

# STUDY: ALARMING NUMBER OF KIDS INJURED ON STAIRS

*Every 6 minutes a child is rushed to a hospital due to stair-related injuries<sup>1</sup>*

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<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	STILL TO COME, HOW SAFE ARE THE STAIRS IN YOUR HOME? A NEW STUDY LOOKS AT THE INJURY RATES IN KIDS AND CALLS FOR NEW MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THEM. DETAILS NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	<p>A NEW STUDY IS OUT, TRACKING THE NUMBER OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE INJURED ON STAIRS AND THE RESULTS ARE SURPRISING.</p> <p>SINCE 1999 ESTIMATES SHOW NEARLY ONE MILLION CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE HAVE BEEN RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER BEING HURT ON STAIRS.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>AS CLARK POWELL SHOWS US, THAT HAS SOME DOCTORS CALLING FOR NEW SAFETY MEASURES AND A CHANGE IN THE WAY STAIRS ARE BEING BUILT.</p>
	(Nats - Chris playing with her child) :02
<b>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</b>  Shots of Will playing on floor Close up of mom watching Zoom out from stairs to landing	<p>THE BRUISES HAVE HEALED ON THE FACE OF LITTLE WILL GARBRANDT (<i>pronounced: GAR-brant</i>), BUT THE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA IS STILL FRESH FOR HIS MOTHER CHRIS.</p> <p>THE VERY DAY SHE WAS LEAVING TO GO BUY NEW SAFETY GATES FOR HER STAIRS, WILL TOOK A TERRIFYING FALL. :12</p>
<b>CG: Chris Garbrandt</b> <b>Infant fell down stairs</b> <b>:12 - :19</b>	<p>"I just opened that gate went in to grab something from the kitchen, turned around and Will was tumbling toward the end of the stairs." :08</p>
Shots of Chris putting up gate Close up of hand locking gate Photo of rolling baby stroller	<p>A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT STAIR-RELATED FALLS - WITH EVEN MORE SERIOUS INJURIES THAN WILL'S - ARE COMMON. THE GOOD NEWS IS, A DRASTIC DROP IN THE USE OF ROLLING BABY WALKERS LIKE THIS ONE HAS HELPED THE NUMBERS INCH DOWNWARD... :12</p>
<b>CG: Gary Smith, MD</b> <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b> <b>:31 - :38</b>	<p>"The bad news is, though, unfortunately, we're still seeing a child every 6 minutes rushed to an emergency department because of a stair related injury." :08</p>

<p>Shots of Dr. Smith at his desk</p> <p><b>Graphic</b> - (girl on stairs)  - 3 out of 4 injured head &amp; neck  - 1 in 4 injured while carried</p>	<p>DOCTOR GARY SMITH OF THE CENTER FOR INJURY RESEARCH AND POLICY AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LED THE STUDY. HE FOUND THREE OUT OF FOUR KIDS WHO WERE HURT ON STAIRS, SUFFERED INJURIES TO THEIR HEAD AND NECK AND AMONG CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN ONE YEAR, ONE IN FOUR WAS INJURED WHILE BEING CARRIED BY AN ADULT. :16</p>
	<p>(nats- power saw) :01 / :53</p>
<p>Shots of home construction</p> <p>Stairs in home being built</p> <p>Shots of man drilling gate mount into the wall / closing gate</p> <p>Shots of a tension gate at steps</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Smith in office</p>	<p>BUT AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM MAY LIE IN CURRENT BUILDING CODES AND HOW STAIRS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED TO BEGIN WITH.</p> <p>EXPERTS SAY IN HOMES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN THERE SHOULD BE A GATE - ATTACHED TO THE WALL - AT THE <i>TOP</i> OF ALL STAIRS - AND AT LEAST A TENSION MOUNTED GATE AT THE <i>BOTTOM</i> OF THE STAIRS.</p> <p>BUT DOCTOR SMITH, WHO IS ALSO WITH THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, SAYS FEW HOUSES ARE BUILT TO EVEN ALLOW THOSE OPTIONS.<sup>1</sup> :21</p>
<p><b>Dr. Smith (CG'd earlier)</b></p>	<p>"Two out of three homes cannot accommodate a wall mounted gate at the top of the stairs. And one out of three cannot accommodate a pressure-mounted gate at the bottom of the stairs." :12</p>
<p>Shots of stair in a home under construction</p> <p>Shots of Chris playing with Will</p>	<p>DOCTOR SMITH WOULD LIKE TO SEE BUILDING CODES CHANGED TO IMPROVE STAIR SAFETY MAKE FALLS LIKE WILL'S LESS COMMON. AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :10</p>
<p><b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>HANDRAILS ARE ANOTHER ISSUE. MANY HOMES HAVE WIDER RAILS WITH SO-CALLED PINCH GRIPS, WHICH AREN'T NEARLY AS SAFE AS THOSE THAT ALLOW YOUR FINGERS AND THUMB TO WRAP ENTIRELY AROUND, PROVIDING A POWER GRIP.</p> <p>THIS STUDY IS THE FIRST TO LOOK AT NATIONAL TRENDS IN STAIR SAFETY, AND COVERED A TEN-YEAR SPAN, ENDING IN 2008. IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE STUDY AND LEARN IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR STAIRS, LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE.</p>
<p><b>VIEWER INFORMATION</b></p>	<p>IF YOU'D LIKE MORE INFORMATION, LOG ONTO <a href="http://www.NationwideChildrens.org">www.NationwideChildrens.org</a> AND VISIT "NEWS ROOM."</p>
<p><b>References -</b></p>	<p><sup>1</sup><i>Stair-related Injuries to Young Children Treated in United States Emergency Departments, 1999-2008, Pediatrics, Volume 129, Volume 3, March 2012.</i></p>
	<p><b>Extra Bites</b></p>
<p><b>CG: Gary Smith, MD</b>  <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b></p>	<p><i>Dr. Smith talks about study findings -</i></p> <p>"An important finding of this study was that among children younger than one year of age, about a quarter of the time they were injured while being carried by a caretaker." :08</p>

<p><b>CG: Gary Smith, MD</b>  <b>Nationwide Children's Hospital</b></p>	<p><i>Dr. Smith talks about addressing building codes -</i>          "Much more attention should be paid to making stairs safer through design changes and through building codes. The stairs should be uniform. If you sight down a flight of stairs, the leading edge of all the stairs, including at the very top landing, should all line up. Very commonly, especially in homes, that top stair is misaligned." :22</p> <p><i>Dr. Smith talks about safety in handrails -</i>          "When installing railings on stairways, a rail that gives you a power grip, rather than a pinch grip, is much better for maintaining your balance and allowing you to steady yourself if you start to lose your balance." :13</p>
<p><b>CG: Chris Garbrandt</b>  <b>Infant fell down stairs</b></p>	<p><i>Chris talks about the injuries to her son -</i>          "We checked all the signs, we looked at his eyes, we saw if there was any bleeding, of course, he seemed to just be really crying and really shook up, but we did notice a day or so later that he had a big bruise on the side of his face." :13</p> <p><i>Chris says her other child was hurt on stairs, too -</i>          "We've been through the gate thing before, and unfortunately with our middle child, he fell down the stairs as well because of a gate problem." :08</p> <p><i>Chris talks about how quickly accidents can happen -</i>          "It's a split second. And you think you're the best parent in the world, and you take all precautions, but you can not be looking and in 2 seconds, your child can be hurt." :11</p>
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Nationwide Children's Hospital: (614) 355-0495

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Produced by:



MEDIASOURCE

1800 West 5th Ave.

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920

[www.mediasource.tv](http://www.mediasource.tv)

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**Marketing Department: (614) 355-0495**