



# Risk Watch®

## Washington State Childhood Injury Facts



Choking/suffocation is the leading cause of death for children under 1 year of age, causing 59 deaths from 2000-2004. Choking deaths most occur from food and other items, such as toys, including balloons.



From 2000 to 2004, 33 children ages 14 and under lost their lives to the devastating effects of fire. There were 684 burn injury hospitalizations.



In 2004, the Washington Poison Center received 41,082 calls regarding poison exposures to children ages 14 and under. Poisonings caused 573 injury hospitalizations and 13 fatalities to children ages 14 and under between 2000 and 2004.



Over the past five years, an average of 22 children who live in Washington State between the ages of 0-14 drown each year. Most drownings (69%) occurred in open water, such as a lake, river, pond, the sound or a creek. 75% of boating fatalities could have been prevented by wearing a life jacket.



Motor vehicle traffic is the leading cause of death for children. At age 15 the fatality rate multiplies five-fold.



In Washington State, there were 613 injury hospitalizations and 1 fatality to bicyclists 14 and under. Correct use of bicycle helmets reduces the risk of brain injury by 65-88%.



There were 27 firearm injuries and one fatality to children 14 and under from 2000-2004. Nearly all childhood unintentional shooting deaths occur in or around the home.



Falls are the leading cause of injury hospitalization for children 14 and under, causing 3,194 hospitalization injuries and 11 deaths.

*References: Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Health, Harborview Medical Center, Washington Poison Center*  
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