The vision of the Division of Maternal and Child Health is that the health and wellness of Vermont’s women, children, and families is a foundation for the health of all Vermonters. We work to achieve this vision through strategies that are family centered, evidence-based, and data driven.

**Priority area**
Children live in safe and supported communities

**Performance Measure**
Rate of hospitalization for non-fatal injury per 100,000 children ages 0 to 9 and adolescents 10 to 19

**Strategy Measure**
# of hospital emergency department clinicians and staff trained in the early identification and assessment of suicide risk

**Introduction & Results.**

Injury is the leading cause of child mortality. For those who suffer non-fatal severe injuries, many will become children with special health care needs. Effective interventions to reduce injury exist but are not fully implemented in systems of care that serve children and their families. Reducing the burden of nonfatal injury can greatly improve the life course trajectory of infants, children, and adolescents resulting in improved quality of life and cost savings.

Vermont’s Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) has long been committed to addressing injury in the MCH population; however, several years ago, Vermont lost dedicated injury funding and it has been challenging to prioritize this work. New efforts around suicide prevention, farm health, child maltreatment, and infant safe sleep have renewed our commitment to this work.

In 2014 the injury rate for children ages 0-9 was 107.4 per 100,000 children, compared to a rate of 166.1 for adolescents ages 10-19. Injury rates in adolescents are declining faster than in younger children starting from a higher level. The leading causes of injury in Vermont for children ages 0 to 14 are: falls, poisoning (primarily accidental), and motor vehicle; for adolescents 15 to 24: poisoning (primarily self-inflicted), motor vehicle, and falls.

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Data Sources & Issues.

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For more information, visit: healthvermont.gov/children-youth-families/adolescent-health/prevent-teen-suicide