

## **ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** To elucidate the impact home visiting on the risk for medically-attended unintentional injury and to identify risk factors of unintentional injury in a home visited population.

**Methods:** A retrospective, propensity score matched cohort study was conducted in a cohort of mother-child dyads in Hamilton County, Ohio. The birth cohort (2006-2012) was linked to county-level home visiting records and data from a population-based injury surveillance system. Survival analysis was performed to compare the time to injury (0-2 years, 0-3 years, and 3-5 years) in a home visited group versus a local comparison group.

**Results:** The study population (n=5,458) was comprised of 2,729 mother-child dyads in the home visited group that was matched to 2,729 mother-child dyads the comparison group. The risk for unintentional injury 0-2 and 0-3 years of age was significantly higher in the home visited group relative to the comparison group (Hazards [Risk] Ratio 1.17, 95% CI: 1.01, 1.35; Hazards Ratio 1.15, 95% CI: 1.00, 1.31, respectively). Excess injuries in the home visited group were more superficial in nature, and the increased risk for unintentional injury was observed for only emergency department visits due to injury.

**Conclusions:** Participants in the home visiting program were significantly more likely to have a medically-attended injury (namely, emergency department visits) and in particular from 0-2 years of age. The finding is likely attributed to home visitor surveillance of injuries and/or greater health care seeking behavior. Recommendations are provided.