

Infants/Toddlers/School Age/Adolescent Population

Goal 4:

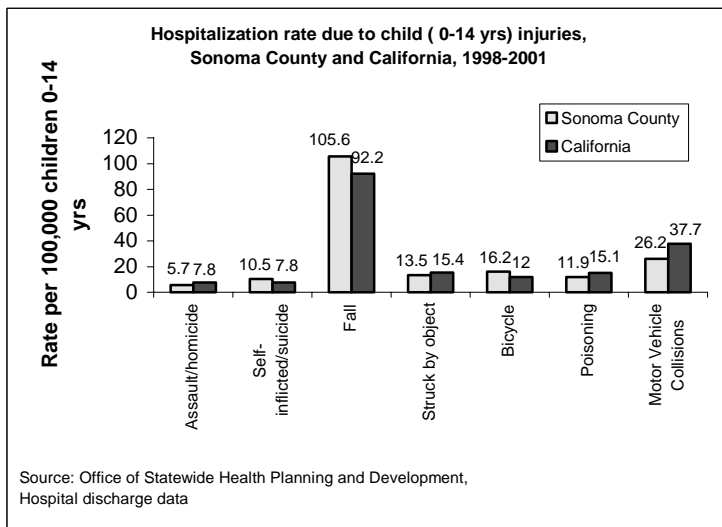
The community of Sonoma County values and actively supports Sonoma County individuals and families living in safe, nurturing environments.

2010 Objective:

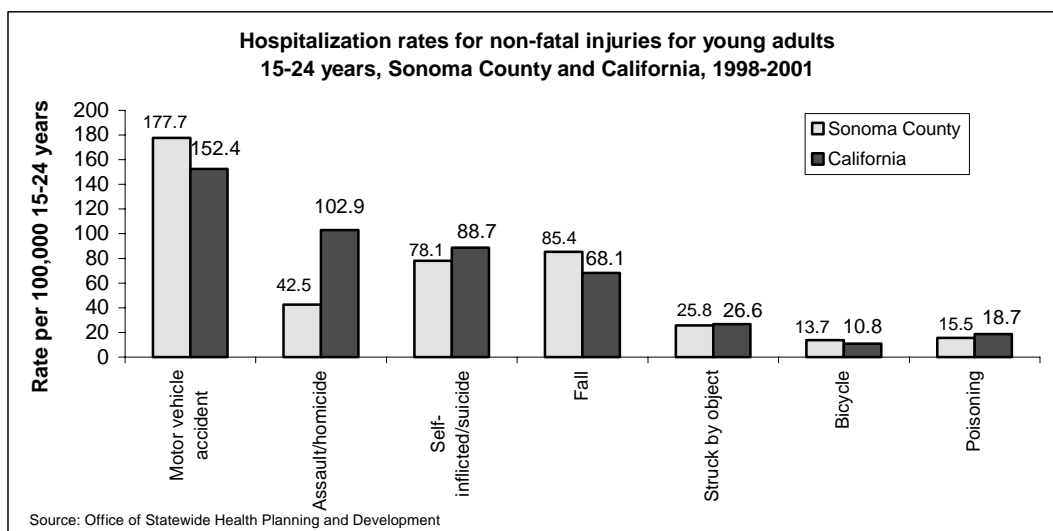
Description of the Problem:

Unintentional injury is a leading cause of death among children in Sonoma County. Unintentional injuries account for 28 percent of deaths to children ages 1-14 and 56 percent of deaths among teens 15-19 years of age. Motor vehicle collisions and falls are the primary causes of unintentional injuries for Sonoma County youth. Falls are the leading cause of hospitalization for children ages 0-14 in Sonoma County.

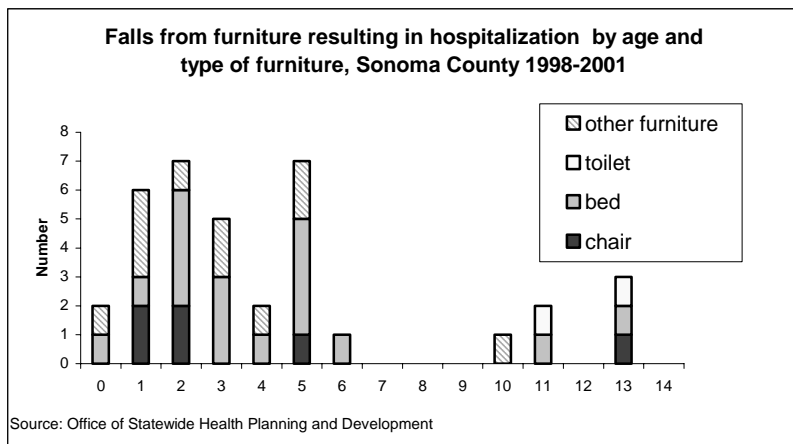
Prevalence:



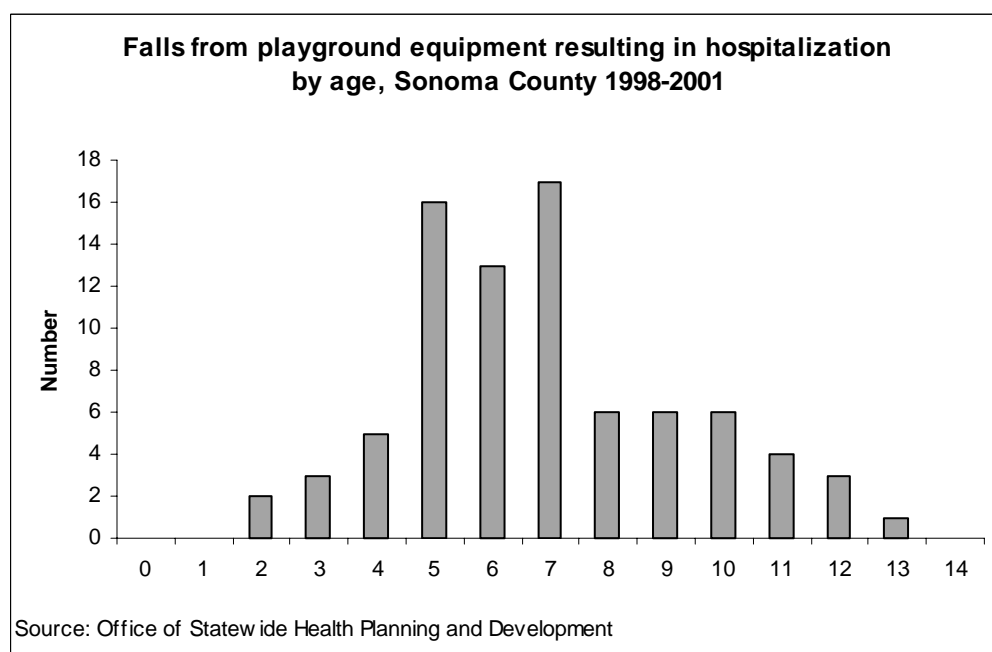
- The rate of hospitalization due to non-fatal falls is higher for Sonoma County children 0-14 years than the comparable California rate.
- The rate of hospitalizations due to falls is significantly higher than for any other non-fatal cause of injury.



- The rate for falls is significantly higher for Sonoma County young adults than for California.



- The majority of falls that result in hospitalizations are due to falling from furniture followed by falls due to slipping, tripping or stumbling.



Contributing Factors:

Unintentional injuries are related to the developmental age of the child. Though falls is often presented in the data as a single category, this area is diverse in type and specifically related to developmental age differences. This has important implications for delivery of an effective injury prevention program. Younger children are more prone to fall from furniture. For children ages 5-8, injuries from falls occur most often on the playground. Sports, such as bicycles, skateboards, and other sports, account for the highest number of injuries from falls for children ages 12-16. Falls are the single greatest cause of injury in the childcare environment and the most common injury requiring medical treatment. Thus, the prevention of falls should be one of the top priorities in creating a safe environment. Lack of access to and use of safety equipment, e.g., stair gates, bike helmets, smoke detectors, etc., contributes to the problem.

Contributing factors concerning motor vehicle-related injuries among teens are addressed in that topic area of this publication.

Existing Resources and Services:

SAFE KIDS of Sonoma County Coalition, convened by the County of Sonoma Department of Health Services, is the nucleus through which efforts have been focused to reduce the incidence of unintentional injury. Members of SAFE KIDS of Sonoma County include child-serving organization, schools, health clinics, California Highway Patrol, hospitals, MCAH programs and other health and social service organizations. Efforts have focused on the two main areas of unintentional injury: falls and motor vehicle safety, which are addressed via task forces. In addition, the Coalition also focuses on bicycle safety and child passenger safety. Outreach efforts in the area of falls have focused on implementing a falls prevention program for day care centers and home day care providers. In addition, training and safety equipment has been provided to MCAH program staff. Secondly, a bicycle safety program including a free helmet program for children from low-income families has been implemented and targets areas of unmet need. The Child Passenger Safety Program provides support for several car seat education and distribution programs in North County, Guerneville and Santa Rosa. Car seat check ups and fitting stations are available in various locations countywide.

Gaps in Resources and Services:

Funding is quite limited for programmatic efforts. A majority of program activities rely on volunteers and staff from other collaborating agencies. There is a half-time injury prevention coordinator funded by MCH and lack of paid staff severely limits development, implementation and evaluation of injury prevention programs. The falls prevention program targeted for day care and home day cares was discontinued due to lack of funding. The bicycle safety program relies on funding from outside sources to augment the helmet bank. Car seat check ups are limited in Sonoma Valley, West county and North county areas. Car seat education and distribution programs do not serve the Sonoma Valley and Petaluma areas.

Sources:

Childhood Injury Prevention Program, injury data reports.

Person(s) Responsible:

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