



# Driveway Runovers

safekids  
Aotearoa

Starship  
Foundation



Driveway runovers are preventable. Tragically, it is very common for the driver of a vehicle in these circumstances, to be a parent of the child. Small children, particularly those under two years of age are at most risk. Vehicles often have blind spots and it can be very difficult to see a small child from the driver's seat.

Young children become mobile very quickly. It is very easy for them to slip through an open door or gate and put themselves in the path of a departing vehicle. While reversing cameras and sensors are a great help when parking, they cannot detect or show things directly beneath the vehicle. They do not prevent driveway runovers.

Injuries from driveway runovers tend to be severe with trauma to the head, chest and limbs. These injuries can be fatal and a significant number of children who survive, experience long-term complications.

**4** About **4** deaths a year.

**17** Around **17** hospitalisations every year.

## THE CAUSES



### HUMAN FACTORS

- Unsupervised children.
- Small children hard to see.
- Drivers unaware of children before they get in vehicle.



### VEHICLE FACTORS

- All vehicles have blind spots on the front, sides and rear.



### BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Long or shared driveways increase the risk.
- Lack of separate pedestrian access.

## WHO IS GETTING INJURED?



### 0-4 YEARS

- Accounts for almost 100% of deaths from driveway runovers.
- Accounts for 75% of hospitalisations from driveway runovers.



### BOYS

- Are more likely to be injured than girls.



### MĀORI & PACIFIC

- Māori are 3 times and Pasifika 1.5 times more likely to be hospitalised than other ethnicities.

## SAFETY DEVICES



- Child resistant latches on a gate.
- Gates and fencing to separate play areas from driveway.

## WHEN & WHERE IT HAPPENS



### SPRING & SUMMER

- Danger months with kids outside & doors left open.



### MEALTIMES

- Before lunch & dinner are the most dangerous times.



### CAR PARKS

- There have also been children run over in car parks.



### AT HOME

- The majority happen in the child's own home driveway or relatives & neighbours driveways.

## BOTH WAYS

68% of runovers happen when car is moving backwards

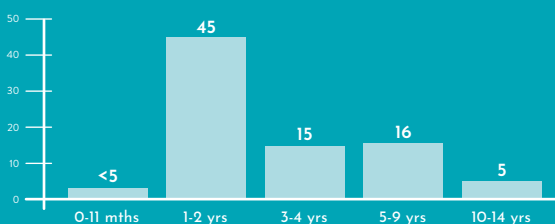


32% of runovers happen when car is moving forwards

## WHO IS DRIVING THE CAR?



## HOSPITALISATIONS 2013-2017



## THE TRENDS



Rate of hospitalisations for driveway runovers has declined about 35% over the past 20 years.

Number of deaths has declined to 1-2 per year in last 3 years.

## Top Safety Tips

### CHECK FOR ME BEFORE YOU TURN THE KEY.



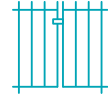
#### CHECK

for children by walking around the whole vehicle and looking underneath before driving off.



#### SUPERVISE

children around vehicles – always.



#### SEPARATE

play areas from driveways.

#### Birth to 11 months

- Keep children well away from driveways. They shouldn't think of them as play areas.
- Know where your children are before getting into the vehicle.
- Check around your vehicle before getting in.

#### 1-2 years

- Fence off the driveway from the main play area.
- Make it difficult for children to access the driveway by installing security doors or gates.
- Drive forwards out of the driveway where possible.
- Slow down on driveways.

#### 3-4 years

- If you need to leave your vehicle make sure it is always switched off and the hand brake is engaged.
- If you are around cars, hold your child's hand and keep them close.
- Have a designated safe area where children learn to wait when a vehicle is leaving your driveway, and where drivers can see them.

#### 5-9 years

- Pre-teens spend more time without adult supervision. They explore their surroundings independently and with growing confidence.
- Talk to them about the dangers of driveway runovers and the importance of keeping the driveway clear of toys and objects.



#### First aid if a child has been struck by a car

- If your child has been struck by a car, call 111 immediately, especially if your child is in pain, unconscious, being sick or seems sleepy, has trouble breathing, or is bleeding (including from the ear).
- If unconscious and not breathing, begin CPR on the child. Do not stop performing CPR until medical help arrives and takes over.

If your child is injured you can find out more about ACC support at [www.acc.co.nz/im-injured](http://www.acc.co.nz/im-injured).

ACC Claims: 0800 101 996 or email [claims@acc.co.nz](mailto:claims@acc.co.nz).

For detailed references on the data and information contained in this card and to download additional copies visit [www.starship.org.nz/safekids/reference-cards](http://www.starship.org.nz/safekids/reference-cards).