- Falls also account for nearly half (47.1%) of the nonfatal injuries experienced by children less than a year old.

For home safety tips, visit www.safehomesafebaby.com.

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