



American College of Preventive Medicine

Child Injury Risk Assessment Tool Guidance

Project Background

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) received a contract from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control to develop a child injury risk assessment tool that will assist home visitation staff from state and local health departments identify and mitigate home health risks.

This assessment is designed to facilitate meaningful conversation between home visitors and early childhood caregivers through prompting discussion on major childhood injury topics. Please note, all questions may not be applicable to each family, and can be skipped or marked "N/A" for those groups.

Development of the tool was guided by an Expert Panel with decades of expertise in child and adolescent health, child injury, informatics, home visitation programs, and/or state and local health department administration.

An initial environmental scan of the currently available literature as well as the common causes of unintentional injury and death among children aged 0-4 years was conducted to guide the development of the initial tool. ACPM solicited pilot sites among state Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) programs and state and local health departments to test and provide feedback on the utility and formatting of the initial tool.

After six months of testing among seven home visitation programs, ACPM convened conference calls with individual programs to receive their feedback. The Expert Panel utilized the recommendations of the seven home visitation programs to assist with final tool development efforts. Ultimately, this tool will provide home visitation staff the ability to deliver effective unintentional injury prevention education programs and interventions.

Future Development and Dissemination

The goal during this first phase of funding was to finalize risk assessment tool development—ensuring that the subject matter, wording, and other formatting issues that could occur in the field can be resolved prior to final development. In subsequent phases of funding, ACPM plans to further develop products associated with this tool. Eventually, in accordance with the "5A's" of the Behavioral Change Model, home visitation staff would be able to administer this assessment during their first visit. Based on the results, home visitation staff will advise and develop a personal action plan that is agreed to by the child's caregiver in consultation with their pediatrician. Using the risk assessment tool and action plan, the home visitation staff will assist the child's caregiver in mitigating identified risks.

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