



What you need to know about...

# Child Falls

## Key Facts

In the United States...

- ▶ approximately 103 children die from fall-related injuries each year.
- ▶ more than 2.3 million fall-related injuries in children are reported each year.
- ▶ falls are the leading cause of unintentional injury for all children ages 0 to 14.
- ▶ more than 2.2 million children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for fall-related injuries in 2005.

In California...

- ▶ falls were the leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury among children ages 0 to 14 in 2005.
- ▶ 6,436 children ages 0 to 14 were hospitalized for unintentional fall injuries in 2005.
- ▶ Latinos accounted for the greatest number of hospitalized unintentional fall injuries in 2005.

In San Francisco...

- ▶ falls were the leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury among children ages 0 to 14 in 2005.
- ▶ 66 children ages 0 to 14 were hospitalized for unintentional fall injuries in 2005.
- ▶ falls were the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of admittance to the San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Department for unintentional injuries among children ages 0 to 14 in 2006.
- ▶ falls were the leading cause of hospitalized unintentional injury at the San Francisco General Hospital Emergency Department for children ages 0 to 14 in 2006.

## Where, When and How

- ▶ More than 80% of fall-related injuries among children ages 0 to 4 occur at home. For children ages 5 to 14, almost half of fall-related injuries occur at home and almost a quarter occurs at school.
- ▶ Window falls occur more frequently in large urban areas, low-income neighborhoods, and in overcrowded housing.
- ▶ Children living in apartment buildings have the highest number of window fall incidents—five times more than children living in single family homes.
- ▶ The majority of falls occur at noon and early evening, the most common playtimes for children.
- ▶ Infants are at risk of falling from furniture, stairs, and baby walkers.

## Who

- ▶ Boys are more than twice as likely as girls to die from fall-related injuries.
- ▶ Low-income children are more likely to be injured from falls due to a lack of supervision and unsafe environments, including aging or deteriorating housing.
- ▶ African American and Latino children are at greater risk of falls from heights because they are more likely to live in urban, multi-story buildings.

Adapted from: Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW). Falls Fact Sheet. Washington (DC): SKW, 2007.

