Injury Prevention & Emergency Medical Services for Children

Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response
Injury Prevention – Phone: 515-344-1618 www.idph.state.ia.us/ems/injury_prev.asp
EMSC – Phone: 515-344-1618 www.idph.state.ia.us/ems/emsc.asp

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

Baby bottles, crib, diapers, stroller, car seat…the list of items needed for a new baby seems endless. But just having the items isn't enough. If you don't know how to assemble the crib, the baby can't sleep in it. If you don't know how to install the car seat, the baby isn't safe in it. In Iowa, 90% of child restraints are used incorrectly!

The Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) programs work to prevent injuries to children. More than 100 child safety seat checks are conducted around the state each year, teaching parents and caregivers how to properly install a child seat.

Child safety doesn't stop at infancy. The Injury Prevention and EMSC programs also provide bike helmets and education to kids ages 2-14 across the state. Preventing injuries to children protects Iowa's most precious asset.

Did you know?

Each year, about 60 Iowa children are killed in car crashes and 34% of those children were not properly restrained at the time of the crash. In 2011, 15,137 pediatric patients used the EMS system for either a medical or trauma emergency.

Why are Injury Prevention & Emergency Medical Services for Children important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- About 712,861 Iowans are under the age of 18.
- EMS units across the state have taken advantage of opportunities to learn more about taking care of patients who are children.
- Federal funding was obtained to support injury prevention programs for occupant protection within the state

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent injuries

Promote healthy behaviors

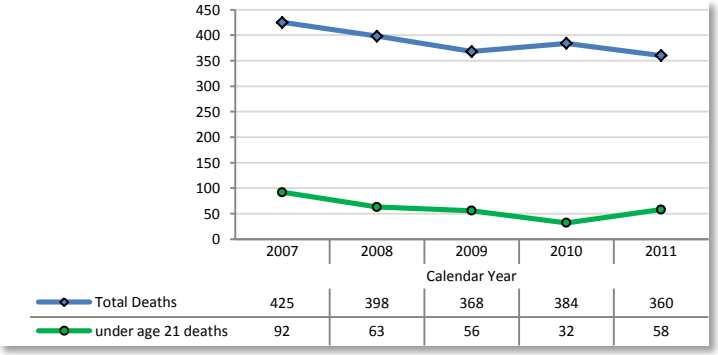
Prepare for, respond to, & recover from public health emergencies

What do we do?

- Distribute injury prevention and child healthcare resource information, free of charge, to local public health departments.
- Distribute pediatric equipment bags and education to EMS services. More than 400 pediatric equipment bags have been distributed. These bags contain emergency equipment specially made to treat children.
- Injury prevention projects, including distributing child restraint seats, bicycle helmets, and educational materials, which are provided locally.
- Provide assistance for grassroots injury prevention campaigns.
- Promote the "Love Our Kids" injury prevention license plate that provides funds to grant out to communities for local injury prevention initiatives.

How do we measure our progress?

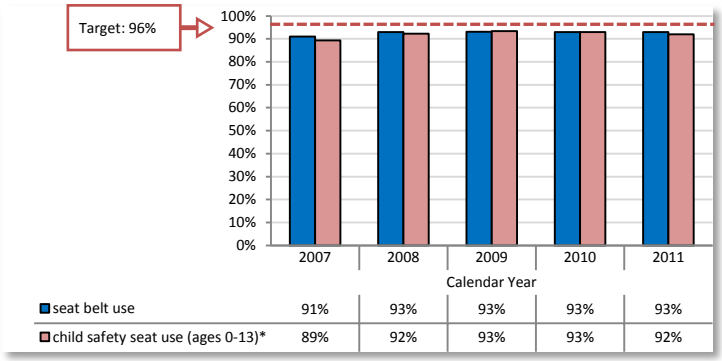
❶ **Number of deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes.**



Data Source: FARS IDOT; GTSB. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? The number of total deaths caused by motor vehicles accidents has declined while the number of children and young adults who have died from motor vehicle accidents has risen slightly.

❷ **Percent using occupant protection systems, such as safety belts and child safety seats.**



Data Source: Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. Data are available annually.
*Child safety seat use for years prior to 2011 is for ages 0-11.

How are we doing? Iowa currently has a 93% use rate of seat belts and a 92% rate for child safety seat use.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans can learn how to properly install a child restraint seat. For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/ems/injury_prev.asp.
2. All Iowans can learn about the importance of wearing bicycle helmets. For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/ems/injury_prev.asp.
3. Iowans and healthcare providers should recognize the need for pediatric patient care education and equipment.
4. Iowans and healthcare providers can encourage policy makers to consider children when planning health care initiatives.

Expenditures

EMSC: federal funds: 0153-1714
Injury Prevention: – License Plate Sales : K19-1948; 0153-1722

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	$0	$0	$0
Federal funds	$123,595	$131,007	$134,282
Other funds*	$216,288	$117,919	$210,000
Total funds	**$339,883**	**$248,926**	**$344,282**
FTEs	2.58	1.61	1.40

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

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