

Shopping Cart Injuries



True Story

A 2-year-old girl and her 1-year-old cousin were at a market with their grandmother, and both girls were riding in a shopping cart. The cart flipped over, and both children fell to the concrete floor. The 2-year-old died from blunt force head and neck injuries.

-From the files of MECAP
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

The Facts

- In 1999, nearly 23,600 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with shopping carts.
- Children ages 4 and younger account for the majority of shopping cart injuries.
- Children can suffer cuts, bruises, fractures, concussions and even internal injuries when they jump or fall from a shopping cart, the cart overturns, they get pinched in the folding mechanism or they fall against or are hit by a cart.

What You Can Do

- Always use a harness or safety belt to restrain children in shopping cart seats.
- Stay close to the cart at all times.
- Don't let your child stand up in or push a shopping cart.
- Don't let your child hang on to the side of the shopping cart to "catch a ride".
- Don't let your child lie down or sit on the under portion of the cart.
- Don't prop your infant seat in the cart. Use the infant seats that are built into shopping carts.



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.