

Childhood Injuries

Risk Factors

- Sex—Preponderance of males; difference mainly the result of behavioral characteristics, especially aggression
- Temperament—Children with difficult temperament profile, especially persistence, high activity level, and negative reactions to new situations
- Stress—Predisposes children to increased risk taking and self-destructive behavior; general lack of self-protection
- Alcohol and drug use—Associated with higher incidence of motor vehicle injuries, drownings, homicides, and suicides
- History of previous injury—Associated with increased likelihood of another injury, especially if initial injury required hospitalization
- Developmental characteristics
- Mismatch between child's developmental level and skill required for activity (e.g., all-terrain vehicles)
- Natural curiosity to explore environment
- Desire to assert self and challenge rules
- In older child, desire for peer approval and acceptance
- Cognitive characteristics (age specific)
- Infant—Sensorimotor: explores environment through taste and touch