



Injury and the built environment

- Injury is a leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. In fact, more children die as a result of injury than any other cause. Every year, injuries generate \$406 billion in lifetime costs to our society.
- Many injuries result from the built environment, meaning the parts of our environment that are designed and constructed by humans. Examples include homes, buildings, neighborhoods, sporting facilities, playgrounds, roadways, and vehicles.
- Because the built environment can be modified to help prevent both intentional and unintentional injury, addressing the environmental factors related to injury is an important public health opportunity. Examples include modifying roads so they are more pedestrian and bike friendly, and building playgrounds with absorbent cushioning to reduce the risk of head injury during a fall.

How the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy addresses injury and the built environment

- **Children's Housing Assessment for a Safer Environment (CHASE)**: This CDC-funded study examines how home characteristics contribute to child injury risk. Center researchers will ultimately create a new housing inspection tool that can be used to assess the suitability of homes for families with children.
- **Improving Walkability and Bikeability at Johns Hopkins University**: In the wake of four students being injured (one fatally) while walking or biking near the University's Homewood campus, the University asked Center faculty to conduct a needs assessment and make recommendations for improving the safety of the pedestrian and biking environment.
- **Safe Routes to School**: Working with partners at the Baltimore City Safe Routes to School Program, Center faculty are implementing and evaluating the creation of Walking School Buses, which promote safe walking behavior among students.
- **Environmental Barriers to Outdoor Physical Activity**: Center faculty are leading a multi-disciplinary team of investigators from the School in examining how physical disorder, violence, and perceived safety from the perspective of both parents and children impact a child's walking behavior. This study, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and CDC, is also measuring the association between locations of and types of violence, and public parks and playgrounds in Baltimore City.

About the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy

- Founded in 1987, the Center is a leader in redefining injury as a public health problem and promoting injury prevention as a scientific discipline.
- Guided by a commitment to ensuring its high quality research is translated into programs and policies, the Center's work reduces the burden of injury around the globe.
- The diversity of disciplines needed to advance the science of injury control, from prevention to acute care to rehabilitation, are well-represented among the Center's world-renowned faculty.

For more information, please visit our Website: www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter or call (410)-955-2221