

Press release



October 15, 2015

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Note to broadcasters: RoSPA has an ISDN studio.

Inequalities in child injuries addressed at EU conference

A project aimed at addressing inequalities in injuries among children and young people across Europe will be launched today with the release of four documents to support child injury prevention.

[The European Child Safety Alliance](#) (ECSA), which is hosted by the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents](#) (RoSPA), will release the documents at the European Public Health Association 2015 conference in Milan today (October 15).

The four documents a report on child injury and inequity and three targeted good practice tools focussing on pre, primary and secondary school age children, stem from the ECSA's [Tools to Address Childhood Trauma, Injury and Children's Safety](#) (TACTICS) project, which aims to provide better information, practical tools and resources to support the adoption and implementation of evidence-based good practices for the prevention of injury to children and young people in Europe.

The key messages at the launch will be:

- Child injury is a leading cause of death, disability and burden, and the leading cause of inequalities for children in the EU
- Failure to adopt, implement and monitor proven solutions increases inequalities and creates social injustice
- Focusing on *eight keys to success* can increase the likelihood that investments to make communities safer for children will lead to reductions in injury.
- Further investment is needed to support monitoring of child injury related inequalities and research to identify effective prevention strategies.

Sheila Merrill, public health adviser at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), said: "Injury is a leading cause of death, disability and inequity to children in every Member State in the region so we must do all we can to make the lives of children living in Europe safer. The release of the four documents is an important step forward in making this happen.

"The documents will not only assist local decision makers, advocates and practitioners by highlighting prevention strategies but will also highlight available tools and resources needed to support the targeted age groups."

"We hope the conference will provide a platform to increase dissemination of the key messages and availability of the new resources to support child injury prevention."

Morag MacKay, lead author of the documents and Child Injury Prevention Consultant working with ECSA, said: "The eight keys to success and the associated AIM checklist being launched as part of the targeted good practice resources are based on research into real life

RoSPA's mission is to save lives and reduce injuries

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experiences from Europe and if followed should help increase the success of efforts to reduce child injury.”

Giuseppina Lecce from the Ministry of Health, the ECSA partner in Italy said: “The report *Children’s Right to Safety: inequity in child injury in Europe* is an important piece of research.”

“Approximately 9000 children die as result of an injury each year and hundreds of thousand are injured. But the biggest question is why are some children at greater risk to injury?”

“The differences in child injury rates between and within Member States are significant and call for action at the national, regional and local levels to both monitor and address the inequities.”

“This report is an important tool to tackle the burden of the problem making proposal of solution and recommending action such as : monitoring inequalities, research , multisectorial health approach, evidence based good practices, children’s right approach.”

The four documents will be available on the ECSA website at:
www.chilfsafetyeurope.org/TACTICS/deliverables

Notes to journalists

1. The European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA) was launched in 2000 with the ambition to make the lives of children living in Europe safer. Today, more than 30 countries across Europe are working together to reduce the leading cause of death, disability and inequity to children in every Member State in the region - injury. Our members from across Europe come from diverse fields and settings, including medicine, public health, psychology, education, engineering and government, to share and advocate for what works in child injury prevention to benefit children and their families.

The European Child Safety Alliance is hosted and has operated out of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in Birmingham, England since January 2011. More information on ECSA can be found at www.chilfsafetyeurope.org

2. TACTICS (Tools to Address Childhood Trauma, Injury and Children’s Safety) was project led by the European Child Safety Alliance of EuroSafe in partnership with RoSPA, Maastricht University, Nordic School of Public Health, Dublin City University, Swansea University, European Public Health Alliance, national partner organisations in each of the participating countries with co-funding from the European Commission (a full list of the organisations involved is available at <http://www.chilfsafetyeurope.org/tactics/project-partners.html>)
3. Health inequities are defined as systematic differences in health that can be avoided by appropriate policy intervention. Health inequities are related to access to health care services, unequal distribution of determinants of health, including power, income, goods and services, poor and unequal living conditions, and the differences in health-damaging behaviours that these wider determinants produce.

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