

Safe Kids Campaign

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign welcome you to use this Home Safety Training Manual. This manual will provide you with an in-depth review of the problem of unintentional childhood injury in the home. It offers effective, science-based solutions that couple education with environmental modification strategies, such as the use of common household safety devices.

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among children ages 14 and under. One out of every four children, or more than 14 million, sustain injuries serious enough to require medical attention each year. These injuries have enormous financial, emotional and social impact not only on the child and the family, but also on the community and society as a whole.

Half of all childhood injuries and injury-related deaths occur in and around the home. Most home injury deaths are caused by fire and burns, drowning, airway obstructions, firearms, poisons and falls. Younger children are especially at risk of being injured in the home because it is where they spend the majority of their time. Nearly two-thirds of injuries requiring emergency department visits among children under age 3 occur in the home. Children from low-income families are often at greater risk for injuries in the home, due in part to living in more hazardous environments, having less supervision, and facing financial barriers to obtaining appropriate safety devices.

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign's Home Safety Training Manual is intended to empower injury professionals, home visiting professionals and others who work at the community level with the proper tools for training and conducting home safety checks. The manual is structured as follows:

- Part I provides an overview of childhood injury prevention.
- Part II reviews specific injury risk areas. Sections 2 through 8 lay out a major cause of injury, the related hazards children may be exposed to in the home, and tips for preventing associated injuries. The tips provided are to be shared with parents and caregivers when conducting home safety checks.
- Part III describes the protocol for conducting home visits and how to use the home safety checklist during home visits.
- The appendices provide additional information on safety devices and other community resources.

[Manual](#)

[Appendix A](#)

[Appendix B](#)

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Last Revised: March 15, 2000