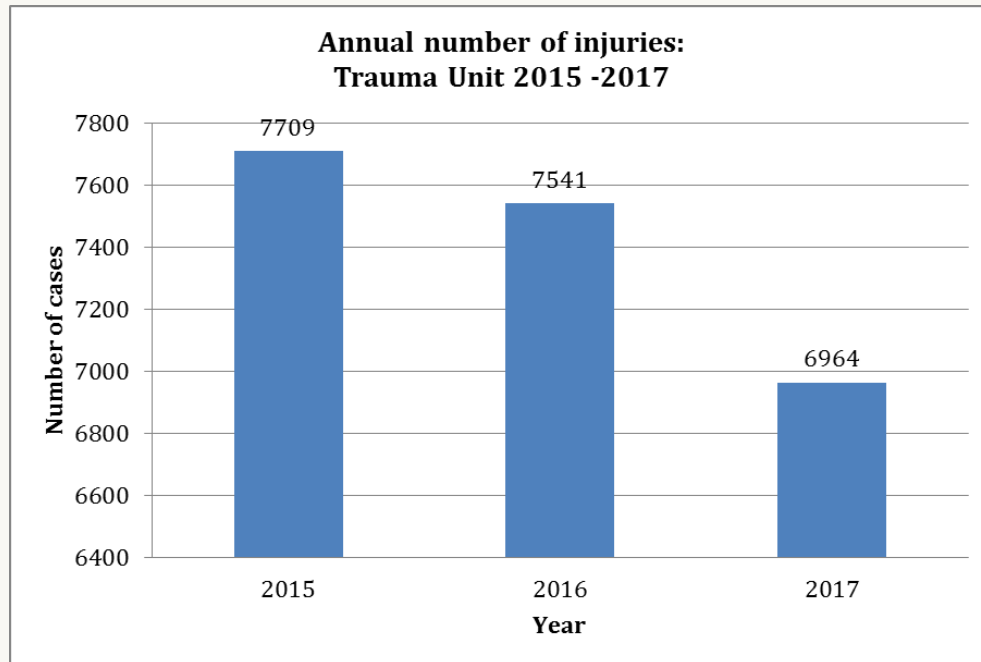


Safer or more dangerous?

The statistics of our Child Injury Surveillance System at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital indicate that the total number of children treated has been steadily declining over the last 3 years. This may indicate good news, but can also be attributed to improved paediatric trauma care in the district hospitals (The new regional hospitals in Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain).



Childsafe is currently in the process of designing a Digital Childhood Injury Surveillance System that will also be able to gather information on childhood injuries from other hospitals around South Africa.



Safer or more dangerous cont..

We are all aware that South Africa is a dangerous place and we go through major efforts to create a safer environment for ourselves. However, we often forget the adverse effects these efforts can have. The following are just a few examples:

1. This year's statistical information informs us that there was an increase of children being injured 'caught between'. We have seen a serious increase of children being crushed after heavy security gates came either of the rails or just toppled over while children were playing with it or in the vicinity. These gates can weigh hundreds of kilos and can cause extensive and even lethal damage to children.



'Killer Gate' which fell on a 3 year old and caused his demise

2. Our society is saturated with guns and the vast majority of gun owners state that they have them for protection. However, many children are shot, injured and even killed in cross-fire. Over the last few years, we have seen a sad increase of children presenting to our Trauma Unit with injuries from firearms.

3. More and more electric fences appear within our suburbs. Although these fences are erected to protect us, they impose a great danger to children. The pulsing electrical discharge from these fences can cause an ongoing contraction of the respiratory muscles of a young child, thereby resulting in death by suffocation.



Activities

Donation of car seats

In December 2017 Childsafe received an early Christmas present, a generous donation of car seats from Wheel Well. This sponsorship came after reaching out to various other companies. Our aim was to give hospital patients who could not afford to purchase a car seat yet had been involved in a car crash and their child was unrestrained.

These car seats are still being distributed to patients from Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. Childsafe would like to thank Wheel Well for their continued support in creating a safer place for children in South Africa.



Childsafe team with the donation



Child Carer Training Course

Through the funding received from Woolworths Trust, Childsafe organised a two day Child carer training course. Day 1 of the two day course focused on practical ways to prevent different accidents in and around the home such as: road accidents, poisoning, drowning, choking, burns and general accidents. On the second day, the participants specifically focused on Paediatric First Aid.

The two days were well received and the feedback was positive, mainly participants requesting for more of such courses to be arranged for other child carers from their respective communities. Childsafe has planned to run similar courses in 2018.



Participants during the training

Project Update

Walk This Way

Ten schools across Cape Town and Johannesburg received road safety education training under the collaborative auspices of the Department of Community Safety, Transport and Childsafe.

Key lessons followed simple key messages on the dangers of crossing the road; rules on how to cross the road; and where to cross the road. Child road safety messages were communicated in an instructional manner and included interactive and/or illustrative demonstrations by means video clips and 'learning through play'.



A learner proudly demonstrates what he has learnt

Live demonstrations followed to educate learners and enforce road safety measures of where to cross the road safely.



A police officer interacts with learners

Moving forward, Childsafe alongside the road safety partners continues to look at innovative ways to educate children interactively and this includes the live demonstration of a mobile pedestrian safety robot to learners to instruct on the management of a pedestrian robot when crossing safe places. Whilst every effort is made to reinforce road safety message through repeated learnings at regular intervals, children need to 'learn through play' using visual stimuli.



Project Update cont..

Safe Travel to School Programme

Launched in 2014, this programme has seen remarkable and unprecedented growth. The Programme is a collaboration between Discovery and Childsafe aiming to help make the daily journey to and from school a safer one for children, by focussing on the learner transport driver.

On the 29th of November 2017, Childsafe gathered more than 600 school transporters and road safety stakeholders to acknowledge the safest drivers at Athlone Civic Centre. The top prize won a brand new 16 seater minibus, Nissan Impendulo (worth R395 000). This car was won by Mr Gamat Roopen, a school driver from Colorado, Mitchell's Plain.



From left Themba Baloyi of Discovery, Mr Gamat, Shenaaz Raiman and Prof Sebastian van As of Childsafe

Yolande Baker joins Childsafe

I am excited to join Childsafe team as Executive Director. Before this role, I spent 20 years working in Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania with UNICEF providing technical support to governments establish and strengthen child protection systems. I am passionate about working with government, NGOs and communities to create safer environments for our children. My family and I moved here recently. In my spare time I hike, enjoy cooking and exploring Cape Town with my husband and 2 sons.



Yolande Baker

About

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A Campaign by the Child Accident Prevention
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