



CHILD SAFETY REPORT CARD 2007



Italy

INJURY is the leading cause of death in children and adolescents aged 0-19 years in Italy. In 2001, 2030 children and adolescents in this age group died as a result of injury. If the rate of injury death in Italy could be reduced to the level of the safest country in Europe, Sweden, **1213 of these lives could have been saved.**

The Child Safety Report Card was developed by the Child Safety Action Plan Project, a European initiative led by the European Child Safety Alliance of Eurosafe to provide a starting point for measuring progress toward and setting targets for reducing injury-related death and disability amongst Italian children.

The Report Card summarises Italy's performance with respect to the level of safety provided to the youngest and most vulnerable citizens of the country through national level policy. It is based on an examination of evidenced good practice policies in Italy to support child and adolescent safety to July 2006, including specific unintentional injury areas (e.g. road, home and leisure environments), leadership committed to take action and the amount of human and financial capacity to address the injury issue. A detailed account of the methods used for this assessment is provided in Appendix One on page 13.

How safety conscious is Italy towards children and adolescents?

OVERALL CHILD SAFETY GRADE FOR ITALY



INJURY AREA SCORES (out of a possible five stars)

Passenger safety	★★★
Moped/motor scooter safety	★★★★★
Pedestrian safety	★★★
Cycling safety	★★★
Water safety / drowning prevention	★★★★
Fall prevention	★★★★
Poisoning prevention	★★★
Burn and scald prevention	★★
Choking / strangulation prevention	★★★★
Child safety leadership	★★★★
Child safety infrastructure	★★★★★
Child safety capacity building	★★★★★

PERFORMANCE GRADE SCALE

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Unacceptable

Performance gaps and action required

ITALY has done a reasonable job of addressing safety issues for children and adolescents in the area of moped and motorcycle safety, however other areas of road safety such as passenger, cycling and pedestrian safety and injuries occurring in and around the home such as drowning, poisoning and falls have not received the same attention. It is clear from the child safety scores above that more can be done in policy introduction, implementation and enforcement to support passenger, pedestrian and cycling safety and the prevention of drowning, falls, poisonings, burns and scalds and choking/strangulation related injuries in Italy. There is a need to support and fund good practice injury prevention measures in a combined approach of education, engineering and enforcement of standards and regulations and this report card highlights areas in Italy's current policy where changes could be made.

ITALY has some existing infrastructure and due to its strong regionalisation reasonable human capacity to address child and adolescent safety. However regionalisation also means that child and adolescent injury prevention strategies are quite fragmented. Prevention efforts would benefit from stronger leadership from government to ensure a coordinated approach.

This is more recently being addressed through the new National Centre for Disease Prevention (CCM), which has coordination of regional prevention activities as its mandate. In particular government leadership is required in the development and implementation of a government endorsed national action plan with specific targets for child and adolescent safety and financial resources to support national coordination.

There is also a need to support research specific to child and adolescent safety and to maintain and enhance the existing infrastructure and capacity to ensure a coordinated and evidence based approach to protecting Italy's most precious resource – their children. This means supporting capacity building of technical experts and networking between the national and regional levels to ensure the exchange of information on good practice and transferability issues regarding child and adolescent injury prevention programmes along the continuum from national to regional to local injury prevention initiatives.

Government can do much to support a culture of good practice by integrating these good practice strategies into national public health programmes and related programmes that have an impact to reduce child and adolescent injury.

Action required...




- Enhancing **passenger safety** by introducing a requirement that children and adolescents remain seated in the back seat of a motorised vehicle until 13 years of age
- Increasing **pedestrian safety** by enforcing laws requiring reduced speeds in residential areas and placing the offence responsibility and penalty on the vehicle driver in crashes involving a child pedestrian
- Increasing **cycling safety** by introducing and enforcing a helmet law
- Improving **drowning prevention** efforts by enhancing enforcement of laws requiring fencing around all private pools and developing national standards for public swimming pools and water safety signs and symbols
- Enhancing **fall prevention** by enforcing the national safety standard for playground equipment and introducing a law requiring housing construction changes to prevent children from falling out of windows and off of balconies in buildings with more than one storey/level
- Enhancing **burn prevention** by adopting and enforcing the new requirement for child resistant designs for cigarette lighters, adopting and enforcing a requirement for the use of flame retardant fabrics in children's nightwear and introducing a national law requiring a safe pre-set temperature (50°C) for all water heaters and smoke alarms in all private dwellings. On the matter of smoke alarms there is also a need to increase availability of smoke alarms as currently they are very difficult to find and to increase public awareness of the use of smoke alarms
- Enhancing **poisoning prevention** by introducing a national law requiring child resistant packaging of medications / household cleaners
- Enhancing **choking/strangulation prevention** by enforcing existing law requiring information warning labels on products and introducing standards and regulations to govern specific products such as inedibles in food
- Enhancing **public awareness** of child and adolescent injury risks in the home and effective prevention solutions

Measuring progress — breakdown of injury area scores








The national level policies for the specific injury areas included in the report card are based on current best evidence for good practice and discussions with members of the European Child Safety Alliance and experts in Europe. Policies related to leadership, infrastructure and capacity were included as it has been shown that there is a need for basic operational foundations to support effective strategic planning and implementation. These measures are seen as mini markers of progress to support child and adolescent safety promotion and injury prevention efforts at the national level. For more details on the methodology used see page 13 of this report card.

If all the national level policies assessed below were implemented and enforced in Italy further reductions in child and adolescent injuries would be achieved.

EACH POLICY WAS ASSESSED ON THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

-  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)









Passenger safety

National law requiring use of appropriate child and adolescent passenger restraint	
National law requiring children to remain seated in rear facing car seats until age four years	
National law requiring children and adolescents to remain seated in the back seat of a motor vehicle until age 13 years	
A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent passenger safety	
A government approved national strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent passenger safety	
A national program of child home visits that includes education on child passenger safety	
A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent passenger safety	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 2) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 4)] / 14 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$







Moped/motor scooter safety

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	
A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety	
A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety	
A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent moped or motor scooter safety	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 4) + (\text{😐} \times 4)] / 16 \times 5 = \text{★★★★}$$





Pedestrian safety

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 incentives to support vehicle redesign to reduce risk of pedestrian injury (e.g. pedestrian friendly bumper heights)	
A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent pedestrian safety	
A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent pedestrian safety	
A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent pedestrian safety	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 1) + (\text{😐} \times 2) + (\text{😞} \times 3)] / 12 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$

Cycling safety

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

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 3)] / 8 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$

Water safety/drowning prevention

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.)	
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.)	
A national ministry / government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent water safety	
A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent water safety	
A national program of child home visits that includes education on child water safety	
A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent water safety	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 7) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 6)] / 28 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★} \text{★}$$







Fall prevention

National safety standard for playground equipment	
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)	
A national ministry/ government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent fall prevention	
A government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent fall prevention	
A national program of child home visits that includes education on child fall prevention	
A national media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent fall prevention	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 2) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 4)] / 14 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$











Poisoning prevention

National law requiring child resistant packaging of medications	
National law requiring child resistant packaging of household cleaners	
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 program 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 2) + (\text{😞} \times 4)] / 12 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$












Burn and scald prevention

National law requiring a safe pre-set temperature (50°C) for all water heaters or a building standard setting a maximum temperature of 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 regulation requiring child resistant design for cigarette lighters	
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 program 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 1) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 8)] / 20 \times 5 = \text{★}$$











Choking / strangulation prevention

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 program 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 4) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 6)] / 22 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$







Child safety leadership

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 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	
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	
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 responsible for national coordination of child and adolescent safety activities	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 3) + (\text{😐} \times 2) + (\text{😞} \times 5)] / 20 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$






Child safety infrastructure

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	
An annual or biannual report that includes minimum information on all child and adolescent injury deaths is regularly produced	
Studies have been conducted to explore and link 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 national level (e.g., mortality and morbidity data)	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 3) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 2)] / 12 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★} \text{★}$$

Child safety capacity building

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 best 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 has it hosted in the past) a national conference or regional meeting on child and adolescent injury prevention or a national conference where child and adolescent injury is part of a larger agenda	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 4) + (\text{😞} \times 1)] / 10 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★} \text{★} \text{★}$$

Appendix One

Methods to prepare Child Safety Report Cards

Measures for the report cards were selected for nine injury areas: passenger safety, moped/motor scooter safety, pedestrian safety, cycling safety, water safety, drowning prevention, fall prevention, poisoning prevention, burn prevention, choking/strangulation prevention, as well as child safety leadership, infrastructure and capacity. These measures have been defined by previous indicator initiatives or were developed from current evidence of effective policies with a focus at the national level.* Policy strategies known to be effective, but more likely to be established at regional or local levels were not included, e.g., traffic calming measures to reduce risk of pedestrian or cycling injuries.

Data for the indicators were obtained during 2005-2006 from CSAP project partners who completed English language computer-based survey tools developed in conjunction with an expert advisory group made up of members from the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, WHO – European Office, an expert in child and adolescent indicators and an expert in current best evidence on prevention of childhood injuries. The primary data collection required the Italian project partner (University of Udine) to contact the appropriate government department to ascertain correct information regarding current policies; policy information is accurate to July 2006.

The ratings out of five stars for each of the sub-areas were calculated by multiplying the composite score for each area (sum of allotted points (😊 = 2, 😐 = 1, ☹️ = 0) for all questions in the sub-area with no weighting of items, divided by total possible points) by five and rounded off to the nearest half star. The overall safety grade was based on a summation of the sub-area scores (⭐ = 49-60 stars, 😊 = 37-48 stars, 😐 = 25-36 stars, ☹️ = 13-24 stars, ⚠️ = 0-12 stars). Weighting of individual items and sub-area scores was not done as this would require data on exposure to specific injury hazards and/or studies comparing the effectiveness of the various policies within a given area, neither of which are available consistently across injury areas or countries involved in the CSAP project.

*MacKay M, Vincenten J, Brussoni M, Towner L. Child Safety Good Practice Guide: Good investments in unintentional child injury prevention and safety promotion. Amsterdam: European Child Safety Alliance, Eurosafe; 2006.

Definitions for select items included in the Child Safety Report Cards

- **Capacity building**
 - the development, fostering and support of resources and relationships at individual, organisational, inter-organisational and systems levels and including activities designed to increase the ability and skills of individuals, groups, and organisations to plan, undertake, and manage initiatives.
- **Government approved strategy with specific targets and timelines**
 - an official written document endorsed by government and/or parliament, which includes a set of statements and decisions defining responsibilities, principles, goals, priorities and main directions for attaining the goals. This can be either a stand alone document addressing injury or a broader document where injury or the specific injury area is covered as one of several priority areas.
- **Government policy**
 - a high-level overall plan that refers to the government’s approach or strategy to a particular area of activity.
- **Implemented and enforced**
 - a law, policy or standard that is in practice and fulfilled by actual measures and effectively carried out with imposed fines and penalties if applicable.
- **Law**
 - a rule of conduct or action prescribed as legally binding and enforced by an executive authority or regulatory agency of a government.
- **National media campaign at least once in the past five years**
 - a campaign of national scope involving television, radio and/or broad distribution of print media (posters, brochures, etc.).
- **National ministry/government department with a mandated responsibility**
 - at least one ministry/government department with documented responsibility for action on the child and adolescent safety topic (e.g., documented in a speech from the throne, ministry plan, health targets, website posting, constitution, cross-ministerial agreement).
- **National program of child home visits that includes education**
 - a network/structure or healthcare system that can provide accident prevention education for expectant parents and / or parents of children 0-4 years old. For example, health workers in the UK visit parents and can provide information about injury prevention (in addition to other health issues) and midwives in Austria receive education on injury prevention in newborns to pass on to new parents.

● **Organisation that is responsible for national coordination of child and adolescent safety activities**
– an organisation / institute / centre / agency including a non-governmental agency that has a specific mandate for child and adolescent safety or a broader mandate that includes child and adolescent safety.

● **Partly implemented or enforced**
– a law, policy or standard in process of being implemented or implemented but not enforced, or implemented and enforced irregularly.

● **Standard**
– a voluntary technical agreement elaborated by a standards body and stakeholders like industry and consumers on a consensus basis that provide technical rules and guidelines for manufacturers and define how a product or service will function.

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European Child Safety Alliance

P.O. Box 75169

1070 AD Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 511 4513

Fax: +31 20 511 4510

Email: secretariat@childsafetyeurope.org

www.childsafetyeurope.org

This 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 action plans to enhance child and adolescent safety in Europe. The initiative is led by the European Child Safety Alliance of EuroSafe with co-funding and partnership from the European Commission, the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, the Universities of Keele and the West of England, WHO-Europe, and partners in 18 countries including the University of Udine in Italy.

One of the objectives of the CSAP project was to establish a set of indicators and standardised data collection tools focussing on child and adolescent injury to identify a baseline level of child and adolescent injury burden and action in the 18 participating countries to support planning and provide a means of benchmarking and evaluating progress in reducing child and adolescent injury as the countries moved from planning to implementation. The Child Safety Report Cards, Profiles and Child Safety Summary Report Card for 18 Countries are the result of this activity.

For more information on the CSAP project, the child safety report cards for the other 17 countries and the summary report card go to the European Child Safety Alliance website at: www.childsafetyeurope.org



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