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 3rd 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.