



Child injuries and trauma

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WORLD PATIENT SAFETY DAY

Theme 2025

- ▶ **“Safe care for every newborn and every child,”**
- ▶ Childhood Injury is a public health concern and should be everybody's business.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- ▶ The World Report on Child Injury Prevention outlines that the five most common injuries amongst children worldwide are transport injuries, drowning, burns, falls and poisoning
- ▶ Both 2019 and 2020 Childhood Injury Data Report (Childsafe) falls accounted for 43%, 42% respectively children struck by or caught between objects 28%, burns 14% traffic trash injuries 12%, poisoning 6%
- ▶ An audit of trauma-related admissions to PICU in central SA:2017-2020 : road traffic accidents accounted for 51.1%, followed by burns (22.1%)and blunt non-incidental injuries (13%) (SAJCH June 2025; 19(2)

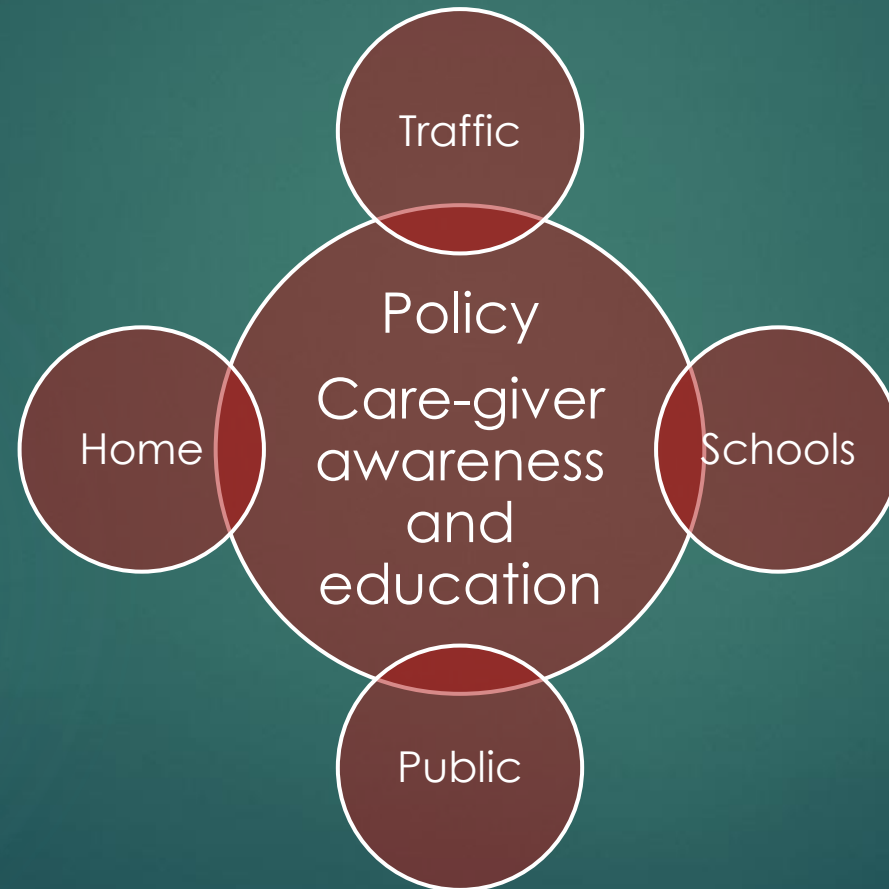
Epidemiology

- ▶ Children under 5 years of age have higher risk for injuries – falls and burns (South African Child Gauge ,2019)
- ▶ Deaths due to road traffic injuries are higher than global rates particularly for ages 0-4yrs, at 15 per 1000 (WHO (2004) Global Road Safety Report)
- ▶ Boys were treated 1.5 times more than girls across all injury types except sexual assault (ChildSafe , 2019 Childhood Injury Data Report)

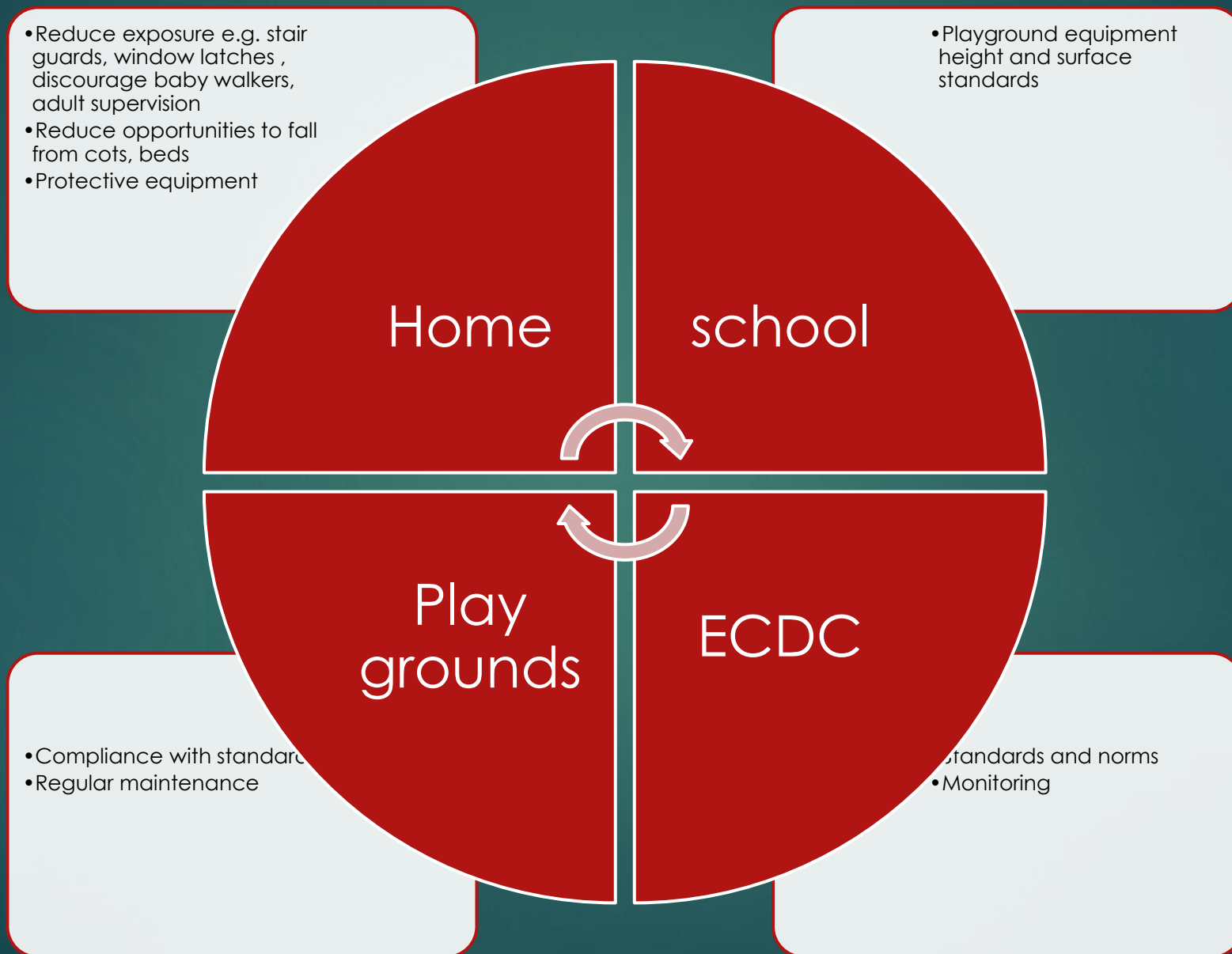
Epidemiology

- ▶ In 2020 children und 0-4 years account for 55% of all injuries, 87% occurred at home, followed by 5% on the road, 4% public place, 2% at ECD / crèche, and other 2% on other places. For children between 5 and 12 years, who account for 45% of all injuries: 62% of injuries occur at home, followed by 15% on the road, 12% in public place, school 7% & other 3%

AREAS OF FOCUS



Falls



Road traffic crashes



Burns

Using smoke alarms in all homes

Teaching parents and caregivers how to make homes burn injury free
Securing electric kettle cords out of children ' s reach

Reducing hot water temperatures to 50 degrees Celsius on hot water geysers

Turning pot and panhandles out of children ' s reach
Putting out the candle before leaving a room or going to sleep

Keeping hot drinks out of children ' s reach

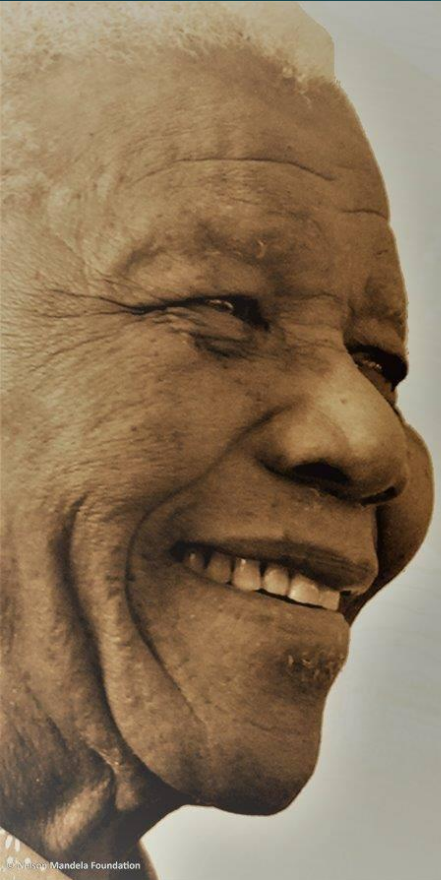
Keeping matches and lighters stored out of children ' s reach

Six Basic Principles For Successful Prevention Of Injuries

- ▶ 1. Legislation and regulations, and their enforcement
- ▶ 2. Product modification
- ▶ 3. Environmental modification
- ▶ 4. Supportive home visits
- ▶ 5. The promotion of safety devices
- ▶ 6. Education and the teaching of skills with careful supervision of children at all times

(The World Report on Child Injury Prevention (2008))

Thank you



"Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Nelson Mandela Foundation



Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation.

— *Nelson Mandela* —

AZ QUOTES