

European Child Safety Report Cards 2009

A Comparison of Results for Wales, England and Scotland

Background

The Child Safety Report Card was developed as part of the Child Safety Action Plan (CSAP) project, a large scale initiative whose purpose is to use standardised tools and processes to facilitate development of national government endorsed action plans to enhance child and young person safety in Europe. The initiative is led by the European Child Safety Alliance in partnership with Eurosafe, the European Commission, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), UNICEF, WHO-Europe and the universities of Keele and the West of England.

One of the objectives of the project is to establish a set of indicators and standardised data collection tools focussing on child and adolescent injury to establish a baseline level of injury burden and action in the participating countries. The Child Safety Report Cards and Profiles are a result of this activity.

The report cards summarise a country's performance to July 2008 with respect to the level of safety provided to children and young people through national level policy and serves to assist countries in the identification of critical accident prevention issues and therefore inform strategic planning. They are based on an examination of evidenced good practice policies in a variety of injury areas as well as an assessment of leadership, infrastructure and the capacity to support child injury prevention efforts.

The European Child Safety Alliance has produced report cards for 24 participating countries, including Wales, England and Scotland. In a comparison of the countries involved, Wales' overall ranking was 21st out of the 24, England's ranking was 8th and Scotland ranked 12th.

The reports revealed that although Wales, England and Scotland have all done a good job in addressing safety issues for children and adolescents in the areas of passenger, moped/motor scooter and pedestrian safety, it is important that these efforts are continued and equal attention is given to injuries occurring in and around the home. More can also be done in evidence-based policy introduction, implementation and enforcement to support the prevention of cycling injuries, drowning, falls, poisonings, burns and scalds and choking/strangulation in all three countries.

In addition, the reports highlighted the need to support and fund injury prevention measures in a combined approach of education, engineering and enforcement of standards and regulations.

Wales, England and Scotland were all shown to have an excellent capacity and good infrastructure to address child and adolescent safety, however stronger ownership and leadership would improve child accident prevention measures in all three countries.

In Wales, whilst there are arguably no dedicated budgets for child accident prevention, research and capacity building (road safety being the exception), the Wales report does recognise and welcome the existing support and funding by the Welsh Assembly Government.

England's recent commitment to a national programme addressing home safety for disadvantaged families and to looking into the feasibility of resuming the injury data registry, signal a positive movement in the direction of improving child and adolescent safety in England.

In Scotland the Child Safety Strategy has provided an excellent framework and starting point to accomplish a national strategy, but a detailed action plan and endorsement by the government are also needed.

To view all 24 reports cards (including a Welsh language copy), Wales' Country Profile, the European Summary Report Card and the recommendations made in "*Working Towards a Child Safety Strategy for Wales*", please [click HERE](#).

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1. Overall scores



Wales 29.5



England 39.5






Scotland 35.5

2. Overall Injury Area Scores































| Injury Area | Wales | England | Scotland |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Passenger safety | 3.5 | 4 | 3.5 |
| Moped or motorcycle safety | 3 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| Pedestrian safety | 3 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Cycling safety | 2.5 | 4 | 2.5 |
| Water safety / drowning prevention | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 |
| Fall prevention | 1 | 3 | 1.5 |
| Poisoning prevention | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3 |
| Burn and scald prevention | 2.5 | 3 | 3 |
| Choking / strangulation prevention | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Child Safety leadership | 1 | 4 | 1.5 |
| Child Safety infrastructure | 4 | 4 | 3.5 |
| Child Safety capacity building | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5 |
| Overall | 29.5 | 39.5 | 35.5 |

3. Breakdown of injury area scores

























-  Existing, clearly stated, implemented and enforced (as appropriate) (2 points)
-  Existing, clearly stated but only partly implemented or enforced (1 points)
-  Not existing or not clearly stated (0 points)

Specific Injury Areas



















Passenger safety

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| National law requiring use of appropriate child and adolescent passenger restraint |  |  |  |
| National law requiring children to remain seated in rear facing in car seats until age 4 years |  |  |  |
| National law requiring children and adolescents to remain seated in the back seat of a motor vehicle until age 13 years |  |  |  |
| National law requiring graduated licensing for new drivers (e.g., law requiring multi-stage programme to allow new licensed drivers on-road driving experience under conditions of reduced risk) |  |  |  |
| National law banning children from riding/driving farm tractors |  |  |  |
| National law banning children from riding/driving all terrain vehicles (ATVs, three-wheelers, four-wheelers) |  |  |  |
| National ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent passenger safety |  |  |  |
| Government approved national strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent passenger safety |  |  |  |
| National programme of child home visits that includes education on child passenger safety |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent passenger safety |  |  |  |













Moped/motor scooter safety

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| National law limiting legal age to drive a moped / motor scooter (small engine motorcycle) |  |  |  |
| National law requiring a minimum qualification for riding a moped / motor scooter (e.g., formal exam prior to receiving riding permit) |  |  |  |
| National law limiting age or number of child and adolescent passengers on mopeds / motor scooters |  |  |  |
| National law limiting speeds for mopeds / motor scooters |  |  |  |
| National law requiring compulsory use of a helmet by moped / motor scooter riders and passengers |  |  |  |
| National ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety |  |  |  |
| Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety |  |  |  |





































Pedestrian safety


| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| National law requiring reduced speed in residential areas (e.g. schools and playgrounds) |  |  |  |
| National law that assumes driver responsibility in a crash involving a child pedestrian (e.g., places the burden of proof on the driver) |  |  |  |
| National policy providing specific supports for vehicle redesign to reduce risk of pedestrian injury |  |  |  |
| National ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent pedestrian safety |  |  |  |
| Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent pedestrian safety |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent pedestrian safety |  |  |  |

Cycling safety

























| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| National law requiring use of bicycle helmet while cycling |  |  |  |
| National ministry/government department with mandated responsibility for child & youth cycling safety |  |  |  |
| Government approved national strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent cycling safety |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent cycling safety |  |  |  |

Water safety/drowning prevention






















| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| National law requiring barrier fencing for public pools |  |  |  |
| National law requiring barrier fencing for private pools (domestic pools; those associated with a residence or dwelling) |  |  |  |
| National law requiring national recertification for lifeguards on a regular basis |  |  |  |
| National law stating minimum number of lifeguards required on beaches or other area specifically specified for water leisure activities |  |  |  |
| National law stating minimum number of lifeguards required at public pools |  |  |  |
| National standard for public swimming pools that mandates water depth markings, step edges marked with contrasting colours, onsite safety equipment, suction outlet covers and chemical standards |  |  |  |
| National standard for water safety signs and symbols (e.g., no diving signs, red flag indicating 'do not enter water', etc.) |  |  |  |
| National policy governing water safety for leisure/ recreational programming at the community level (e.g., minimum levels of supervision, training or safety equipment, etc.) |  |  |  |
| National policy making water safety education, including swimming lessons, a compulsory part of the school curriculum |  |  |  |
| National law requiring mandatory use of personal floatation device / lifejacket while on the water (e.g., while boating, sailing, etc.) |  |  |  |
| National ministry / government department with mandated responsibility for child & youth water safety |  |  |  |
| Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent water safety |  |  |  |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| National programme of child home visits that includes education on child water safety |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent water safety |  |  |  |
















Fall prevention



















| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| National policy requiring playground equipment and landing surfaces to meet safety standards |  |  |  |
| National law banning the marketing and sale of baby walkers |  |  |  |
| National law requiring environmental changes to prevent children from falling out of windows in buildings with more than one storey/level (e.g., window guards or locks) |  |  |  |
| National regulation for private and public buildings requiring safe design for guardrails to prevent falls from balconies and stairs |  |  |  |
| National ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent fall prevention |  |  |  |
| Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent fall prevention |  |  |  |
| National programme of child home visits that includes education on child fall prevention |  |  |  |
| National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent fall prevention |  |  |  |

Poisoning prevention

























| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| National law requiring child resistant packaging of medications |  |  |  |
| National law requiring child resistant packaging of household cleaners |  |  |  |
| National policy regarding poison control centres (e.g., funding or support for national or regional poison control centre) |  |  |  |
| A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent poisoning prevention |  |  |  |
| A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent poisoning prevention |  |  |  |
| A national programme of child home visits that includes education on child poisoning prevention |  |  |  |
| A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent poisoning safety |  |  |  |










Burn / scald prevention

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| National law requiring a scald preventing maximum temperature (not higher than 50°C) for tap water in domestic settings |  |  |  |
| Building codes requiring working smoke detectors in all private dwellings |  |  |  |
| Building codes requiring working smoke detectors in all public dwellings (e.g., hospitals, schools and daycares) |  |  |  |
| National policy requiring sale of reduced ignition propensity (RIP) cigarettes (e.g., "fire-safe" cigarettes designed to reduce risk of igniting upholstered furniture, mattresses and bedding) |  |  |  |
| National regulation requiring child resistant design for cigarette lighters |  |  |  |





















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|---|---|---|---|
| National law requiring use of flame retardant fabrics in children's nightwear |  |  |  |
| National law controlling the sale of fireworks |  |  |  |
| A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent burn / scald prevention |  |  |  |
| A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent burn / scald prevention |  |  |  |
| A national programme of child home visits that includes education on child burn / scald prevention |  |  |  |
| A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent burn / scald prevention |  |  |  |













Choking / strangulation prevention

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| National law that enables restriction or banning of unsafe products |  |  |  |
| National law requiring informative warning labels on products (e.g., toys) to prevent choking, suffocation or strangulation |  |  |  |
| National law that bans the production and sale of latex balloons |  |  |  |
| National law that prohibits the use of inedible materials in food products |  |  |  |
| National law that regulates design and sale of blind cords |  |  |  |
| National standard that regulates safe crib design |  |  |  |
| National law that prohibits the use of drawstrings in children's clothing |  |  |  |
| A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent choking / strangulation prevention |  |  |  |
















| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent choking / strangulation prevention |  |  |  |
| A national programme of child home visits that includes education on child choking / strangulation prevention |  |  |  |
| A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent choking / strangulation prevention |  |  |  |

Child safety leadership

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| Country has a leading government department / ministry that is responsible for national coordination of child and adolescent safety activities |  |  |  |
| A specific contact or focal point has been identified for child and adolescent safety for each of the departments / ministries involved in child and adolescent safety (e.g., individual identified as contact point for child and adolescent safety in each of the departments of health, traffic, education, etc.) |  |  |  |
| Injury prevention been identified as a national priority by the government (e.g., is it listed as a priority issue within a government document or health plan) |  |  |  |
| Country has a government led national injury prevention strategy with specific targets relating to child and adolescent safety |  |  |  |
| Country has national alcohol policy |  |  |  |
| Government department(s) have a dedicated budget for the development/support of national prevention programmes related to child and adolescent safety |  |  |  |
| Government department(s) have a dedicated budget for the development/support of research related to child and adolescent safety |  |  |  |
















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|--|---|---|---|
| Government department(s) have a dedicated budget for the development/support of capacity building related to child and adolescent safety |  |  |  |
| Government department(s) have a dedicated budget for the development/support of a national steering group / task force to address national child and adolescent safety |  |  |  |
| Government department(s) have a dedicated budget for the development/support of a network / organisation to coordinate national child and adolescent safety activities |  |  |  |
| Country has an organisation that is <u>responsible for national coordination</u> of child and adolescent safety activities |  |  |  |

Child safety infrastructure

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|--|---|---|---|
| Country has an organisation (e.g., government department, NGO or other agency) whose mandate specifically includes coordinating injury data and producing reports to support action |  |  |  |
| Annual or biannual report that includes minimum information on all child and adolescent injury deaths is regularly produced |  |  |  |
| Studies have been conducted to explore links between the risk of child and adolescent injury death with the social and economic circumstances of the family, rural/urban residence or any other factors (e.g., teenage parenthood or drug and alcohol use) |  |  |  |
| Country has published a burden of injury report that includes data on children and adolescents |  |  |  |
| Country has necessary data to perform an analysis of the burden of child and adolescent injury (e.g., mortality data, estimates of duration of disability, etc.) |  |  |  |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Data for child and adolescent (0-17 years) accidents and injuries are reasonably available at the <u>national level</u> (e.g., mortality and morbidity data) |  |  |  |
| Country has a national mechanism that allows early identification of and rapid response to emerging safety hazards |  |  |  |

Child safety capacity building

| | Wales | England | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|
| Country has one or more organisations (e.g., government department, NGO or other agency) whose mandate includes distributing information on best practice and/or facilitating or encouraging uptake of good practice in the area of injury prevention or safety promotion |  |  |  |
| Country has a network/structure or healthcare system that can facilitate accident prevention education for expectant parents and / or parents of children 0-4 years old and is currently using it for that purpose |  |  |  |
| Country has national capacity building initiatives for those working in the area of injury prevention that are either specific to injury prevention or include injury prevention content |  |  |  |
| Country has a network for child and adolescent injury prevention practitioners and researchers |  |  |  |
| Country hosts (or it has hosted in the past) a national conference or regional meeting on child and adolescent injury prevention <u>or</u> a national conference where child and adolescent injury is part of a larger agenda |  |  |  |

References

1. World, European and Child Friendly reports released in December 2008 confirm the great health impact of injury on children. www.chilfsafetyeurop.org
2. **Child Safety Report Card 2009: Summary for 24 countries** and individual country level report cards will be available on May 6, 2009 at www.chilfsafetyeurop.org