



# SHOPPING CART SAFETY FACT SHEET

At Safe-Strap® we are committed to helping make your shopping experience safe and convenient. This fact sheet is filled with tips on how best to stay safe and prevent injuries while shopping with children along with important information on the laws and regulations concerned.

## KEY FACTS

- It is estimated that some 12,000 children under the age of 5 are injured by shopping carts each year.
- Falls from the cart are the most common cause of shopping cart-related injury in children under 5, and account for 84% of all injuries.
- The number of falls from the seat, and the number of falls from the basket portion are about even. However, children should never be placed in the basket.
- Children visit the emergency room with head and brain injuries from shopping cart injuries – in addition to cuts, bruises and broken limbs.

## WHO

- Children 3 and under account for 91% of shopping cart related injuries seen in children 5 years and under.
- 1 and 2 year olds have the highest incidents of shopping cart related injuries.
- Boys and girls are likely to suffer a shopping cart-related injury equally (54% vs. 46%).

## HOW

- Among children under 5, the majority of shopping cart injuries are due to falls from the shopping cart. In 2023 this accounted for an estimated 11,535 injuries.
- Shopping cart tip overs and children colliding with (i.e. running into) the shopping cart are other causes of injury.
- Approximately 5 percent of all shopping cart injuries in children under 5 involved a child falling from/with a car seat placed on the shopping cart.
- Falls from shopping carts are among the leading causes of head injuries in young children [1].

Hazard Pattern	Estimates	%
Fall	90,500	84
Tip Over	4,600	4
Collision	4,200	4
Contact	3,600	2
Entrapment	2,600	2
Incidental	1,900	2
Total	107,300	

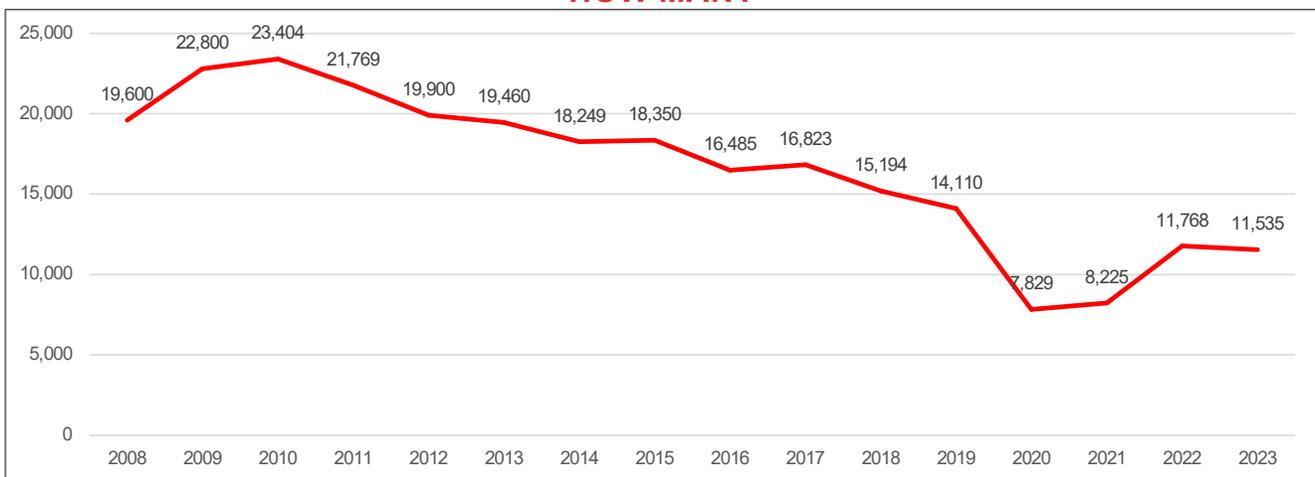
Shopping Cart Injuries by Hazard Pattern  
U.S. 2008–2012, Ages 0–5 Years  
Source: National Electronic Surveillance System [2]

## OTHER INJURIES

Product Category	Estimated Injuries CY 2023
High Chairs	14,200
<b>Shopping Carts</b>	<b>11,535</b>
Cribs/Mattresses	10,800
Strollers/Carriages	7,000
Infant/Car Seat Carriers (ex. Motor Vehicle Incidents)	6,600
Changing Tables	4,600
Baby Walkers/Jumpers/Exercisers	3,100
Baby Gates/Barriers	3,000
Playpens/Play Yards	2,800
Baby Bouncer Seats	2,200
Portable Baby Swings	2,200
Bassinets/Cradles	1,200
Baby Baths/Bath Seats/Bathinettes	----- <sup>4</sup>
Other <sup>5</sup>	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,735</b>

The leading cause of all nursery product-related injuries and shopping cart-related injuries reported through the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) for 2023 was falls [6].

## HOW MANY



Shopping Cart-Related Injuries - U.S. 2008–2023, Ages 0–5 Years  
Source: National Electronic Surveillance System [3]



# SHOPPING CART SAFETY TIPS

## SAFETY TIPS

When taking your children to the grocery store, take these steps to keep them safe:

- If you are placing your child in the shopping cart seat, always use a harness or the safety belt provided to restrain your child.
- If you see a shopping cart missing a seat belt or the seat belt is broken, select another shopping cart with a working seat belt. And please tell the store manager so a replacement can be installed.
- Never place your own infant carrier on top of a shopping cart. Instead use the new infant carrier docking stations to safely secure your own infant carrier or place your infant in the commercial infant seats that the store provides. Both infant carrier docking stations and commercial infant seats are safe, permanently attached, and made part of the shopping carts.
- Do not let your child ride in the cart basket, under the basket, on the sides or front of the cart.
- Never leave your child unattended in a shopping cart and stay close to the cart at all times.



- Use the shopping carts that have a wheeled child carrier that is permanently attached and made part of the shopping cart. Some of these models look like cars or benches attached to the shopping cart.

## LAWS & REGULATIONS

The American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM) has a voluntary standard that includes performance requirements, test methods, and labeling requirements for shopping carts.

The ASTM shopping cart standard is intended to cover children who are 6 months to 4 years old and weigh 15 to 35 pounds. Among other things, the standard requires that shopping carts with a child seating area have adjustable child restraint systems with child-resistant buckles or closures. It also requires that each shopping cart include a warning label with pictograms that includes specific safety messages, such as “ALWAYS buckle-up child in cart seat and fasten securely.” [7]

The ASTM standard also requires retailers to inspect and replace broken seat belts and to ensure that every shopping cart remains in good working order. Also the standard suggests that the retailer provide safety information and use safety posters to communicate safe behavior to consumers.

Most retailers provide shopping cart restraints on all of their carts

For more information contact:

SAFE-STRAP COMPANY, LLC  
Toll Free: 800.356.7796  
Phone: 973.442.4623  
Fax: 973.442.8195

## REFERENCES

1. US Consumer Product Safety Commission: Shopping Cart Safety Alert: Falls from Shopping Carts Cause Head Injuries to Children. Washington, DC.
2. US Consumer Product Safety Commission: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). 2008-2012.
3. US Consumer Product Safety Commission: National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). 2008-2023.
4. The injury estimates are not presented since they fail to meet standard reporting criteria for NEISS that the estimated number of injuries be 1,200 or higher, sample size be 20 or larger, and coefficient of variation be less than 33%.
5. This category includes baby bottles/nipples, bottle warmers, pacifiers/teething rings, diapers excluding diaper-rash cases, rattles, crib mobiles/gyms, nightlights, potty chairs/training seats, baby harnesses, and safety pins.
6. US Consumer Product Safety Commission: Nursery Product-Related and Shopping Cart Injuries among Children under age Five.
7. American Society for Testing and Materials International: Safety Standards for Shopping Carts: ASTM F2372.