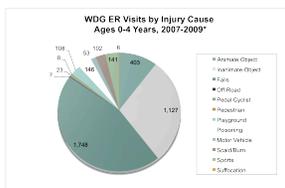


Background

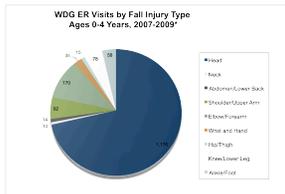
Introduction

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for Canadian children between the ages of 1 and 19.

For preschool-aged children, falls in the home are the leading cause of hospitalization in Canada and a leading cause of emergency room (ER) visits.



In Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, the most recent child injury data indicates that about 60% of all fall related injuries seen in the ER's are head injuries.



Approximately 75% of in-home fall injuries occur on stairs or off of furniture.



Currently there are no established programs for reducing falls in the home among young children – this will be the first!

System Leadership

Process

Program Goals



The initiative is led collaboratively including several public health units and the University of Guelph.

The Guelph Family Health Team in addition to the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health unit joined the existing team to implement the clinical component of the program

The goal of the program is to reduce the incidence of in-home fall injuries among young children by way of medical office integration which is focused on anticipatory guidance

Additionally, there is a social marketing/mass media campaign and a video-based parent-directed home safety program offered by the research team

Implementation

The falls prevention program was implemented across most of the Guelph Family Health Team medical practices beginning in October 2013

By incorporating a few easy to follow questions within the existing well-child examination template, practitioners are able to assess child fall history as well as fall prevention knowledge/understanding of caregivers.

Currently the well-child examinations focused on children who are between 18 months and 4 years old.

Falls on stairs and falls off of furniture are the two types of fall hazards that are being targeted given the alarming statistics related.

Organizational Capacity

Child Falls Prevention

Child Age: patAge.pediatric My role: «NP» «Physician» «RN» «Other» •

Home Falls: we want the patients to be aware of

Serious a) top heavy - head injuries: «Yes» «No» b) concussions: «Yes» «No»

Frequent a) hospitalization: «Yes» «No» b) every 15 mins: «Yes» «No»

Fall Hazards: *please select best ones based on child's motor skills

Proper supervision: «Yes» «No»

* Stairs: Gates: «Yes» «No» Teaching: «Yes» «No» Walking: «Yes» «No»

* Furniture: Rolling Off: «Yes» «No» Climbing: «Yes» «No» Jumping: «Yes» «No»

End by:

One magnet and/or brochure: «Yes» «No»

Encourage parent(s) to visit the "ALTER for Child Safety" website for safety tips: «Yes» «No»

Encourage parent(s) to visit the website to complete a survey: «Yes» «No»

Mention they could win a \$100 gift certificate: «Yes» «No»

Did the parent(s) ask any questions about this topic: «Yes» «No»

Did the parent(s) comment on a Falls poster: «Yes» «No»

Reason for not covering:

«baby is crying» «run out of time» «parent not interested» «parent has heard of this before» «others» •

The Child Falls Prevention component of the Well-Baby PSS Stamp

Outcomes

Results

The project was piloted at the Downey Road Family Practice office for approximately four months. Four physicians, one Nurse Practitioner and one clinic nurse participated and the pilot was well received by practitioners and parents.

The additional information and anticipatory guidance added only a few minutes to each well-child visit and a 'Tips Sheet' made this easy to implement.



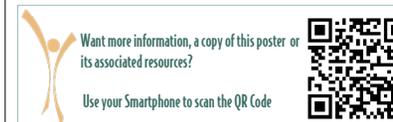
- During the 6 week pilot, there were 47 well-baby visits for children in our age range.
- The message was covered in 32 cases (68%).
- It was not covered for a variety of reasons: no time, already knew it or forgot.

Future Directions

Moving forward, evaluation outcomes will include carefully examining fall-related ER visits as well as indices of intervention exposure, injury prevention attitudes and home-safety practices.



Caregiver understanding and home-safety practices will be assessed via an online survey. The clinical data will be captured within the electronic record and will be reviewed and evaluated for topics covered related to falls.



Sustainability

System Navigation