

SUMMER SAFETY MYTHS

(AND WHAT TO DO TO SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER)

#	MYTH	TRUTH	HAZARDS	STATS	TO DO**
1.	MYTH: ONE BARRIER OF PROTECTION WILL GUARD AGAINST BACKYARD DROWNINGS	TRUTH: ONE BARRIER IS NOT ENOUGH BETWEEN A CHILD AND WATER	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DEATHS 357 (AVG. EACH YEAR 2020-2022) (UNDER 15 YEARS) INJURIES: 6,300 (EST. EACH YEAR 2022-2024) (UNDER 15 YEARS)	USE MULTIPLE BARRIERS BETWEEN A CHILD AND WATER (I.E., DOOR LOCKS, GATES, POOL COVERS, ALARMS) / AND ALWAYS SUPERVISE
2.	MYTH: ONLY LARGE BODIES OF WATER (I.E., IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOLS) ARE DROWNING HAZARDS	TRUTH: CHILDREN CAN DROWN IN AS LITTLE AS 2 INCHES OF WATER/ EVERY 5 DAYS: 1 CHILD DIES IN PORTABLE POOLS IN WARM WEATHER MONTHS	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DEATHS: 434 REPORTED NON-POOL & NON-SPA (I.E., BUCKETS, DECORATIVE YARD EQUIPMENT) (UNDER 5 YEARS, 2006-2010)	DO NOT OVERLOOK SMALLER WATER HAZARDS (I.E., BABY POOLS, FOUNTAINS) /USE SAME PRECAUTIONS AS ABOVE/ EMPTY BUCKETS, BABY POOLS AFTER USE/ WATCH OUT FOR RAINWATER THAT COULD COLLECT IN CONTAINERS
3.	MYTH: FLOTATION DEVICES ARE SAFETY DEVICES (I.E., WATER WINGS, RAFTS)	TRUTH: FLOTATION DEVICES DO NOT REPLACE ADULT SUPERVISION	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DROWN: 10 PEOPLE EVERY DAY	DILIGENT SUPERVISION STILL REQUIRED/ BEWARE: RAFTS CAN BLOCK THE VIEW OF A CHILD IN TROUBLE
4.	MYTH: YOU WILL HEAR A CHILD DROWNING	TRUTH: DROWNING CAN BE QUICK AND SILENT	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL DEATH: DROWNING (AGES 1 TO 4)	NEVER LEAVE A CHILD UNATTENDED NEAR WATER-- EVEN TO ANSWER THE PHONE
5.	MYTH: BICYCLE HELMETS ARE ONLY FOR THE ROAD AND DON'T HAVE TO BE WORN IN THE DRIVEWAY	TRUTH: MOST BICYCLE ACCIDENTS TAKE PLACE WITHIN 5 BLOCKS OF HOME/ HELMETS REDUCE THE RISK OF BRAIN/HEAD INJURY UP TO 88%	HEAD/BRAIN INJURIES- CONCUSSION, BRAIN DAMAGE, DEATH	9 OUT OF 10 KIDS WHO DIE EACH YEAR RIDING A BIKE ARE NOT WEARING A HELMET/ A 2-FOOT FALL CAN CAUSE FRACTURE/BRAIN DAMAGE	ALWAYS WEAR A PROPERLY FITTED HELMET- EVEN WHEN BIKING IN A DRIVEWAY OR TO A NEIGHBOR'S HOME
6.	MYTH: PLAYGROUNDS ARE DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN THEREFORE MUST BE SAFE	TRUTH: PLAYGROUND HAZARDS INCLUDE INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, IMPROPER SURFACING, AND MORE	DEATH, STRANGULATION, FRACTURES, OTHER SEVERE INJURIES	DEATHS: 43 (2014-2021) INJURIES: 206,700 (EST. EACH YEAR) (PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT)	NO STRINGS/CORDS: DRAWSTRINGS & HELMET STRAPS CAN CATCH ON EQUIPMENT. EQUIPMENT: CHECK FOR RECALLS /ALWAYS SUPERVISE
7.	MYTH: SOCCER GOALS ON FIELDS ARE PERMANENT AND CAN'T FALL OVER	TRUTH: GOALS CAN BE IMPROPERLY ANCHORED AND POORLY DESIGNED- 22 LBS: ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO TIP A 400 LB. GOAL	SOCCER GOALS CAN TIP OVER AND CRUSH CHILDREN- SEVERE INJURY, DEATH	DEATHS: 12 (UNDER 16YRS., 2000-2019) INJURIES: 3,400 (UNDER 16 YRS., 2000-2019)	GOALS SHOULD BE ANCHORED: RE-ANCHOR AFTER MOWING OR STORAGE REDESIGN: MANUFACTURERS SHOULD REDESIGN GOALS TO BE TIP-RESISTANT
8.	MYTH: RECREATIONAL TRAMPOLINES ARE POPULAR SO MUST BE SAFE	TRUTH: CATASTROPHIC INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH TRAMPOLINE USE	DEATH, PARALYSIS, BACK INJURIES, FRACTURES	DEATHS: 22 (ALL TRAMPOLINES, 2000-2009) INJURIES: 111,212 (ALL TRAMPOLINES EST. 2023)	REMEMBER POPULARITY DOES NOT GUARANTEE SAFETY-- KNOW THE SERIOUS POTENTIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES
9.	MYTH: WINDOW SCREENS PROTECT AGAINST FALLS	TRUTH: OPEN WINDOWS POSE A RISK TO CHILDREN; SCREENS DO NOT PREVENT WINDOW FALLS	FALLING- DEATH AND SEVERE INJURY	FROM WINDOW FALLS EACH YEAR DEATHS: 15-20 INJURIES: 15,000 (EST. FOR CHILDREN UNDER 11)	INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS & WINDOW STOPS/ NEVER RELY ON SCREENS TO STOP FALLS
10.	MYTH: PRODUCTS DESIGNED FOR KIDS ARE SAFE	TRUTH: CHILDREN'S TOYS AND RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS CAN HAVE HIDDEN HAZARDS	INJURIES OR DEATH	TOY DEATHS: 40 (CHILDREN UNDER 15, 2021-2023) TOY INJURIES: AVG. 226,300 PER YR (ESTIMATED, 2024 REPORT)	DEMAND SAFER DESIGN & MANUFACTURE FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS/ READ INSTRUCTIONS & WARNINGS/INSPECT PRODUCTS

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W.A.T.C.H. believes injuries and deaths associated with some warm-weather recreational activities and products can be significantly reduced with increased awareness. Find W.A.T.C.H.'s Summer Safety Report and 10 Top "Summer Safety Traps," as well as more information about toy safety, at www.toysafety.org. Visit www.cpsc.gov and www.saferproducts.gov to research safety history and check for recalls of children's products.

*FACTS: INJURIES AND DEATH STATISTICS ARE ESTIMATED PER YEAR IN THE U.S.A. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (INJURIES- TREATED IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS) **SOURCES: TOYSAFETY.ORG, INJURYCENTER.ORG, CPSC.GOV, NATIONAL HELMET SAFETY INSTITUTE (HELMETS.ORG), NSC (INJURY FACTS), CDC.GOV (DATA & STATISTICS), NATIONWIDECILDRNS.ORG., NEISS Data Highlights, Calendar Year 2023 (CPSC.gov), Window Fall Prevention (<https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/>), <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/toy-related-deaths-and-injuries-2022-annual-report.pdf> (CPSC, NOVEMBER 2023)