Infant Health: Birth to One Year of Age • Injury Statistics

Fatal injury is defined as a personal injury resulting in death of the injured person. Injuries accounted for 116 infant deaths in Texas and 69% were suffocation. Accidents (the top 4 leading causes of death for infants) are where preventative efforts can make the greatest impact.

**FATAL INJURIES and Steps to Prevent**

**Violence – 16%**
- Increase support of new parents.
- Educate parents on developmental milestones.
- Reinforce messages during well-baby visits.
- For more information, see Period of Purple Crying [www.purplecrying.info](http://www.purplecrying.info/)

**Motor Vehicle – 7%**
- Install and use rear-facing car seats until age two, or until reaching the height or weight limit for the car seat.

**Drownings – 3%**
- Install fencing that isolates a swimming pool from the yard and surrounding area.
- “Touch” adult supervision (i.e., for pools an adult is in the water and able to reach and grab a child) has been shown to be most effective in preventing drownings.

**All Others – 5%**

**Suffocation – 69%**
- Reduce Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) and Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUIDS) by following AAP Safe Sleep recommendations.
- Avoid toys with pieces that have a diameter of less than 1.75 inches.
- Talk about room-sharing, not bed-sharing, the benefits of breastfeeding and what a safe sleep environment looks like without blankets, pillows and toys.

Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data, 2014
In 2014 alone, the number of injuries that required hospitalization in the United States for infants birth to 12 months of age was 777. The majority of these were a result of falls or assaults (46%).

**Unintentional Not Specified – 6%**

**Assault – 8%**
- Infants covered by Medicaid are at greatest risk, with one in every 752 infants being seriously abused.
- Parents are one of the most important influences in positive infant development – providing education, and support to them is key.

**Unintentional Poisoning – 6%**
- Keep medicines and toxic products, such as cleaning solutions and detergent pods, in their original packaging and out of reach.

**Unintentional Motor Vehicle – 5%**
- Find a nearby community safety seat checkup and inspection site to refer families to.

**Unintentional Fall – 38%**
- Check to make sure that surfaces around playground equipment are safe, soft, and consist of appropriate materials (such as wood chips or sand, not dirt or grass).
- Use home safety devices, including guards on windows that are above ground level, stair gates, and guard rails.
- Supervise infants at all times around fall hazards, such as stairs and playground equipment, whether you’re at home or out to play.

**All Others – 36%**

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