

SHOPPING CART INJURIES

The number of children ages 5 and under injured in shopping cart-related incidents has increased more than 30 percent since 1985. Children may suffer lacerations, contusions, fractures, concussions, and internal injuries when they jump or fall from a shopping cart, the cart overturns, they get pinched in the folding mechanism of the seat or they fall against the cart. Children also are at risk of injury from running into, or being hit by, shopping carts; from tipping over carts while climbing onto the outside of the basket; and from getting fingers or toes caught in the wheels.

Falls from shopping cart seats and baskets are the most common shopping cart-related injury. Shopping carts have a high center of gravity and a narrow wheelbase, making them top heavy when loaded and easy to tip over, especially when a child is placed in the seat. When children stand up, their chances of falling or tipping the cart increase.

Who is at Risk?

- Children ages 5 and under are at greatest risk of shopping cart-related injuries, accounting for two-thirds.
- Males are more likely to be injured from shopping cart related injuries than females.
- Children left unattended are at a greater risk for shopping cart related injuries. More than 80 percent of parents/caregivers leave a child unattended at least once while on a shopping trip.

Prevention Tips

- Always use safety belts to restrain children in shopping cart seats.
- Consider bringing a harness or safety belt with you when shopping to prevent your child from falling or climbing out of shopping carts.
- Always stay close to the shopping cart.
- Do not let your child stand in the shopping cart.
- Never let a child push or steer the shopping cart.