



CHILD SAFETY REPORT CARD

2009



Italy

INJURY is the leading cause of death in children and adolescents aged 0-19 years in Italy. In 2003, 1027 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 Netherlands, the safest country, it is estimated that, **270 or 28% 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 children and adolescents in Italy.

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 2008, including specific unintentional injury areas (e.g. road, home and leisure environments), leadership commitment to take action and the 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.

INJURY AREA SCORES (out of a possible five stars)

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

How safety conscious is Italy towards children and adolescents?

OVERALL CHILD SAFETY GRADE FOR ITALY



PERFORMANCE GRADE SCALE

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Unacceptable

Performance gaps and action required

ITALY has done a good job of addressing safety issues for children and adolescents in the area of moped/motor scooter safety, however other areas of road safety such as passenger/driver, 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 injury scores above that more can be done in evidence-based policy and programme introduction, implementation and enforcement to support passenger/driver, pedestrian and cycling safety and the prevention of drownings, falls, poisonings, burns/scalds and choking/strangulation related injuries in Italy. There is a need to support and fund injury prevention measures in a combined approach of education, engineering and enforcement of standards and regulations. 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 efforts are quite fragmented. Prevention efforts would greatly benefit from stronger leadership from government to ensure a coordinated and equitable approach.

In particular government leadership is needed to ensure development and implementation of a government endorsed national strategy with specific targets for child safety that takes into account priority areas and performance gaps and provides financial resources to support national coordination, research and regional programming specific to child safety.

There is also a specific 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 and adolescents. This means supporting activities to build capacity and technical expertise and a strong network between national and regional levels to ensure the exchange of information on good practice and transferability issues regarding child injury prevention programmes along the continuum from national to local injury prevention initiatives. Government can also do much to support a culture of good practice by integrating these good practice strategies into national public health programmes and ensuring child safety is addressed in all policies.

Action required...

- Enhancing **moped/motor scooter safety** by increasing enforcement of current laws relating to moped drivers
- Enhancing **passenger/driver safety** by modifying the current national child restraint laws to require children and adolescents to remain seated in the back seat of a motor vehicle until age 13 years and to keep children rear facing in car seats until age four years
- Enhancing **pedestrian safety** by supporting revisions to European vehicle design standards that reduce the risk of pedestrian injury (e.g. pedestrian friendly bumpers) and introducing a national law that assumes driver responsibility in a crash involving a child pedestrian (e.g., places the burden of proof on the driver)
- Increasing **cycling safety** by implementing and enforcing a bicycle helmet law for all ages
- Increasing **water safety/drowning prevention** efforts by introducing laws requiring the use of personal floatation devices/life jackets while on the water (not just presence of protective equipment but actual use) and fences around private swimming pools
- Increasing **burn/scald prevention** by adopting and enforcing legislation relating to water temperatures to ensure a scald preventing maximum temperature (not higher than 50°C) for tap water in domestic settings, current legislation regarding smoke detectors to require them in all private dwellings (new and existing), increase the public's awareness of the need for smoke alarms and increase the availability of smoke detectors for consumers as they remain difficult to find
- Enhancing **choking/strangulation** prevention by legislating increased safety through ban or redesign of specific products such as latex balloons, blind cords and drawstrings in children's clothing
- 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 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)

Moped/motor scooter safety

National law limiting legal age to drive a moped/motor scooter (e.g., 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/motor scooter safety	
Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent moped/motor scooter safety	
National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent moped/motor scooter safety	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 5) + (\text{😐} \times 3)] / 16 \times 5 = \text{★★★★}$$







Passenger/driver 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	
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 (e.g., 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 3) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 6)] / 20 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$





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 support for efforts to redesign vehicle standards 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

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

Cycling safety

National law requiring use of bicycle helmet while cycling	
National ministry/government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{☹️} \times 4)] / 8 \times 5 = \text{⊘}$$









Water safety/drowning prevention

National law requiring barrier fencing for public pools	
National law requiring barrier fencing for private pools (e.g., 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 areas 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.)	
National ministry/government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent 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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 7) + (\text{😐} \times 2) + (\text{😞} \times 5)] / 28 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★} \text{★}$$








Fall prevention

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	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 3) + (\text{😐} \times 1) + (\text{😞} \times 4)] / 16 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★}$$

Poisoning prevention

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

Score (out of possible five stars)

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

Burn/scald prevention

National law requiring scald preventing maximum temperature (e.g., 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	
National law requiring use of flame retardant fabrics in children’s nightwear	
National law controlling the sale of fireworks	
National ministry/government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent burn/scald prevention	
Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent burn/scald prevention	
National programme of child home visits that includes education on child burn/scald prevention	
National media campaign at least once in past five years targeting child and adolescent burn/scald prevention	

Score (out of possible five stars)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 2) + (\text{😐} \times 2) + (\text{😞} \times 7)] / 22 \times 5 = \text{★}$$

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	
National ministry/government department with mandated responsibility for child and adolescent choking/strangulation prevention	
Government approved national injury prevention strategy with specific targets and timelines related to child and adolescent choking/strangulation prevention	
National programme of child home visits that includes education on child choking/strangulation prevention	
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	
Country has a 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	
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)

$$[(\text{😊} \times 9) + (\text{😞} \times 2)] / 22 \times 5 = \text{★} \text{★} \text{★} \text{★}$$






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)	
Country has a national mechanism that allows early identification of and rapid response to emerging safety hazards	

Score (out of possible five stars)

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

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: moped/motor scooter safety, passenger/driver safety, pedestrian safety, cycling safety, water safety, drowning prevention, fall prevention, poisoning prevention, burn/scald 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 2008-2009 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, the Ministry of Health to contact the appropriate government departments to ascertain correct information regarding current policies; policy information is accurate to July 2008.

The rating out of five stars for each of the sub-areas was calculated by multiplying the composite score for each sub-area by five and rounding off to the nearest half star; where the composite score equalled the sum of allotted points (😊 = 2, 😐 = 1, 😞 = 0) for all questions in the sub-area with no weighting of items, divided by total possible points. The overall safety grade was based on a summation of the sub-area scores (🌟 = 49-60 stars, 😊 = 37-48.5 stars, 😐 = 25-36.5 stars, 😞 = 13-24.5 stars, ⚠️ = 0-12.5 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

● **Avoidable deaths**

– avoidable deaths were calculated using the Netherlands 2004 injury rate of 6.67 deaths in children and adolescents per 100,000 population aged 0-19 years and the most recent year of data available for each country. As a result avoidable deaths may be slightly overestimated for countries with 2005 data available; but are likely underestimated for countries where only older data are available.

● **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 programme 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.

● **Partly implemented or enforced**

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

● **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.

● **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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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 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, the Universities of Keele and the West of England, WHO-Europe, and partners in 26 countries including the Ministry of Health in Italy.

One of the objectives of the project was to establish a set of indicators and standardised data collection tools focussing on child and adolescent injury to establish a baseline level of child and adolescent injury burden and action in the participating countries to support planning and provide a means of benchmarking and evaluating progress in reducing child and adolescent injury as countries moved from planning to implementation. The Child Safety Report Cards 2009, Profiles and Child Safety Report Card 2009 – Europe Summary for 24 countries are the result of this activity.

For more information on the CSAP project, the Child Safety Report Cards 2009 for the other participating countries and the European summary go to the European Child Safety Alliance website at: www.childsafetyeurope.org



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