



SAFE KIDS USA POSITION STATEMENT TRANSPORTING CHILDREN SAFELY WHILE SHOPPING

Many parents and caregivers don't realize how frequently children are injured by shopping carts. It's estimated more than 20,000 children are injured in shopping cart-related accidents each year, and most of those children are ages 5 and under.

Usually injuries happen when a child falls from a shopping cart, although a child can also be injured by a shopping cart tipping over. Some carts are designed with a high center of gravity and a narrow wheel base, making them top heavy when loaded and easy to tip over.

Most shopping cart injuries affect the head or neck. Sometimes an injury is simply a cut or bruise, but the most common shopping cart injury to a child is a fracture.

It's difficult to tell if a shopping cart is safe by looking at it, so Safe Kids USA's policy is that parents and caregivers should consider using alternatives to shopping carts. Following are guidelines for alternatives:

- Place a child in a stroller, wagon or frontpack.
- Ask an older child to walk. Compliment him or her for staying close to you.
- Don't let a child climb or ride on any cart in use.
- Stay close to your cart at all times to make sure kids stay safe.
- Use carts with safer designs that allow children to ride closer to the ground (e.g., in a small model car in front of the cart).
- Don't let an older child push a cart.

Among the concurring organizations are:

The American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org/>

www.safekids.org