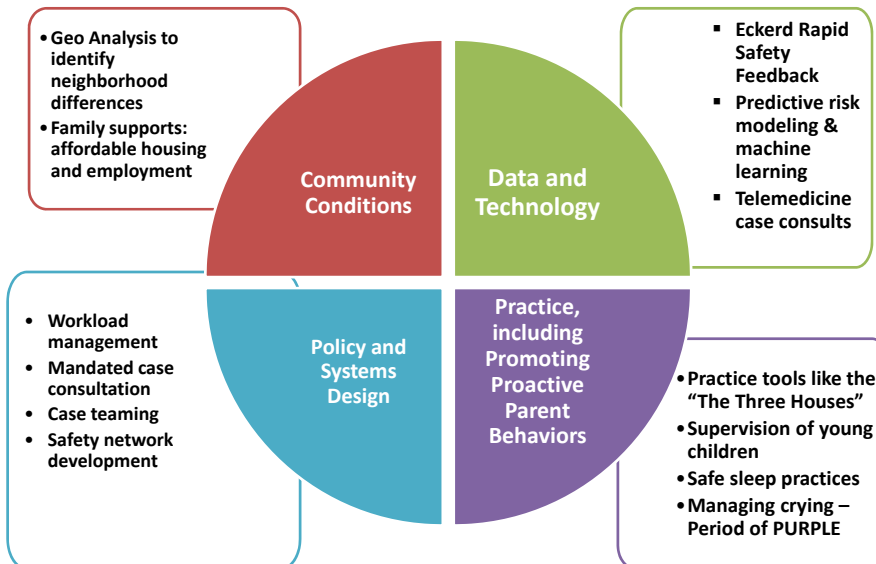


Abstract

While well-intentioned, current child welfare services may be failing to protect children from severe maltreatment due to constraints in policy, program design, practice and funding. Drawing from new advances in the injury control field and other areas, this document summarizes the community conditions, systems factors, evidence-based practices (EBPs), and promising practices that may prevent child fatalities and severe child injuries related to child maltreatment. It also outlines future directions for practice and research.

*Promising, **Supported by research evidence, ***Well-supported

Examples of Varied Approaches to Child Safety



Community Conditions

- Geographic analysis to identify high risk neighborhoods.
- Promoting community norms that protect children. (Broad Triple P tier one strategies and ACEs prevention and mitigation initiatives.)
- Other public health-informed policies to increase community capacity to support families: “Family Action Councils” or “Neighborhood Action Groups”

Policy and System Strategies (Cont.)

- Income and housing supports to improve parental capacity to care for children
- Agency-wide “culture of safety”
- CPAC Guidelines for CAN Medical Response require the MDT to seek immediate medical evaluations for children, siblings and other children in the household when specific abuse fact patterns exist.
- Workload management: limits and adjustments for case complexity

Policy and System Design (Cont.)

- Mandated case consultation (LA Board policy: require nurse consultation for children under the age of 2 in CPS)
- Child under age 6 get medical exams when a sibling has signs of abuse
- Case teaming: assessment and decision-making
- Safety networks

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Data and Technology

- Data analytics, risk modeling and machine learning
- Regular refreshment of state or county level prediction data regarding risk and protective factors (e.g., Allegheny county, Eckerd Rapid Safety feedback)
- Telemedicine and web-based consults

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Practice: Promote Proactive Parenting to Prevent Child Fatalities

Infant Death Due to Co-Sleeping With Adults:

- *Safe Sleep Campaign in Michigan**
- *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) campaign.** (The CPSC warns parents *not* to place their infants to sleep in adult beds, stating that the practice puts babies at risk of suffocation and strangulation.)

Deaths Caused by Poor Supervision of the Child (E.g., Children Falling Out Of Windows, Being Left In an Over-Heated Car, Wandering Out Into a Street and Being Hit by a Car):

- *Child safety campaigns.* (These relate to multiple facets of life, including traffic safety, swimming, and sports.)*



Milwaukee public health safe sleeping campaign. Retrieved from: http://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/healthAuthors/MCH/Images/infantmortality/Safe_Sleep_adCopy.jpg?Original

Los Angeles Safe Sleeping Ad Using a More Positive Approach

<http://safesleepforbaby.com/how-to-keep-your-baby.shtml>



How to Keep Your Baby Safe

Parents and caregivers can reduce the risk of infant death from suffocation by being aware of and following these safe sleeping practices.



Promote Proactive Parenting to Prevent Child Fatalities

Physical Abuse-related Deaths:

- *Nurse Family Partnership****

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) from using a non-supine infant sleeping position:

- *Back to Sleep Campaign***
- *Safe Sleep Campaign in Michigan**

Proactive Parenting to Prevent Child Severe Injury

Physical Abuse: Abusive Head Injuries Such as Shaken Baby Syndrome:

- *Healthy Start Program, Enhanced Model***
- *Hospital-based education programs.**
- *Fussy Baby Network® Colorado**
- *Kohl's Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Campaign**
- *The Period of PURPLE Crying® education campaigns**

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Shake a Baby
**NEVER
NEVER
NEVER**



Just Walk Away!

Shaking a baby can cause blindness, permanent brain damage, even death. Please never shake a baby

http://www.kaleidahealth.org/services/pdfs/wchob/shakenbaby/Shaken_Baby_poster.pdf

Preventing Child Severe Injuries (Cont.)

Physical Abuse: Undifferentiated Abuse that Required Hospitalization:

- *Durham Connects universal brief home visiting*** (emergency medical care use for infant injuries)
- *Nurse Family Partnership**** (emergency medical care use for childhood injuries)
- *Triple P—Positive Parenting Program****

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Preventing Child Severe Injuries (Cont.)

Child injuries caused by poor supervision of the child (children falling out of windows, being left in over-heated cars, children wandering out into the street):

- *Child safety campaigns that relate to multiple facets of life, including traffic safety, swimming, and sports.**

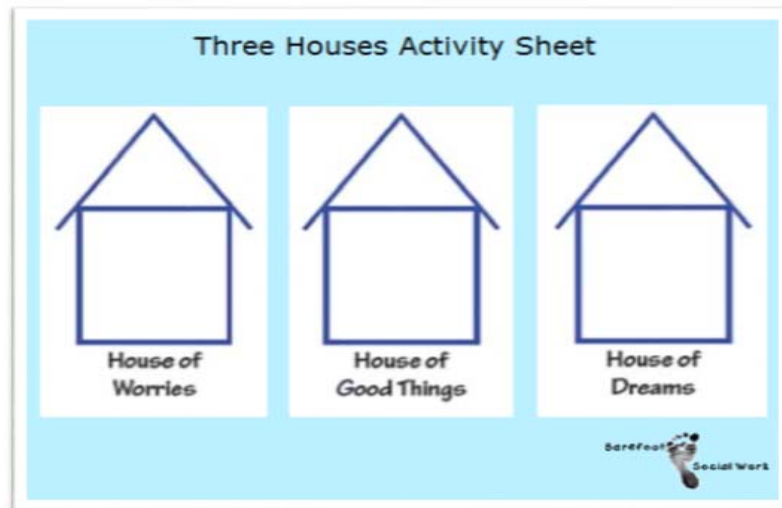
Neglect: Severe child injury due to poor medical care or lack of proper health care:

- *Enhanced Pediatric Care for Families at Risk**

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Other Practice Strategies to Consider

- Safety mapping techniques and tools
- Practice tools like Three Houses



Weld, N. (2008). The three houses tool: building safety and positive change. In M. Calder (Ed.) *Contemporary risk assessment in safeguarding children*. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing.

Other Prevention Strategies to Consider

- ***Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe**** (evolved from the Good-Touch Bad-Touch® intervention)
- ***Child Welfare Birth Match****
- ***Crisis Nurseries****
- ***Enhanced pediatric care for families at risk****
- ***SafeCare®*****
- ***Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) Project****
- ***Substance abuse treatment programs****

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For more information

- Chahine, Z., Pecora, P.J., Sanders, D. & Wilson, D. (Eds.) (2013). Preventing Severe Maltreatment-Related Injuries and Fatalities: Applying a Public Health Framework and Innovative Approaches to Child Protection. *Child Welfare*, Vol. 92, No. 2, pp. 9-253.
- Douglas, E.M. (2016). Testing if social services prevent fatal child maltreatment among a sample of children previously known to Child Protective Services. *Child Maltreatment*, pp. 1-11, DOI: 10.1177/1077559516657890 cmx.sagepub.com
- Pecora, P.J. (2016). *Evidence-based and promising interventions for preventing child fatalities and severe child injuries related to child maltreatment*. Seattle: Casey Family Programs, Research Services.
- Vogus, T.J., Cull, M.J., Hengelbrok, N.E., Modell, S. J. & Epstein, R.A. (2016). Assessing safety culture in child welfare: Evidence from Tennessee. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 94-103.

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