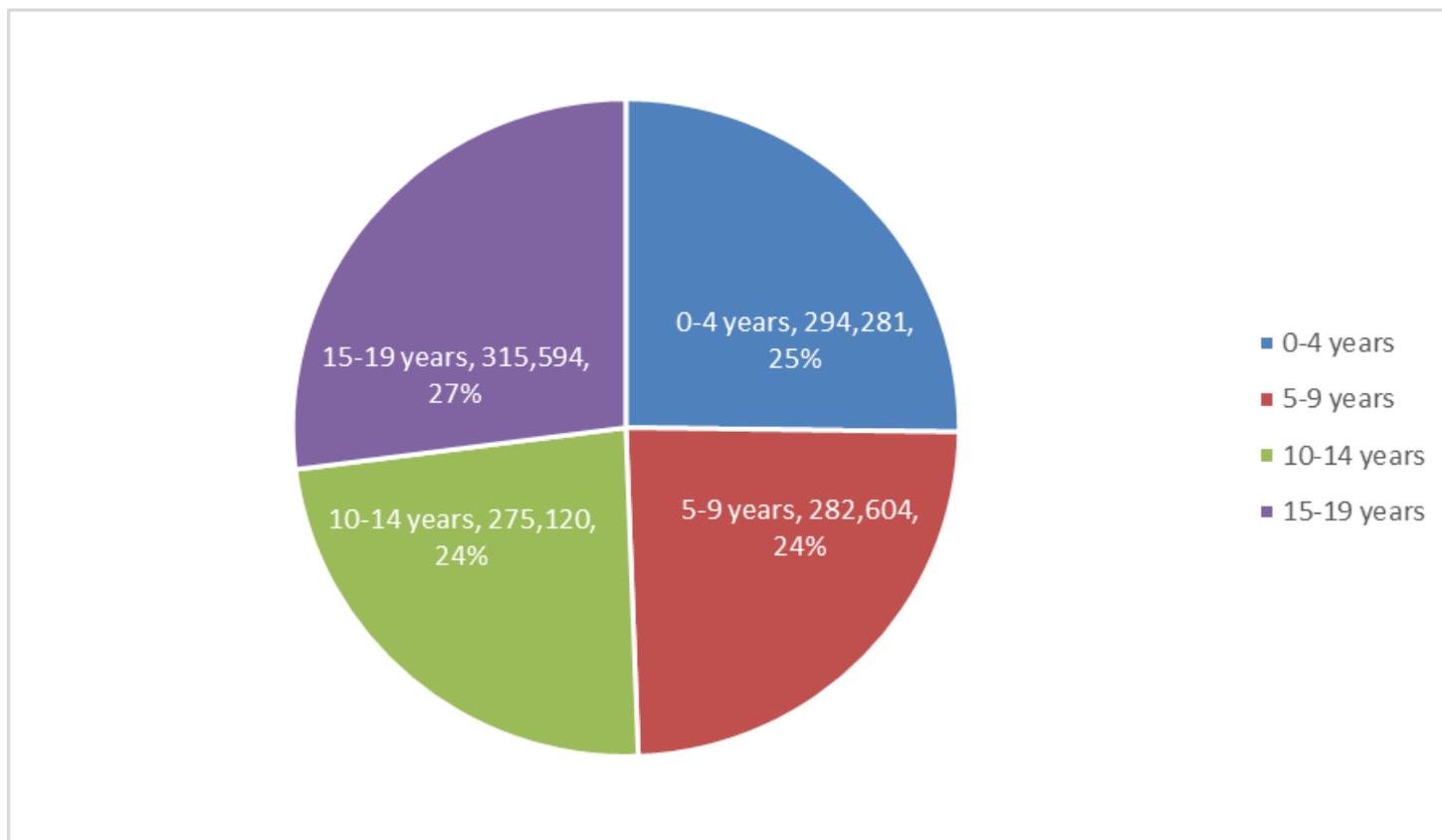


Public Health Interventions Preventing Unintentional Injuries

Dr Eileen Scott
Public Health Adviser
NHS Health Scotland
eileen.scott1@nhs.net



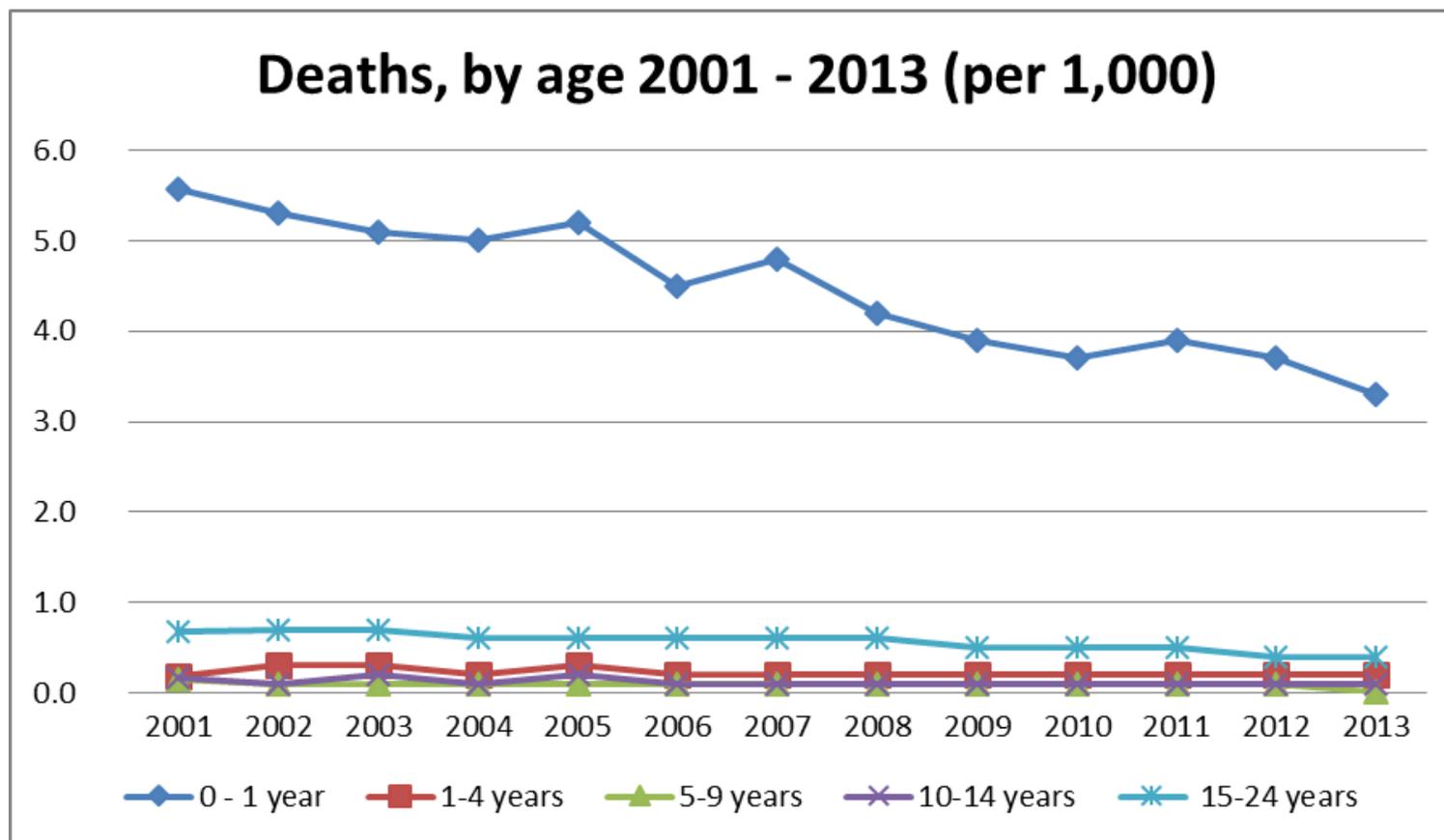
Scotland's Children and Young People, 2013



Health - the right of every child

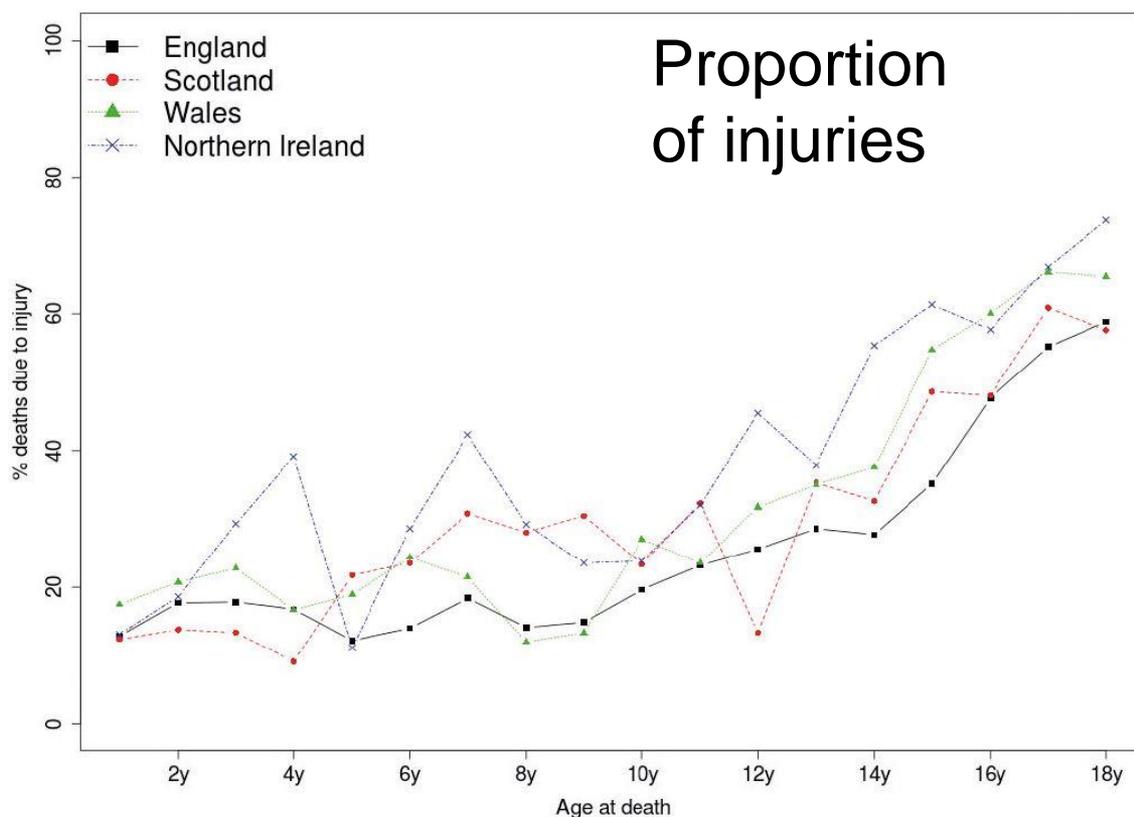
- Article 6: the right to **live**. Governments should ensure that children **survive** and develop **healthily**
- Article 24: the right to **good quality health care** – the best health care possible – to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and **safe environment**, and information to help them stay healthy
- Article 27: the right to a **standard of living** that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. Governments should help families and guardians who cannot afford to provide this, particularly with regard to food, clothing and housing.

Declining Mortality

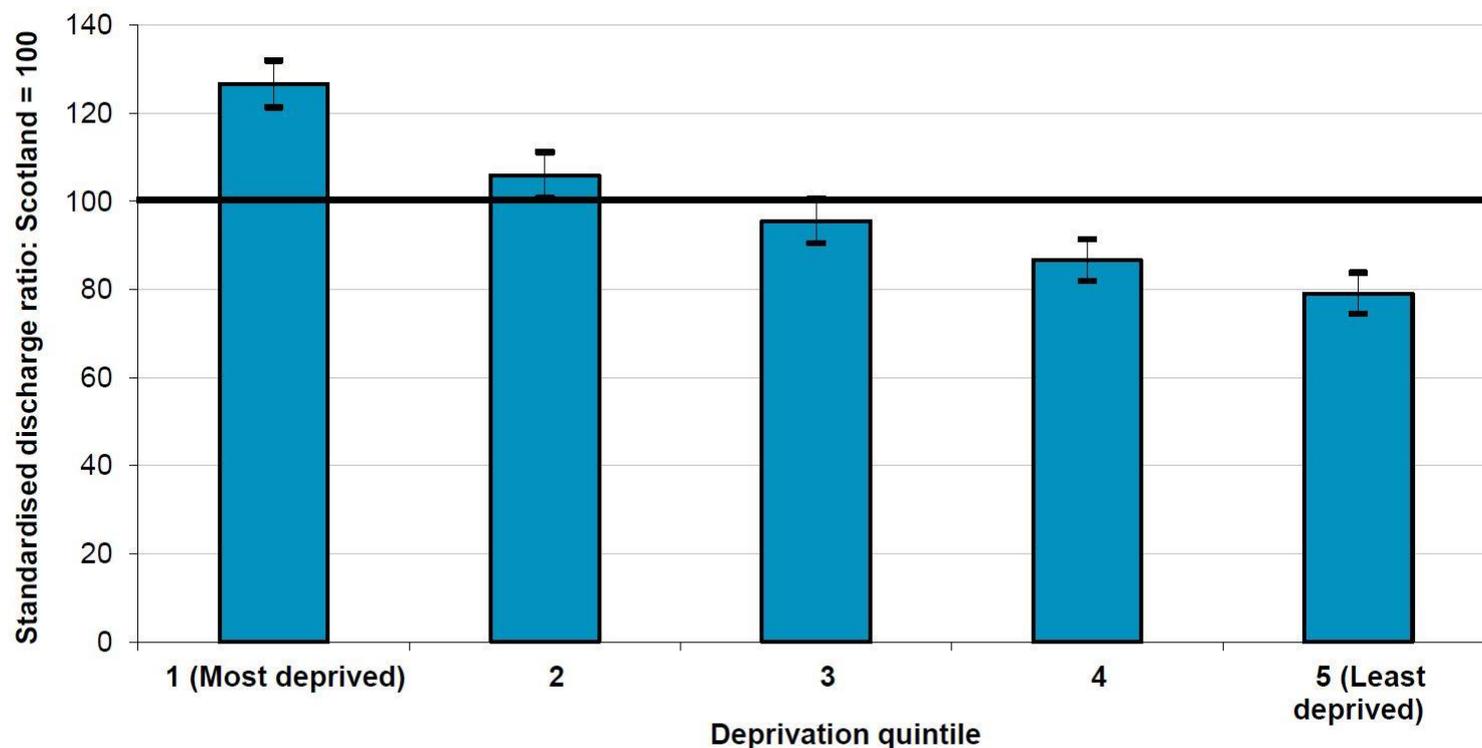


Not the whole picture

- After the first year of life, injury is the greatest cause of death



Emergency admissions in under 15s by deprivation 2013-14



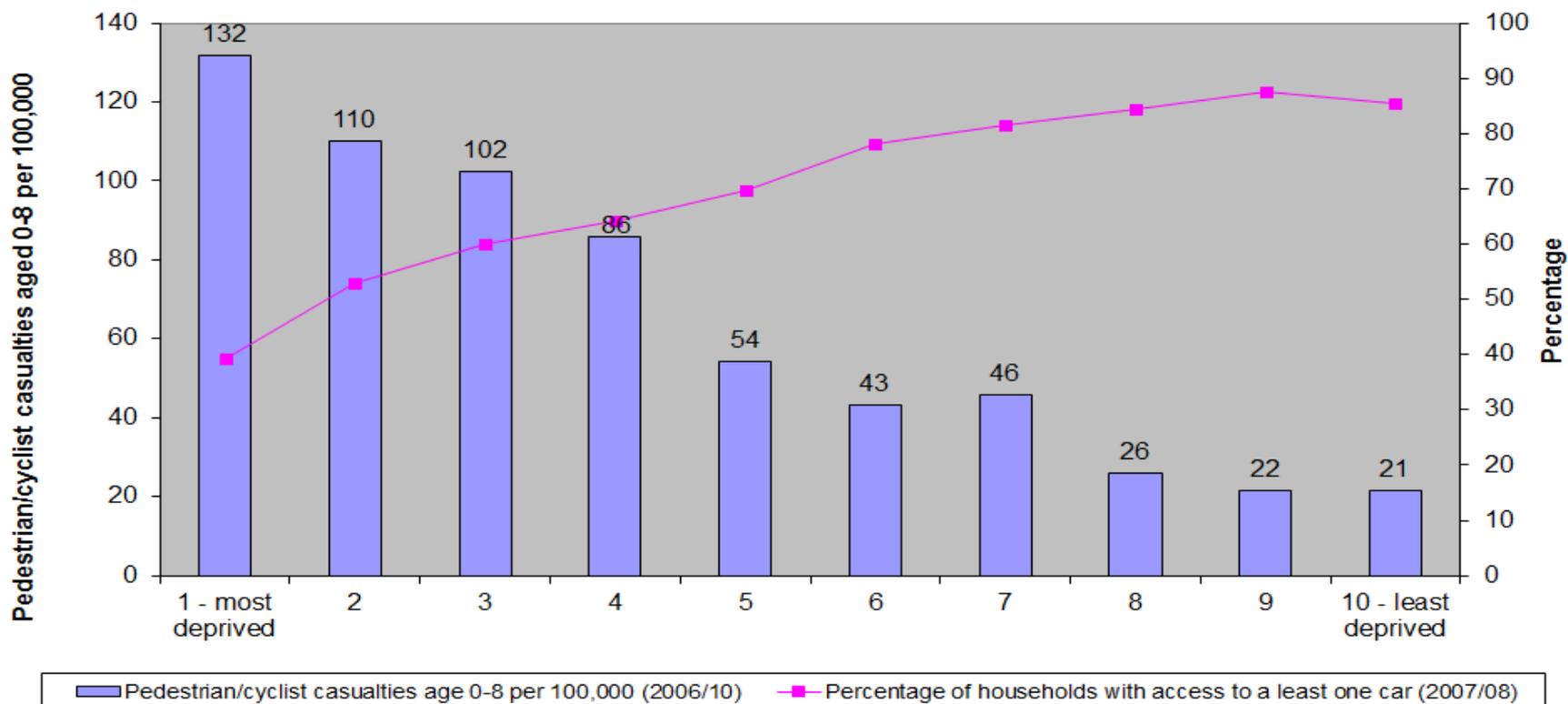
1. Data are standardised for age and sex.

Source: ISD Scotland, 2014

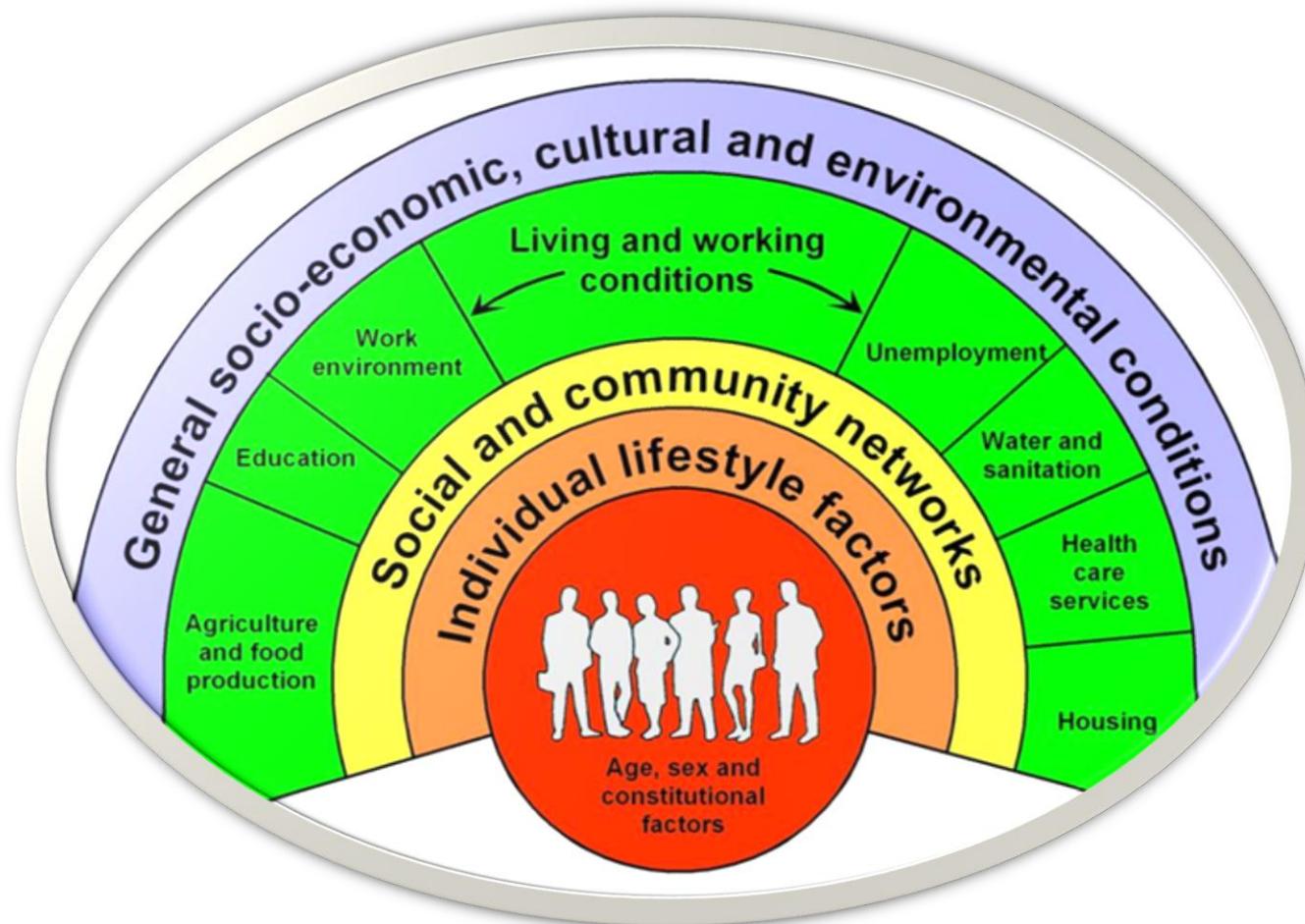
Road Casualty Rate

Child pedestrian/cyclist road casualty rate and household car ownership, by SIMD decile: Scotland

Sources: STATS19 & NRS (2006/10); Scottish Household Survey (2007/08)



The Social Determinants of Health



Risk Factors 0-15

- Increased risk of unintentional injury with:
 - Increased age
 - Being a boy
 - Low socio-economic status and deprivation
- Road Injury:
 - Socio-economic deprivation
 - in a car driven by another teenager
 - Link between cycling injury and attention/behavioural problems or cycling overly cautiously

Risk Factors Cont

- In the home, strong association between age and type of injury:
 - burn or fire-related injury (<1year)
 - falls (>1year)
 - poisoning (1-4 years).
- Again strong association with poverty, deprivation and education of parents

Preventing unintentional injuries: road

- Road environment modification and road design: maximising safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- Reducing and enforcing speed limits
 - Speed enforcement devices
 - Police enforcement of speed
 - Media campaigns alongside enforcement measures

Preventing unintentional injuries: home

- Children under 5 are more likely to experience injuries in the home, (e.g. falls, burns and scalds) than in other locations compared to older children.
- Families may lack both the information to enable them to identify and manage risks in their home and the means by which to purchase and install home safety equipment.
- Effective interventions combine home safety equipment and education – Scotland's Home Safety Equipment Scheme

What enables home injury prevention?

- Strong policy drivers / legislation, (e.g. around child resistant containers)
- Partnership and collaboration between service providers in low-income communities.
- An understanding of the reasons behind a family's failure to comply, (e.g. living in a home that they are not free to modify)

What prevents effective home injury prevention?

- Faulty or poor quality equipment and cost
- Living in accommodation that cannot be modified, (e.g. rented accommodation).
- Lack of autonomy to make major household changes or decisions about household purchases
- A lack of professional knowledge about policy or home safety support services
- Policy and legal barriers, e.g. the poor enforcement of legislation.

Further Reading

- Scott, E & Woodman, K (2012) *Public health interventions to prevent unintentional injuries among the under 15s*. NHS Health Scotland. Edinburgh.