

ABSTRACT

A TWO-YEAR ANALYSIS OF CHILDHOOD RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS-RELATED INJURIES IN FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The purpose of this study was to identify potential risk factors for recreational and sports-related injuries in children ages one to 14 in Fresno County, California. The lack of literature on recreational and sports-related injuries provided justification for this study. The literature discusses unintentional household injuries in children and recreational and sports-related injuries specific to Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia; however, little is known about recreational and sports-related injuries for children in the United States.

This retrospective study was conducted using records from Fresno County Emergency Medical Services calls by emergency medical personnel in Fresno County, California. Analysis of data for children in Fresno County indicates that gender and the month of the year in which injury occurs may be potential risk factors. These findings support development of appropriate and effective interventions to decrease the occurrence of recreational and sports-related injuries and, consequently, the utilization of emergency medical services.

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