



TENNESSEE

Special Emphasis Report: Infant and Early Childhood Injury, 2011

Injury is a Leading Cause of Death in Children

Injuries are a major public health problem across the United States and in Tennessee. Injuries are not random chance events. Most injuries follow a very predictable sequence of events and can be prevented using specific strategies.

In 2011, 100 Tennessee children ages 0 to 5 years died as the result of an injury. For every 1 injury death to a child between 0 and 5 years of age, there were approximately 8 injury-related hospital stays and 614 injuries treated and released from an emergency department (ED). These numbers do not include those treated at home or in a physician's office.

In 2011, there was an average of 170 injury-related ED visits and hospitalizations each day among Tennessee children ages 0-5.

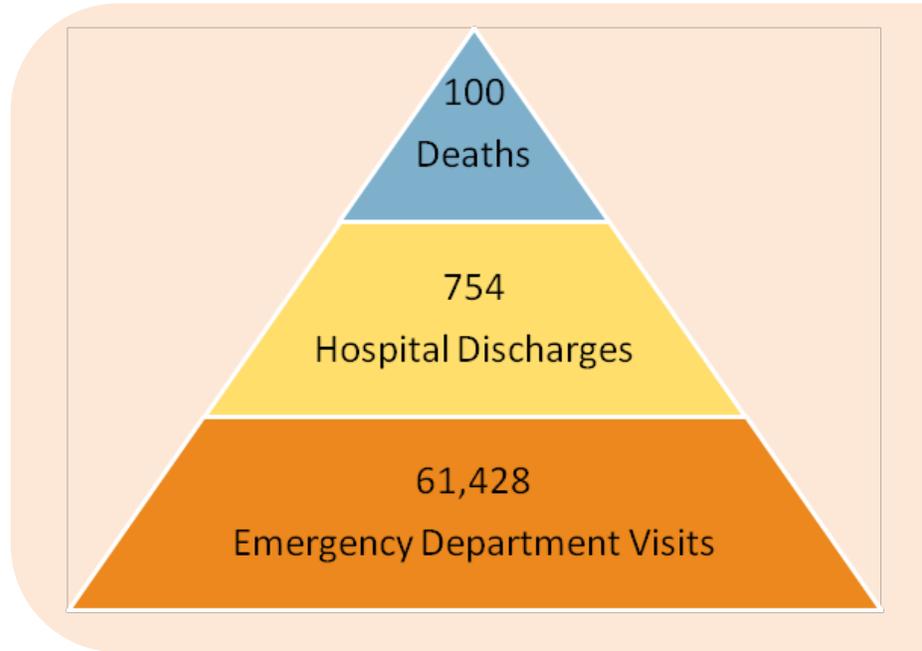


Figure 1: Annual Injuries among Children Ages 0-5 Years, Tennessee, 2011

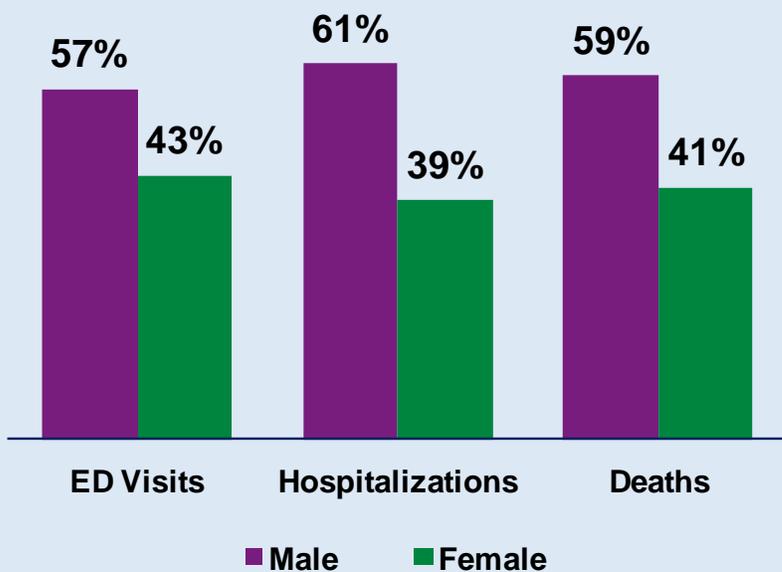


Figure 2: Percent of Injury Deaths, Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits among Children Ages 0-5 Years, by Sex Tennessee, 2011

Childhood Injury by Sex

Boys accounted for a greater percentage of fatal and nonfatal injuries among Tennessee children ages 0-5 years than did girls. In 2011, 57% of injury ED visits, 61% of injury hospital stays and 59% of injury deaths occurred among boys in this age group.





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Injury Deaths in Infants

In 2011, a total of 62 Tennessee infants under 1 year of age died due to injuries. The majority of these deaths were unintentional (76%), while approximately one in six (16%) were homicides.

The leading cause of injury deaths in Tennessee infants was accidental suffocation. In 2011, 37 infants died due to accidental suffocation – this represented 60% of all injury deaths that year. Approximately two-thirds of these suffocation deaths occurred in bed, while the remaining one-third occurred in other or unspecified locations.

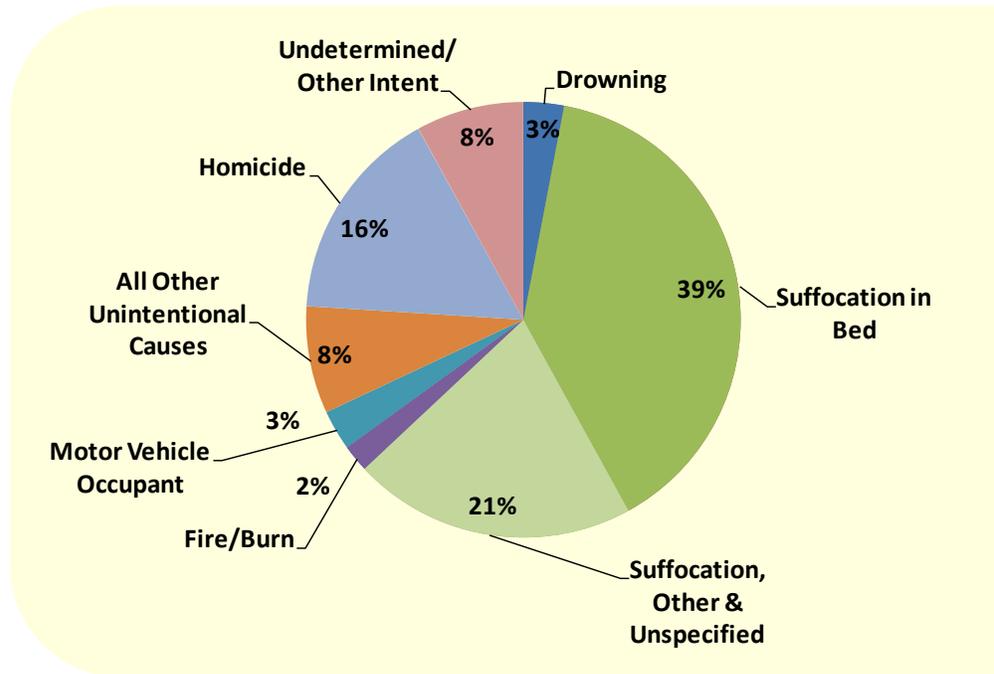


Figure 3: Injury Deaths among Infants Less than 1 Year, Tennessee, 2011

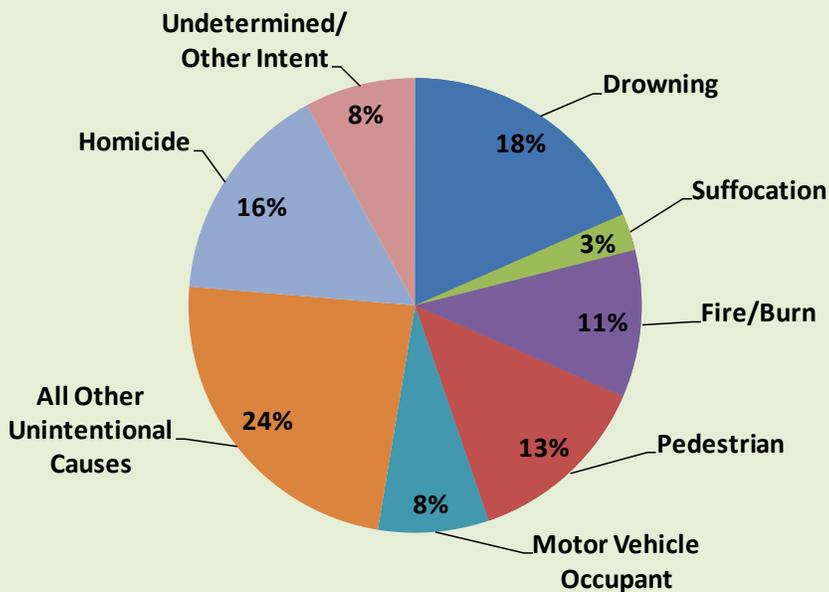


Figure 4: Injury Deaths in Children Ages 1-5 Years, Tennessee, 2011

Injury Deaths in Young Children

In 2011, a total of 38 Tennessee children ages 1-5 years died due to injuries. The majority of these deaths were unintentional (76%), while approximately one in six (16%) were homicides.

The leading cause of accidental injury deaths in Tennessee children was drowning, followed by pedestrian accidents and fires/burns.



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Injury-Related Hospitalizations

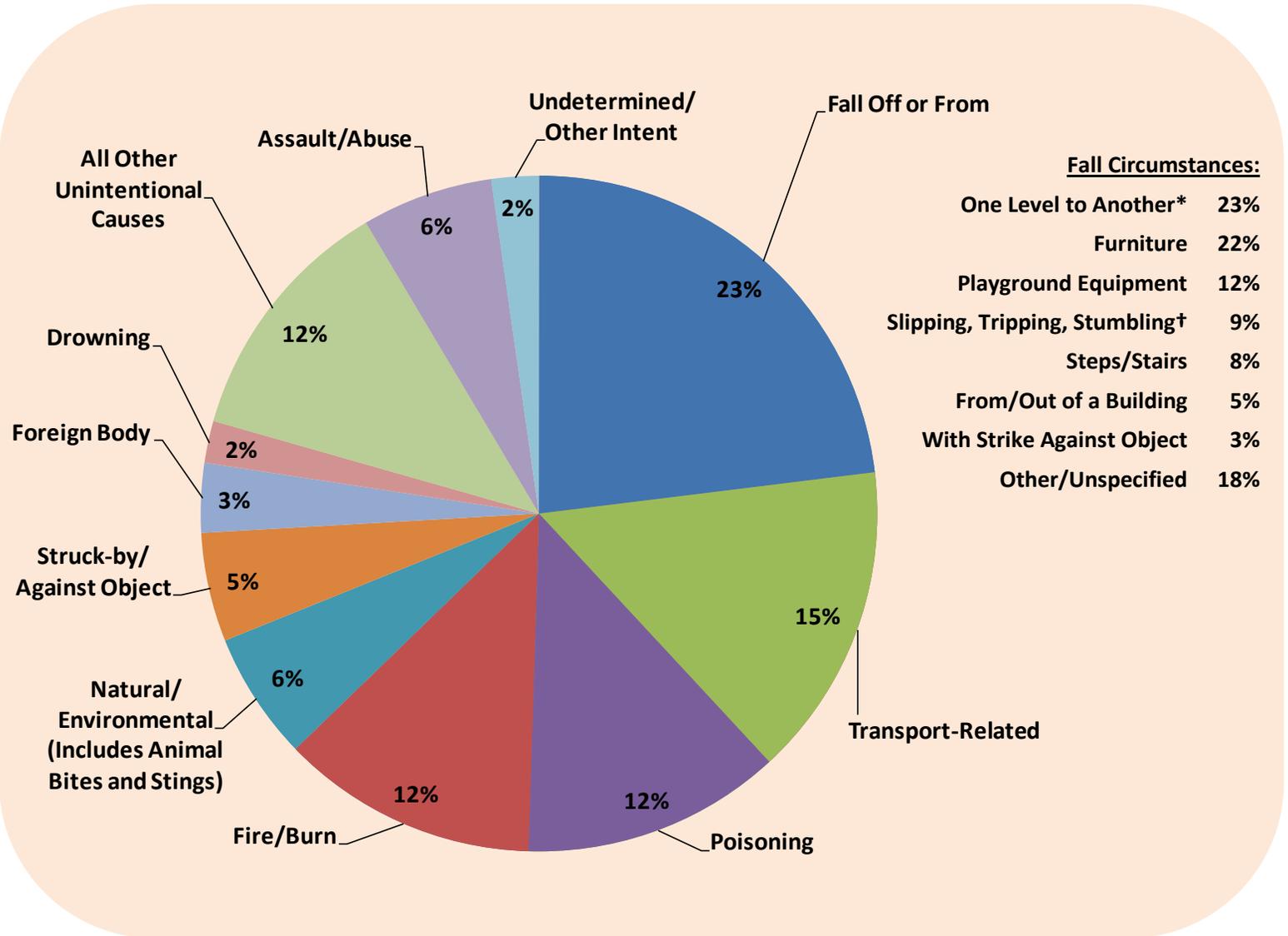


Figure 5: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges among Children Ages 0-5 Years, Tennessee, 2011

In 2011, there were 754 injury-related hospitalizations of Tennessee infants and children ages 0-5 years.

The three leading causes of injury hospitalizations among 0-5 year olds were unintentional falls, transport-related accidents (including motor-vehicle occupant, bicycle and pedestrian accidents), and poisoning. Falls were the leading cause among both infants and among children ages 1-5 years.

The most common causes of fall hospitalizations were falls from one level to another (23%) and falls from furniture (22%).

*Includes falls from one level to another not already included in a fall category.

†Includes falls from skateboards, skis, snowboards, etc.



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Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits

In 2011, there were 61,428 injury-related emergency department visits among Tennessee infants and children ages 0-5 years.

The three leading causes of injury ED visits among 0-5 year olds were unintentional falls, being struck by or against an object, and natural/environmental causes such as excessive heat, dog bites and bee stings. Falls were the leading cause among both infants and among children ages 1-5 years.

The most common causes of fall ED visits were falls resulting in a strike against an object (20%) and falls from furniture (18%).

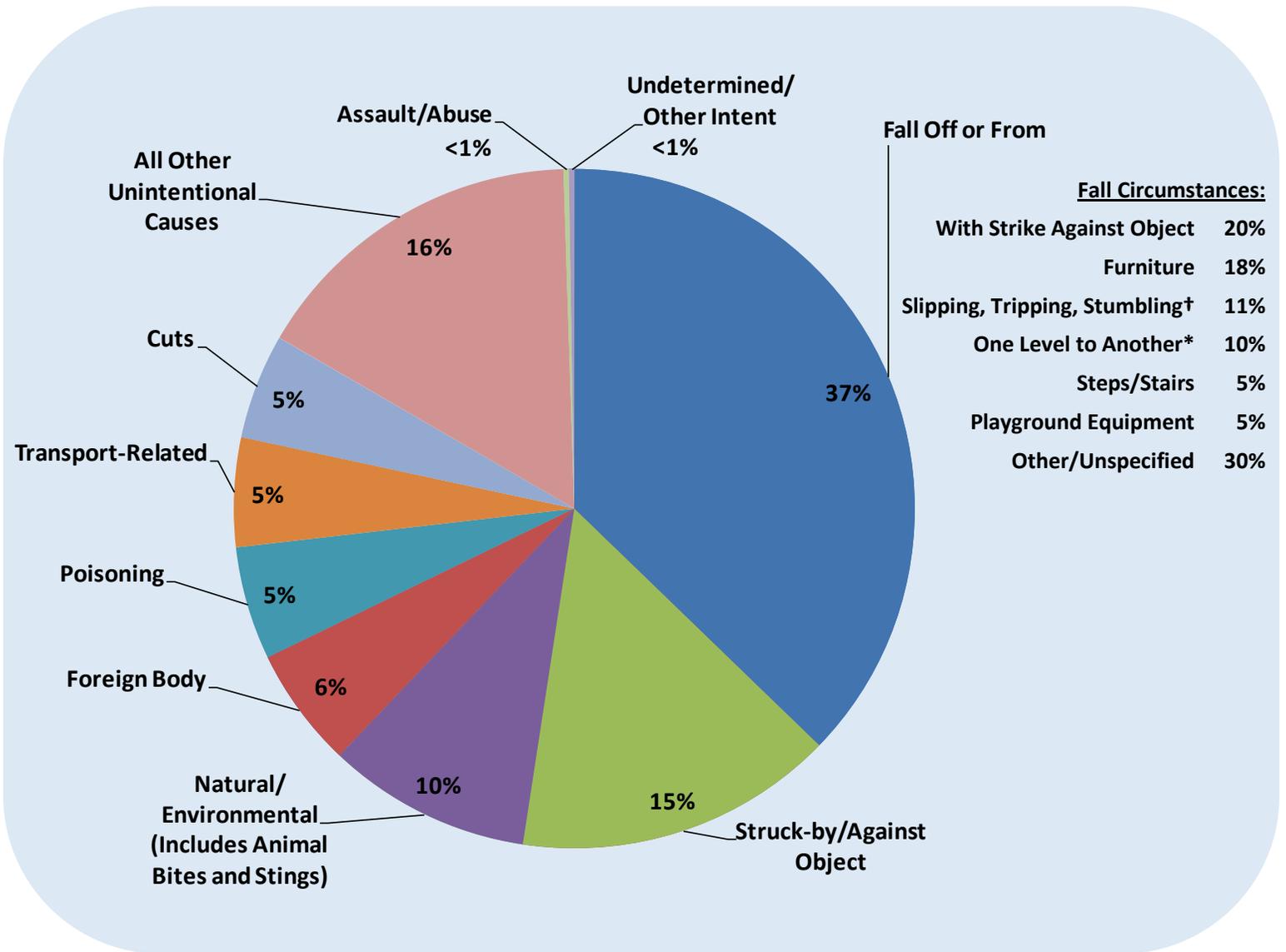


Figure 6: Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits among Children Ages 0-5 Years, Tennessee, 2011

*Includes falls from one level to another not already included in a fall category.

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Table 1: Injury-Related Hospital Discharges and Emergency Department (ED) Visits among Children Ages 0-5 Years by Age Group, Tennessee, 2011

	Infants less than 1 Year		Children Ages 1-5 Years	
	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits	Hospital Discharges	ED Visits
Unintentional Injuries	153	5,959	537	55,153
Cut/pierce	0	128	5	2,937
Drowning/submersion	1	8	15	68
Falls (<i>off/from</i>):	44	2,612	129	20,211
Furniture	22	1,139	16	2,988
Steps/stairs	2	109	12	1,052
With strike against object	0	254	6	4,387
Slipping/tripping/stumbling	0	108	15	2,485
Playground equipment	0	11	20	1,058
Building	0	1	8	33
Other fall from one level to another	16	502	24	1,854
Other/unspecified	4	488	28	6,354
Fire/Burn	14	175	78	1,396
Foreign Body	6	314	19	3,178
Natural and Environmental	9	471	37	5,461
Excessive heat	0	15	0	18
Dog bites	2	30	19	1,051
Other bites/stings/animal injury	1	410	13	4,354
All other natural/environmental	6	16	5	38
Poisoning	15	433	78	2,865
Struck-by/against object	4	569	35	8,750
Suffocation	3	33	6	86
Transport-related	12	380	101	2,799
Motor vehicle (MV)-occupant	11	356	57	1,577
Bicycle/tricycle (MV & non-MV)	0	1	12	673
Pedestrian (MV & non-MV)	0	1	19	91
Other transport	1	22	13	458
All other unintentional causes	45	836	34	7,402
Assault/Abuse	29	20	18	136
Undetermined/Other Intent	13	26	4	134
Total Injury-Related Cases	195	6,005	559	55,423



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Tennessee Child Injury Prevention Activities

The goal of the Tennessee Injury and Violence Prevention Program (TIVPP) is to reduce the number of injuries to Tennesseans. To achieve this goal, data is collected and analyzed each year on deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits. One significant achievement in 2012 was the implementation of a statewide safe sleep campaign to address the high number of infant deaths due to unsafe sleep practices. This educational campaign has continued throughout 2013. Cribs were provided to the local health departments for families that could not afford one. A safe sleep message was placed on infant WIC vouchers. The TIVPP has collaborated with many agencies, including the home visiting program, to spread the safe sleep message.



Tennessee Healthier Beginnings Home Visiting Program

The Healthier Beginnings Home Visiting Program began in July, 2011 in order to provide intensive and consistent services to expectant or new families to improve the health and developmental outcomes of children from birth through age five. The Tennessee Department of Health provides funding to eight community based agencies to offer home visiting services using the Healthy Families America (HFA), Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and Parents as Teachers (PAT) evidence-based models. These home visiting programs are offered in thirty counties.

Goals of the Healthier Beginnings Program include:

- Improve the quality of home visiting services for children and families in Tennessee
- Improve outcomes for young children and families by identifying needs and referring for other services prior to school entry
- Strengthen the early childhood home visiting workforce in Tennessee
- Promote a comprehensive, high quality early childhood system in Tennessee that includes home visiting programs.

Data sources: Tennessee Department of Health; Division of Policy, Planning and Assessment; Office of Health Statistics; Death Statistical and Hospital Discharge Data Systems. All data in this report are based on the CDC injury definition, whereby injury cases are selected based on ICD-10 underlying cause codes (deaths), ICD-9-CM primary diagnosis codes (hospitalizations), and either ICD-9-CM primary diagnosis or external cause of injury codes (ED visits). All injuries are considered unintentional unless specified otherwise. Percentages in some tables/graphs may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Reference to any commercial entity or product or service on this page should not be construed as an endorsement by the Government of the company or its products or services.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

<http://health.tn.gov/mch/VIPP.shtm>

Released October, 2013