**CHAPTER ONE**

**Introduction**

**1.1 Background of the study**

Injuries have traditionally been regarded as random, unavoidable “accidents”. Within the last few decades, however, a better understanding of the nature of injuries has changed these old attitudes, and today both unintentional and intentional injuries are viewed as largely preventable events. As a result of this shift in perception, injuries and their health implications have demanded the attention of decision-makers worldwide and injury policy has been firmly placed in the public health arena. Furthermore, the growing acceptance of injuries as a preventable public health problem over the past decade or so has led to the development of preventative strategies and, consequently, a decrease in the human death toll due to injuries in some countries.

Of the 4.4 million injury-related deaths, unintentional injuries take the lives of 3.16 million people every year and violence-related injuries kill 1.25 million people every year. Roughly 1 in 3 of these deaths result from road traffic crashes, 1 in 6 from suicide, 1 in 10 from homicide and 1 in 61 from war and conflict. For people age 5-29 years, 3 of the top 5 causes of death are injury-related, namely road traffic injuries, homicide and suicide. Drowning is the sixth leading cause of death for children age 5-14 years. Falls account for over 684,000 deaths each year and are a growing and under-recognized public health issue.

Based on the premise that access to accurate, reliable information is the key to sound policy-making, this publication seeks to provide a global overview of the nature and extent of injury mortality and morbidity in the form of user-friendly tables and charts. It is hoped that the graphical representation of the main patterns of the burden of disease due to injury will raise awareness of the importance of injuries as a public health issue and facilitate the implementation of effective prevention programmes (World Health Organisation 2013 ).

National figures for the prevalence of domestic accidents among children in Nigeria are unavailable because of lack of an accident registry system or poor and/or under reporting, but the figures from different studies (mostly hospital based) from across the country indicate that they are high. The most common causes for these domestic accidents ranged from accidental falls, poisoning, especially kerosene and food poisoning, accidental drowning, burns and scalds, etc. Children are vulnerable to domestic accidents because they are still developing and have not learnt to be aware of various environmental dangers; this together with their curiosity, impulsiveness, and desire to master new skills put them at greater risk.The home is supposed to be the most safe and secure place for the child, unfortunately, many life-threatening yet preventable accidents can happen there.

Hence, preventive and safety measures need to be instituted in the home to prevent domestic accidents among children because injuries sustained during the developmental period of a child can lead to permanent disability or even death, thus making the child unable to fulfil their full potential of living a productive and active life. However, preventing unintentional injury is a complex issue that should encompass an understanding of the perceptions, knowledge, and behaviour of parents or caregivers. (Gielen Sleet and DiClemente 2006). Children under 5 years old are susceptible to unintentional injury from the rapid developmental changes that occur during these periods. Very young children and infants are at specific risk due to their desire to explore objects and their environment throughout the so-called ‘sensor-motor’ stage.

Children older than 3 years display egocentric and magical thinking, as well as transductive reasoning, which are the hallmark of the ‘preoperational’ stage. (Sehti and Vincenten 2008, Ball, Bindler and Cowen 2010).

Morrongiello, Ondejko, and Littlejohn (2004) reported that parents in Nigeria adopt strategies such as removing hazards and applying specific safety devices to prevent risk exposure. However, one of the barriers associated with these strategies is that parents with low socioeconomic status are often unable to afford purchasing safety devices.

Additionally, parental supervision is considered a facilitating factor in decreasing unintentional injuries (Ingram and Emond 2009; Morrongiello and Schell 2010; Schnitzer, Covington, and Kruse 2011; Schwebel and Kendrick 2009). This includes supervising children and modifying parental behaviours to reduce potential risks. It was discussed by Petrass, Finch, and Blitvich (2009) in their systematic review, which explored the relationship between parental supervision and the risk of unintentional child injuries. They indicated that lack of supervision was the primary contributing factor to unintentional child injuries. However, the mode of supervision was not precisely defined, and the tools used to measure supervision were not validated.

According to (Ablewhite 2015). Child-based strategies, which include teaching children safety rules in a developmentally appropriate way, are important. However, there is inconsistent evidence for the effectiveness of teaching safety rules. Some researchers suggest that relying solely on this strategy cannot eliminate the risk of injury, particularly for young children (Morrongiello, Ondejko, and Littlejohn 2004; Wortel and de Geus 1993). Children’s ability to understand safety rules and their willingness to follow them depends on their developmental ability and temperature. Moreover, the literature indicates that safety information is typically provided to children later in terms of their developmental age. This is because parents usually prioritise more vital issues in the care of their children, including breastfeeding. Therefore, in view of the aforementioned function, there is tremendous improvement in terms of mothers Home Safety Practices for Preventing injuries to their in Maiduguri Metropolitan, Council Borno State.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The overall development of children's homes has to do with healthy practices that will ensure injury free life. The well-being of children equally has a lot to do with mothers knowing measures to ensure that their children are free from hazardous objects in the environment.

It has been observed that the homes and discussed the hazards could be remedied by parental action, where as others were constrained by the families financial capability or the physical structure of the property. Nevertheless, some mothers took actions to minimise risks, although not all of their actions appeared to be effective. Therefore, this study is design to determine: Mothers Home Safety Practice for preventing injuries to their children a case study of Maiduguri Metroploitan council, Borno State.

**1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The Objectives of the study are to:

1. Determine common injuries among children
2. Investigate the causes of injuries among children
3. Determine the basic preventive measures of injuries among children

**1.4. RESEARCH QUESTION**

For the purpose of this study the following questions will be asked

1. What are the common injuries among children
2. What are the causes of injuries among children
3. What are the basic preventive measures of injuries among children

**1.5 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this is to bring into consideration the comtemporary issue of mothers' home safety practices for preventing injuries to their children. This study will be of benefit to parents in up bringing healthy children to the society. However, this study will also be of importance to the primary, secondary health care and other health facilities through preventing common injuries among children. As the number of injured childs is decreased.

This study will also be of benefit to the populace as it provides ideas and knowledge about safety practices, that reduce the risk of home injuries. Not enough

1.6. **Scope of the study**

This study is delimited to Mothers home safety practices for preventing injuries to their children in Maiduguri metropolitan council{MMC}Borno state. It is also determined to mothers in M.M.C Borno State.

1.7. **Operational definition of terms**

The following terms are defined operationally in the study:

HOME SAFETY PRACTICES: the awareness and education of risks and potential dangers in and around a home, which may cause bodily harm, injury or even death among children in MMC Borno State..

INJURY: is a damage to your body. It is a general term that refers to harm caused by accidents, falls, hits, weapons, poising, etc. In other words, injury; is any damage or violation of the person, character, feelings, rights, property or interest of an individual among children in MMC Borno State.

CHILD: a young person of either sex, between infancy and puberty among children.

PREVENTION: Is the action of stopping something from happening or arising among children.