

The Alliance for Safe Children



Injury shouldn't be a leading killer of children

Injury kills more children after infancy than infectious and non-communicable causes combined, with nearly 200 children a day dying from injuries in the countries where The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) and partners' household surveys have been most extensive: Bangladesh, Thailand, Viet Nam and two areas in China, the capital Beijing and the province of Jiangxi.

TASC was established in 2002 to reduce child injuries in Asia, where two-thirds of the world's children live. TASC's role is critical because even though injury is just as preventable as most infectious and non-communicable diseases, developing countries in Asia lack widespread injury prevention programs. To change this situation, and in particular reduce injury deaths and disabilities, TASC:

- Continues research to define the extent of child injury in Asia
- Advocates for injury prevention to become a core part of child health programs, equal to immunization or nutritional supplementation initiatives
- Assists in pilot programs that prove injury is as preventable in developing countries as it is in developed ones. Preventing a child injury death can be as simple as teaching them to swim.

Proving the extent of the problem

TASC staff and partners have pioneered community based research on child injury in Asia, for the first time proving that injury is a leading killer of children as well as a major cause of disability in developing countries. As of 2007, surveys have been jointly conducted in Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Viet Nam and the Philippines by TASC, the UNICEF country office and the East Asian and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO). The actual surveying was done by local public health researchers.

Viet Nam

- The first of the injury surveys, the Viet Nam Multi-center Injury Survey (VMIS) covered 27,000 households with 128,000 residents in 2001.
- The VMIS found 22,000 children die from injuries and 1,346,000 children are injured every year.

Bangladesh

- The Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey is the largest community level survey in a developing country, covering 171,366 households of 820,347 people.
- The BHIS revealed that more than 30,000 children die from injury every year and almost 1,000,000 children are injured seriously enough to require health care, or miss school or work.

Thailand

- The Thai National Injury Survey was carried out by the Institute of Health Research at Chulalongkorn University late 2003 - early 2004, surveying 100,179 households with 400,000 residents.
- It found 220,000 children were seriously injured every year with 6,400 children killed.

The Philippines

- The Philippines had a National Injury Survey in 2003, covering 95,000 households with 450,000 people, carried out by the Department of Health Field Epidemiology training program.

China

Two surveys in China were conducted with government support, one in the capital Beijing and the other in south-eastern Jiangxi Province, regarded as a middle-tier province by its health statistics, economics and geography, with a population of 43 million and GDP per capita of US\$835.

- *Beijing*: The 2003 survey covered 28,084 households, with 81,604 people. It found more than 50,000 children are seriously injured and 500 children die from injuries every year in Beijing.
- *Jiangxi*: The Jiangxi Injury Survey was conducted in September- December 2005, covering 100,010 households of 319,543 people. It found 8,000 children die from injuries every year, more than 8,000 are left permanently disabled and 732,00 are seriously injured.

Discussions are underway for surveys to begin in other Asian countries. The Cambodian survey began in late 2006.

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For more information, or to see how you can help, see www.tasc-gcipf.org



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Proving injury prevention works

Bangladesh

As part of TASC's mission to foster regional capacity in injury prevention programs, it helped establish the Centre for Injury Prevention Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) in 2004. Even with Bangladesh's long and successful history of child survival activities, no organization was addressing child injury nationally before CIPRB. CIPRB is already seen as a regional leader in injury prevention.

CIPRB's main project is PRECISE (Prevention of Child Injury through Social Intervention and Education), which is supported by TASC, UNICEF Bangladesh and the Government of Bangladesh.

- A core component of PRECISE is drowning prevention through teaching survival swimming
- Creating day care centers, or crèches, for young children to play in a supervised place away from water hazards is another key water safety intervention
- PRECISE educates the community about injury hazards through courtyard meetings that then assist villagers to develop their own local prevention ideas.
- Health workers or injury prevention promoters make house-to-house visits to promote and check basic injury prevention, such as storing knives and poisons out of children's reach.
- In a school safety component CIPRB has developed curricula to help teach students to avoid injury risks and organizes for the school community to reduce or remove hazards from schools.

PRECISE operates in four areas where injuries are monitored monthly by local data collectors.

Viet Nam

Programs are being planned for the Danang Province in Viet Nam that will complement the Bangladeshi programs to give two culturally separate models to replicate throughout Asia. Based on VMIS' findings, *Safe Home*, *Safe School*, and *Safe Community* intervention models are being tailored for the Vietnamese context.

UNICEF and the Hanoi School of Public Health are partnering TASC in the three year effort.

Thailand

Safe School Thailand has rebuilt a school after the 2004 tsunami as a *safety model*. The school, in Ban Nam Khem in Phang Nga Province, will remove injury hazards and give the teachers and students practical ways through their curriculum to practice safe behavior in their everyday lives.

The safe school model also incorporates disaster preparedness planning. The project is supported by the Myer Foundation through Australia's Swinburne University of Technology and partner Chulalongkorn University.

China

The *Safe Beijing* program has a multi-sectorial approach involving *Safe Home*, *Safe School*, *Safe Kindergarten* and *Safe Community*.

Introduced by local government in July 2004, the approach is being used to:

- develop and reinforce safety regulations
- introduce appropriate education curriculum
- stimulate behavior change
- make environmental modifications that reduce hazards