Playground Injuries Fact Sheet

Playground injury data is typically taken from children arriving at a hospital emergency room for treatment. This information provides an opportunity to review your playground and analyze problem areas where most injuries occur.

Where Children Get Injured:

- About 45% of playground-related injuries are severe-fractures, Internal injuries, concussions, dislocations and sometimes even amputations (Tinsworth 2001).
- 75% of nonfatal injuries related to playground equipment occur on public playgrounds such as schools and day care centers.
- On occasion, a small percentage of playground injuries result in death. (70%) of injuries resulting in deaths occur on home playgrounds. When children die as a result of playground injuries 56% of the time it is from strangulation and 20% of the time it is a result of falls to the surfacing.

At Risk Groups

- 55% of injuries are to girls
- 45% of injuries are to boys

Injuries Based on Equipment Type

- In public playgrounds, most injuries occur on climbers
- On home playgrounds most injuries occur on swings
- Low income areas are also a risk factor for injuries. It seems that low-income areas are maintained less and related hazards are more plentiful in these areas (i.e. trash, rusty equipment and improper or not well maintained playground surfacing etc.)

References