
Steps To Safety

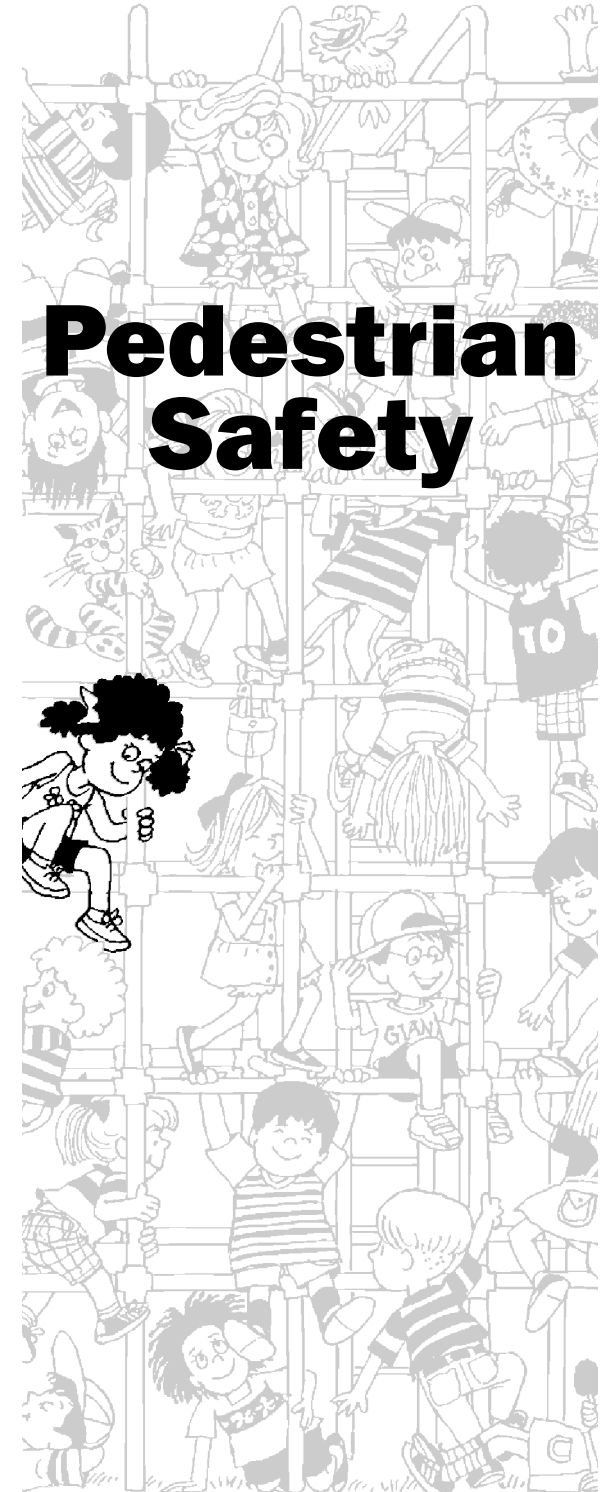
- Never allow children under age 10 to cross streets alone. Adult supervision is essential as children in this age bracket do not possess the visual and judgment skills to safely cross streets.
- Monitor play in driveways and unfenced yards. Prohibit play in streets or parking lots.
- Require children to carry a flashlight at night, dawn or dusk. Add reflective materials to children's clothing.
- Instruct children to look left-right-left again when crossing a street and to continue looking as they cross. Children should never run across or into a street.
- Always model and teach proper pedestrian behavior. Cross streets at the corner, using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible. Make eye contact with drivers prior to crossing in front of them.
- Teach children to walk facing traffic, as far to the left as possible, when sidewalks are not available.
- Teach children to cross the street at least 10 feet in front of a school bus and to wait for adults on the same side of the street as the school bus loading/unloading zone.
- Advocate for traffic calming measures (such as speed bumps), walkways that separate pedestrians from traffic, limited curbside parking, reduced traffic in residential neighborhoods and lower speed limits.



For more information contact:

Safe Kids Grand Forks
c/o Altru Health System
P.O. Box 6002
Grand Forks, ND 58206-6002

Coordinator: Carma Hanson
Phone: 701-780-1489
Fax: 701-780-1507
Email: chanson@altru.org
www.altru.org



Pedestrian Safety

Children pedestrian injuries are frequently serious or deadly. Despite recent declines, pedestrian injuries remain the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14.

The Facts Are In

- In 2003, nearly 38,400 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for pedestrian-related injuries.
- Between 25 and 50 percent of child pedestrian injuries require hospital admission.
- In 2002, 599 children ages 14 and under died from pedestrian injuries.
- In 2000, nearly half of all child pedestrian deaths occurred in the late afternoon and early evening. Most occurred in the middle of the block or at other non-intersection locations.



Did You Know?

- For all ages, traffic-related pedestrian death rates are twice as high in urban areas as in rural area and non-traffic pedestrian-related deaths are twice as high in rural areas as compared to urban areas.
- Children ages 14 and under are more likely to suffer pedestrian injuries in areas with high traffic volume, a higher number of parked vehicles on the street, higher posted speed limits, no divided highways, few pedestrian-controlled devices and few alternative play areas.
- Child pedestrian injuries occur more often in residential areas and local roads that are straight, paved and dry.
- Nearly 10 percent of all pedestrian-related injuries occur in driveways. Children ages 4 and under account for 80 percent of the driveway-related pedestrian injuries. More than half of all toddler pedestrian injuries occur when a vehicle is backing up.

- School zones pose additional risks. A national survey found that two-thirds of drivers exceeded the posted speed limit during the 30-minute period before and after school.
- A national observational survey of motorist behavior at stop signs found that 45 percent did not come to a complete stop, 37 percent rolled through the stop sign and 7 percent did not even slow down.

Who's At Risk?

- Nearly two-thirds of child pedestrian deaths are among males.
 - Children ages 5 – 9 are at the greatest risk from traffic-related pedestrian death and injury.
 - Children living in areas that have a high population density of children, household crowding, high housing density, low socioeconomic status, poor supervision and no safe play environments are more likely to suffer pedestrian injury.
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