

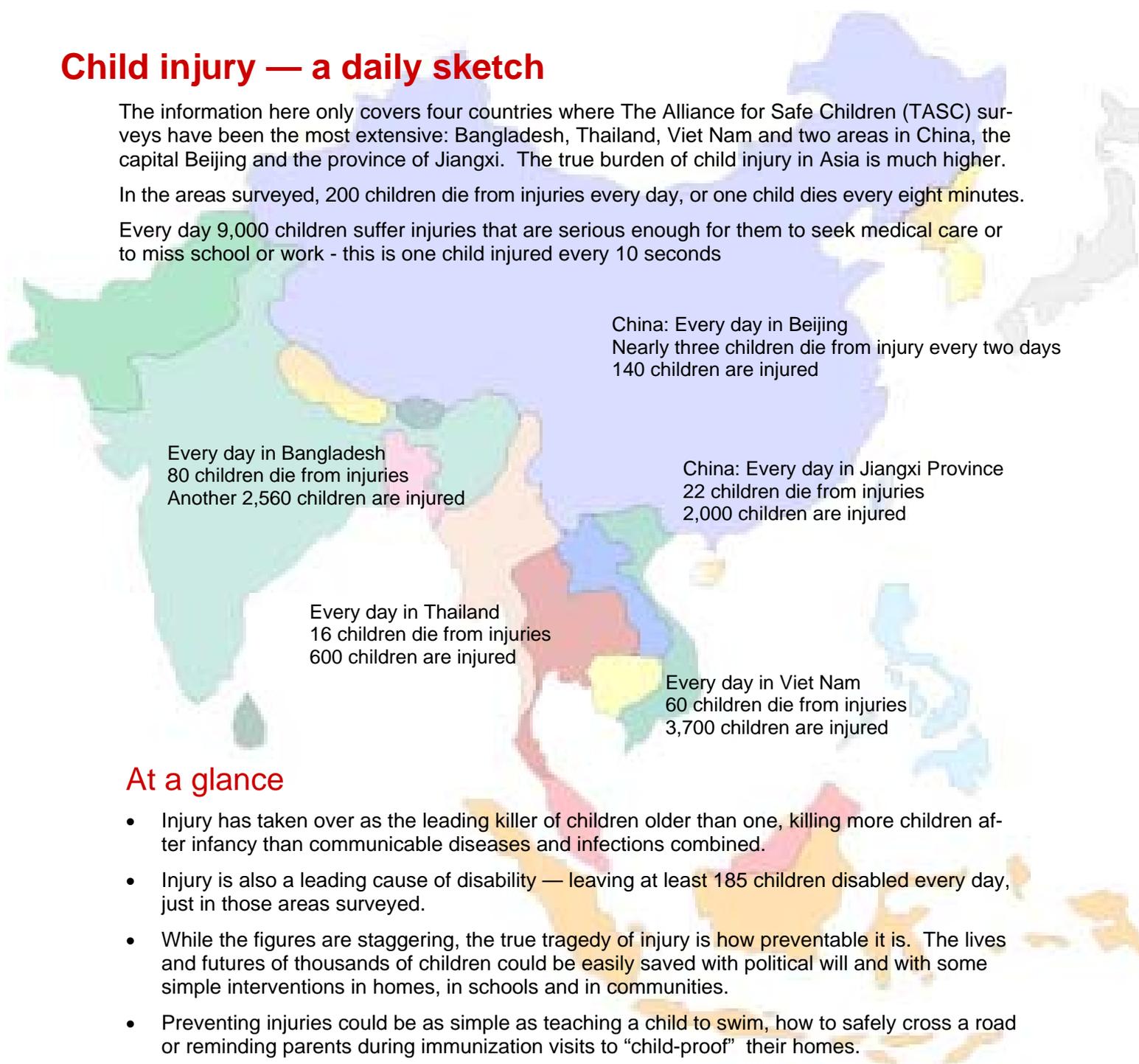
Child injury in Asia

Child injury — a daily sketch

The information here only covers four countries where The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) surveys have been the most extensive: Bangladesh, Thailand, Viet Nam and two areas in China, the capital Beijing and the province of Jiangxi. The true burden of child injury in Asia is much higher.

In the areas surveyed, 200 children die from injuries every day, or one child dies every eight minutes.

Every day 9,000 children suffer injuries that are serious enough for them to seek medical care or to miss school or work - this is one child injured every 10 seconds



At a glance

- Injury has taken over as the leading killer of children older than one, killing more children after infancy than communicable diseases and infections combined.
- Injury is also a leading cause of disability — leaving at least 185 children disabled every day, just in those areas surveyed.
- While the figures are staggering, the true tragedy of injury is how preventable it is. The lives and futures of thousands of children could be easily saved with political will and with some simple interventions in homes, in schools and in communities.
- Preventing injuries could be as simple as teaching a child to swim, how to safely cross a road or reminding parents during immunization visits to “child-proof” their homes.

Background

As recently as 30 years ago, the notion that all children everywhere could access basic health care was no more than that, a dream. It is gradually becoming a reality as deaths across the world from infectious and non-communicable causes, such as measles, polio, diarrheal diseases and malnutrition, decrease. The global success in reducing the rates of infectious and non-communicable deaths has caused the epidemiological shift to injury, which has taken over as a leading killer of children.

The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) is working to reduce the number of injuries, and injury deaths and disabilities in Asia, where two-thirds of the world's children live.

Child injury numbers



Country	Injury deaths per year	Drowning	Transport accidents	Suffocation	Falls	Animal bites
Bangladesh	29,155	16,600	3,400	950	1,600	2,400
China						
Beijing	517	172	345	-	-	-
Jiangxi	7,900	4,500	1,300	1,200	550	150
Thailand	6,400	2,650	2,600	450	85	280
Viet Nam	21,900	11,700	2,800	1,550	850	-
Total	65,800	35,500	10,500	4,100	3,000	2,800

- Drowning is the leading cause of injury deaths, killing almost 100 children every day in the surveyed areas. Teaching children to swim and educating parents about better supervision would save many of these lives.
- Suffocation is the leading cause of injury death for infants.

Country	Non-fatal injuries per year	Falls	Animal bites	Transport accidents	Cuts	Burns
Bangladesh	933,600	275,600	57,800	109,400	123,800	168,500
China						
Beijing	50,700	15,500	11,000	6,000	3,600	3,500
Jiangxi	731,700	208,100	249,500	95,700	51,100	43,900
Thailand	221,500	63,400	34,900	72,700	20,300	12,700
Viet Nam	1,346,300	385,600	332,000	229,200	190,500	60,000
Total	3,284,800	948,200	685,200	513,000	389,400	288,400

- The table shows more than 3 million children are injured every year. These injuries are serious enough to require medical care or to miss school or work. It does not count bumps and bruises.
- Falls, animal bites and transport injuries account for nearly two out of three of all non-fatal injuries.

Country	Disabling injuries per year	Falls	Transport accidents	Cuts	Animal bites	Burns	Violence
Bangladesh	13,100	3,800	1,400	1,700	-	3,400	500
China							
Beijing	500	-	150	150	-	-	150
Jiangxi	8,600	3,200	2,300	1,300	250	250	250
Thailand	1,600	400	700	200	150	-	150
Viet Nam	43,900	16,600	6,500	5,900	5,300	1,800	-
Total	67,800	24,000	11,000	9,400	5,800	5,400	1,100

- Disabilities and other serious injuries leave children and their families with lifelong social and economic costs that outweigh those associated with fatal injuries.
- Falls are the most common cause of injury disability. This is often related to spinal cord injuries.