



FIG 1-2 Motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of death in children older than 1 year of age. The majority of fatalities involve occupants who are unrestrained.

Pedestrian accidents involving children account for significant numbers of motor vehicle–related deaths. Most of these accidents occur at midblock, at intersections, in driveways, and in parking lots. Driveway injuries typically involve small children and large vehicles backing up.

Bicycle-associated injuries also cause a number childhood deaths. Children ages 5 to 9 years old are at greatest risk of bicycling fatalities. The majority of bicycling deaths are from traumatic head injuries ([Centers for Disease Control, 2014](#)). Helmets greatly reduce the risk of head injury, but few children wear helmets. Community-wide bicycle helmet campaigns and mandatory-use laws have resulted in significant increases in helmet use. Still, issues such as stylishness, comfort, and social acceptability remain important factors in noncompliance. Nurses can educate children and families about pedestrian and bicycle safety. In particular, school nurses can promote helmet wearing and encourage peer leaders to act as role models.

Drowning and burns are among the top three leading causes of deaths for males and females throughout childhood ([Fig. 1-3](#)). In addition, improper use of firearms is a major cause of death among males ([Fig. 1-4](#)). During infancy, more boys die from aspiration or suffocation than do girls ([Fig. 1-5](#)). Each year, more than 500,000 children ages 5 and under experience a potential poisoning related to medications ([Bond, Woodward, and Ho, 2011](#)). Currently, more