

# SURVEY OF PRIMARY CARE PAEDIATRICIANS (PCPs) IN EUROPE ON CHILD INJURY PREVENTION

*Bregant T<sup>1</sup>, Werner A<sup>2</sup>, Moretto M<sup>3</sup>, Sanchez Pina C<sup>4</sup>, Urkin J<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Združenje za pediatrijo, Slovensko zdravniško društvo - SZD, Slovenia

<sup>2</sup> Association Française de Pédiatrie Ambulatoire - AFPA, France

<sup>3</sup> Representative of primary paediatrician, Belgium

<sup>4</sup> Asociación Española de Pediatría de Atención Primaria - AEPAP, Spain

<sup>5</sup> Israel Ambulatory Pediatric Association – IAPA, Israel

## Introduction

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children aged 5-19 years in the WHO European Region and the major cause of mortality and morbidity, representing the significant loss of the lives of 115 children who succumb to injuries in Europe daily. The role of paediatrician in the primary care setting (PCP) in ensuring injury prevention is by counselling to children and families as well as engagement in community. Injury prevention counselling should be provided as a part of the well-child exam.

## Objective

With a web-based survey 1) to compare daily routine and injury prevention in primary care settings 2) to highlight preventative solutions to determine a common set of goals and strategies, which could be efficiently and effectively managed by the PCPs in Europe.

## Methods

The web survey in English was preceded by two sequential pilot surveys which yielded final version which consisted of 1 comment and 25 short multiple-choice questions. Participants were contacted by an email via their country representative of 18 European countries organised in 21 societies from an existing database/email list of European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians. Data were captured electronically at source, anonymized, analysed by SPSS, ver. 21.

## Tables and or figures

Figure 1: Answers by countries (% of all answers)

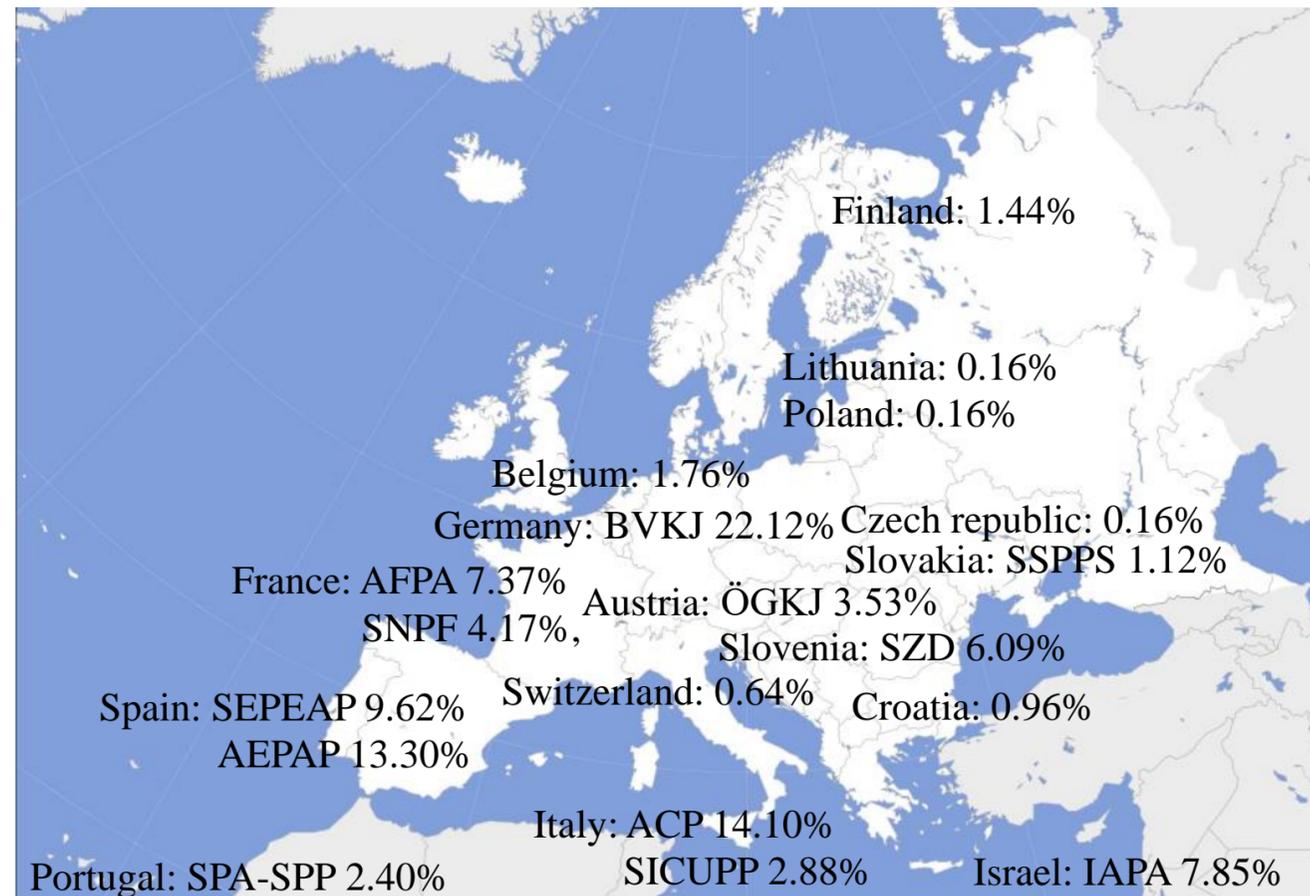


Table 1: Demographic data in the sample (No=624); smaller ratios are omitted due to lack of space

Gender	Female	69,7%
Age (years)	31-40	14.79%
	41-50	24.76%
	51-60	36.50%
	61-70	22.83%
Patients seen/40h week	51-100	24.28%
	101-150	24.28%
	151-200	17.17%

Table 2: Identified problem areas in the survey

In PCPs' non-emergency office approx. 5% of children have unintentional injuries; approx. ½ of those; which is 2%, need further referral to other specialist (eg.: Rtg)

PCPs do not have enough time to empower patients and their families about injury prevention, because they see too many patients/week (120-150/week)

PCPs lack ready-made (electronic, printed) materials

PCPs (up to 50%) are not aware of an agency that communicates with parents about unintentional injuries

## Results

We obtained 624 responds from primary care paediatricians from 17 EU countries who are members of ECPCP –European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians. The majority of work in PCP office was non-urgent, seen as a gateway for minor injuries only. For serious injury they referred patients to an emergency service in 71.43%; on average up to 10 children per working week had unintentional injuries; of those, approximately half need further referral. Most unintentional injuries that were seen at primary care settings were related to traffic, falls, poisoning, burns. Primary care paediatricians knew the general data on mortality and morbidity in their country. They described lack of sufficient time for injury prevention during their daily practice and they lacked ready-made (electronic, printed) materials.

## Conclusion

Primary care paediatricians are aware of their role but they require additional support in providing it. Generally lacking are physical resources, created on a national or international basis (written material - electronic or printed), scientific conferences, and international, harmonised European policy for primary care paediatricians regarding injury prevention. The role of National agencies in injury prevention should be enforced.