

*“Equity from the start - valuing our children”*

# How well do interventions match the circumstances of child injury?

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OTAGO

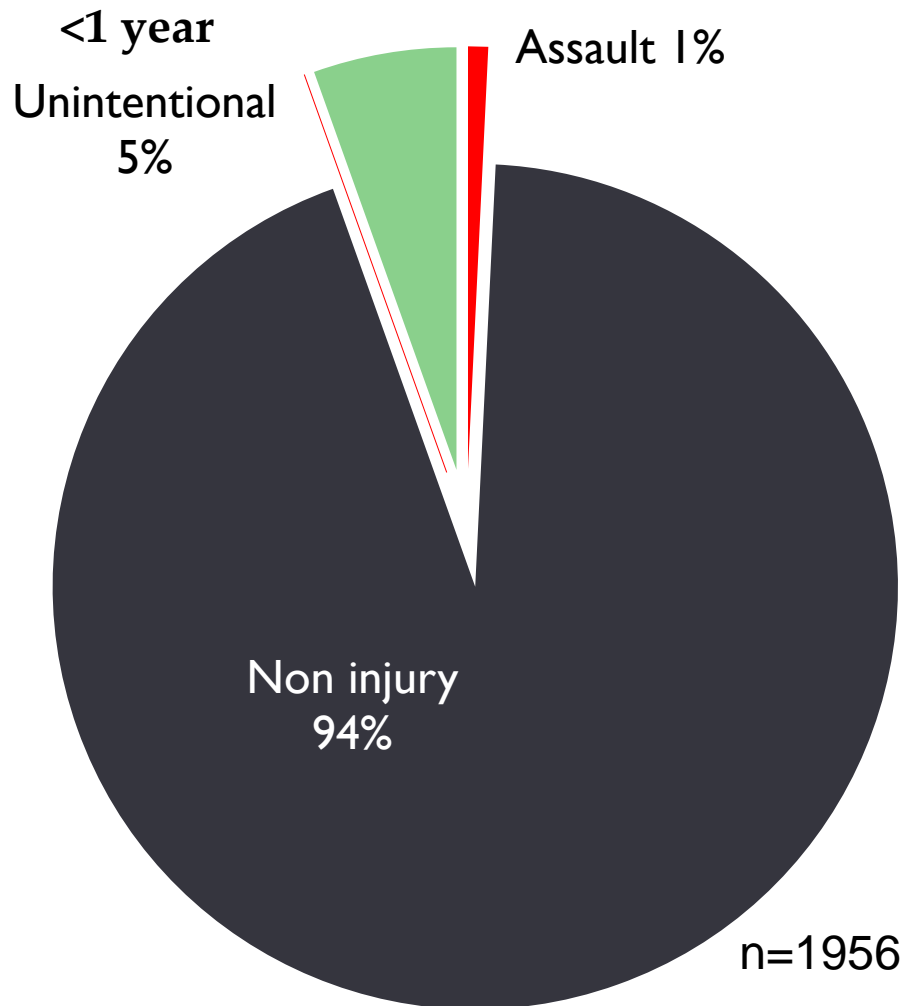


*Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo*

NEW ZEALAND

# Injury as Cause in All Deaths

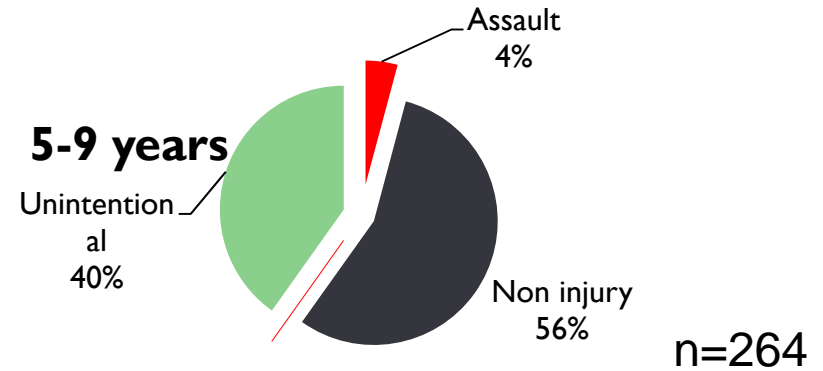
2000-2005  
n= 2998



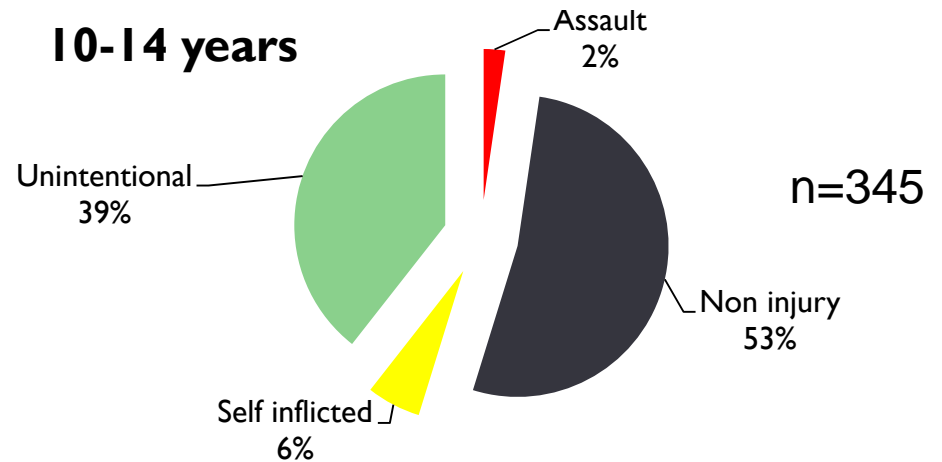
## 1-4 years



## 5-9 years

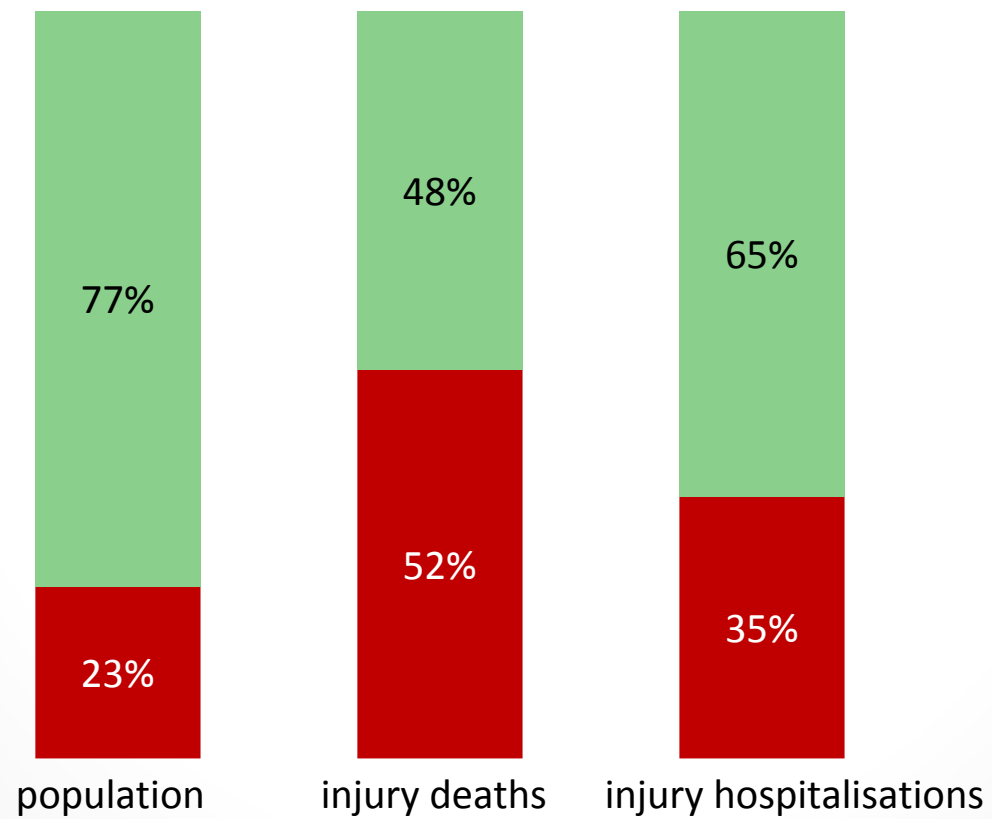


## 10-14 years



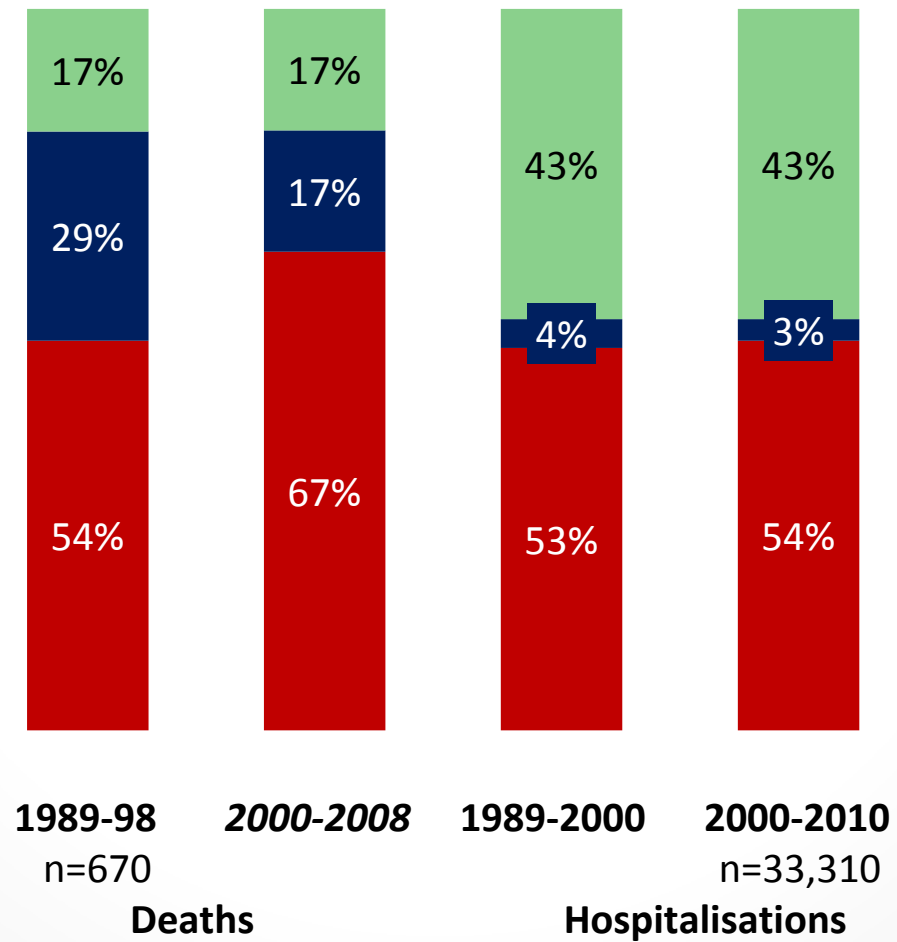
## Who it affects: 0-4s as a proportion of 0-14 year olds New Zealand 1990s

■ 0-4s ■ 5-14s



## Where it happens: O-4 year old deaths and hospitalisations in New Zealand

■ home ■ road ■ other



# Causes and circumstances of NZ child injury at home



# Early childhood home injury deaths

Cause	%	Circumstances	%	Detail
Suffocation	33			4 out of 5 were <12 months
		Entrapped, entangled, smothered	46	Between bed & wall, cot & mattress, blankets, pillows, waterbeds, couch, chairs
		Lain on in bed	28	86% were <6mths (20% intoxicated adult)
		Choked	18	Food, vomit, gastric juices (batteries, screws)
Drowning	21			
		Domestic pool/spa	58	80% 6-36 months, 68% missing/unsecured fencing, 20% at friend's or neighbour's
		Bath	19	89% 6-12 mths alone/w sibling <2 yrs
		Water container	11	
		Creek/pond	6	
Homicide	15			
Fire /flames	13			27% - a child was playing with fire lighter
		House	59	45% smoke inhalation
		Vehicle	10	
		Caravan	6	
Total		n = 383		

# Hospitalised home injury

Cause	%	Circumstances	%	Characteristics
Falls	36			At least 4% where child being carried
		Bedroom furniture	36	
		Living area furniture	32	
		Stairs, balcony, window	19	
		Play equipment	7	At least 58% trampoline, 22% other equipment and 19% 'play'
Poison	19			
		Medicinal	64	45% 18-30 month olds
		Non medicinal	36	
Scalds	14			70% 6-24 month olds
		Hot beverage	33	
		Hot or boiling water, (eg in jug, pot)	26	
		Bathroom hot water	22	
<b>Total</b>		n = 24,488		

# Top risks for young children at home

1	Access to firearms	11	Unguarded stairs
2	Direct access to a pool	12	Bikes and scooters
3	Access to fire starting materials	13	Fire related to cooking
4	<b>Children unsupervised around pool</b>	14	Space heaters
5	Access to poisons /medication	15	<b>Crib-sleeping position</b>
6	Unsecured windows	16	<b>Bed placement</b>
7	<b>Lack of adult supervision</b>	17	Open fires
8	Unsafe playground surfaces/equipment	18	<b>Food (small objects) causing choking</b>
9	Playing in the driveway	19	Flammable nightwear
10	<b>Children unattended in bathroom</b>		

(Katcher et al, 2006)



# Key findings

- Proven interventions designed for specific circumstances
- Home circumstances dynamic, interactive, reflect activities of daily living
- Under-estimation of risk



- Methods for evaluating interventions rarely appropriate for complex environments;





- Can deliver interventions through legislation, but will fail if poorly implemented or enforced



- Active intervention needed for early childhood safety

# Taking action for safety

- Value those who care for young children
- Don't depend solely on passive interventions, invoke the precautionary principle
- Address underlying causes of causes
  - The first three years
  - "It takes a village to raise a child"
  - Implications for intervention for societal factors: inequity, deprivation, alcohol misuse, (un)employment, poor housing
  - Adequate resourcing to foster competent care and problem solving for complex environments
- Use evaluation methods that are appropriate to investigating multiple strategies operating in complex environments
- Put children's needs, wellbeing and safety first





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## References

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