

Ten Key Facts about Child Injury in South Africa

- 1 Each year more than 7000 South African Children, under the age of fifteen years die from injuries; this is approximately 20 children a day.
- 2 Thousands of children are treated in hospitals for injuries - Often referred to as "accidents". Nearly all of these 'Accidents' can easily be prevented.
- 3 The National Injury Mortality Surveillance System in South Africa indicates that Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of childhood deaths in South Africa between the ages of 5 and 14 years.
- 4 Young Children under the age of 5 years are most at risk of unintentional injuries. Pre-school children are not small adults and cannot take responsibility for their own safety.
- 5 The leading causes for childhood injury related deaths are Motor Vehicle Crashes (mainly involving pedestrians) followed by Drowning, Burns and Passengers deaths.
- 6 Hospitalisation of young children from unintentional injuries are mainly the result of:
 - Falls
 - Road Accidents
 - Burns
 - Struck by, against or between objects
 - Poisoning
- 7 The most common place for young children to be injured is inside or around their own homes. As children get older injuries take place at school, in the road and at playgrounds. Ensuring safety at home, schools and public places in communities are paramount for keeping children safe.
- 8 Injuries to children carry a significant cost to individuals, families, communities and the South African Government. Therefore prevention is better, cheaper and also easier than cure
- 9 In Informal Settlements and low-income contexts, children are at a significant greater risk of being injured.
- 10 Although it is compulsory according to legislation to "buckle up" up children in the car, observations have found that 89% of children visiting Red Cross Hospital were not strapped in!

