



Inside this issue:

- **Button Battery Injury reminder** 2
- **Acute Flaccid Paralysis**
- **Recent APSU Publications** 3
- **SRP**
- **APSU Christmas closure** 4

Welcome to the December 2025 APSU newsletter.

As we head into the festive season, the APSU team would like to thank all of our contributors for the diligence with which you have continued to participate in our monthly surveillance throughout 2025.

We are keenly aware of the additional challenges faced by clinicians due to busy workloads and increased demands on your time. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

May you and your family enjoy a safe, graceful, and joyous Christmas season, and may 2026 bring you continued health and well-being.

Elizabeth Elliott, Anne Morris, Suzy Teutsch, Carlos Nunez and Dannielle Handel (Team APSU)

Indoor Trampoline Park Injury Study awarded 'Research of the Year' by KidSafe Australia

Associate Professor Richard Franklin, President KidSafe Australia, announced in July 2025 that KidSafe Australia has awarded the following publication as 'Research of the Year.'

Tsoi KY, Sharwood LN, Eslick GD, Nunez C, Morris A, Williams N, Erskine C, Adams S. **Evaluating Paediatric Injury Hospitalisations From Indoor Trampoline Parks Across Australia: A Multi-Centre Study.** Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health. 2025, 61(3):457-464. doi.org/10.1111/jpc.16770

This was a multi-centre study involving the APSU Sydney Children's Hospital Network (Westmead), University of NSW, University of Sydney, Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, KidSafe NSW, & Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick.

In summary, there has been an increase in popularity of trampoline parks, with an associated rise in severe trampoline park injuries (TPIs) usually from falls (72%) and involving the upper (56%) or lower limb (23%) and requiring surgery in 90%. There is a different pattern of injury from home trampolines and trampoline parks.

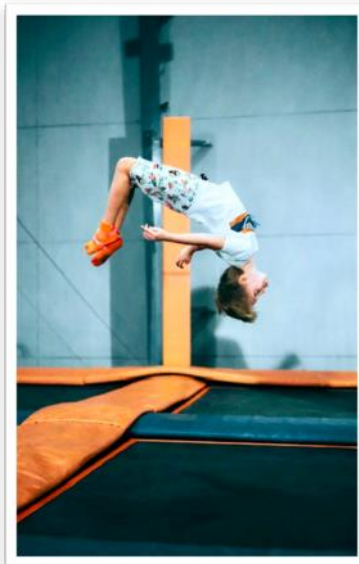


Image: BenMoses M on Unsplash

REMINDER: Please reply to the monthly report card email, even if you don't have a case to notify.

The "nothing to report" response provides information about participation in the scheme, is a mechanism for assessing completeness of case ascertainment and ensures that the scheme provides good quality data.

We currently have staff available to help you launch your research project with the APSU. Interested? Contact the APSU team by email at SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au to arrange a time to discuss your ideas and project requirements.

Severe Injury Related to Disc Battery

'Tis the season of gift giving and receiving, and unfortunately an increased risk of children accessing button/disc batteries in items that do not meet current Australian Safety standards.

We ask you to continue to report any incidence of Severe Injury related to Disc Battery (see our [study information sheet here](#) and [online case report form here](#)).

Other online resources available on the APSU website include [Important Information for Doctors](#) and [Information for Parents and Public](#).

The APSU would like to acknowledge the past financial support of QLD Health, and most recently a donation from Amazon Inc, enabling the APSU to continue with this important safety related study.



Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the clinicians that joined the APSU Surveillance program during 2025. We appreciate your enthusiasm and participation. We look forward to working with you throughout 2026 and beyond.

Do you have a colleague that would like to join the monthly surveillance program? Let them know that they can complete a brief registration form here: [APSU Online Contributor Registration](#)

Ongoing Surveillance Studies in 2026—links to study documents [here](#)

- Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)
- Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection
- Congenital Rubella
- Congenital Varicella
- Neonatal Varicella
- Dengue
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- HIV Infection
- Perinatal Exposure to HIV
- Juvenile Onset Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (JORRP)
- Neonatal Herpes Simplex Virus Infection (HSV)
- Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome Temporally Associated with SARS-COV-2 (PIMS-TS)
- Q Fever
- Severe Acute Hepatitis in Children
- Severe Injury related to Disc Battery

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

The APSU would like to thank all Contributors who have remained vigilant reporting AFP cases in 2025, especially those located outside of major cities and/or PAEDS hospitals.

The Polio Expert Panel encourages all paediatricians to continue reporting all cases of AFP to the APSU.

High quality acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance is essential to maintain Australia's polio-free status.

The APSU protocol, online and PDF case report forms can be found here:

[APSU AFP Protocol, ONLINE or PDF Case Report Form](#)

Two stool samples for testing to exclude polio virus should be collected within 14 days of the onset of paralysis and sent to the National Polio Reference Laboratory.

More details at: www.vidrl.org.au/laboratories/poliovirus-reference/specimen-referral



During the Christmas and New Years period, please report any case of AFP directly to the National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory by emailing the AFP Surveillance Co-Ordinator at: Enterovirus@vidrl.org.au or phone (03) 9342 9607.

2025 Publications

APSU publications are made possible due to your ongoing contribution to our surveillance studies, thank you. APSU contributors are acknowledged in every publication.

- Cullingford DJ, Nunez C, Morris A, Abraham MB, Siafarikas A, Elliott EJ, Choong CSY. **Birth prevalence and characteristics of septo-optic dysplasia in Australia: results from the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit.** (Letter). Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health doi.org/10.1111/jpc.70258
- Teutsch SM, Nunez CA, Morris A, Elliott EJ, on behalf of Chief Investigators of APSU surveillance studies. **Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU) Annual Surveillance Report 2024.** Communicable Diseases Intelligence (2025 In Press)
- Nunez C, Eslick GD, Teutsch S, Khandaker G, Elliott EJ. **Global epidemiology of dengue in paediatric and adolescent populations: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** Infectious Diseases. 2025 Nov 7:1-27. doi.org/10.1080/23744235.2025.2580966
- Alland SE, Britton PN, Thorley B, Hobday L, Kelly M, Fasugba O, Wilson M, Morris A, Durrheim DN. **Staying polio free: A capture-recapture analysis of acute flaccid paralysis surveillance in the Australian Capital Territory.** Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 2025;49(5). doi.org/10.1016/j.anzjph.2025.100281
- Egilmezer E, Teutsch SM, Nunez C, Hamilton ST, Bartlett AW, Palasanthiran P, Elliott EJ, Rawlinson WD. **Birth prevalence, clinical sequelae, and management of congenital cytomegalovirus infections in Australia, 1999-2023: a national prospective study.** The Medical journal of Australia. 2025. doi.org/10.5694/mja2.70047
- Bull LJ, Eslick GD, Teutsch SM, Elliott EJ. **Assessing Psychological Harms on Parents and Primary Caregivers of Children Living with a Rare Disease: A Systematic Review of the Scope and Validity of Surveys Utilized.** Clinical Child & Family Psychology Review (2025). doi.org/10.1007/s10567-025-00533-7
- Tsang TW, Rosenblatt DH, Parta I, Elliott EJ. **Estimating the Prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Australia.** Drug and Alcohol Review. 2025 Jun 4. doi.org/10.1111/dar.14082
- Teutsch SM, Nunez CA, Morris A, Eslick GD, Elliott EJ, on behalf of Chief Investigators of APSU surveillance studies. **Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU) Annual Surveillance Report 2023.** Communicable Diseases Intelligence (2018). 2025, 49: doi.org/10.33321/cdi.2025.49.019
- Jobling JM, Teutsch SM, Eslick GD, Elliott EJ. **Impact on the family of a child's rare disease: a large cross-sectional study.** Rare. 2025 Feb 7:100066. doi.org/10.1016/j.rare.2025.100066
- Tsoi KY, Sharwood LN, Eslick GD, Nunez C, Morris A, Williams N, Erskine C, Adams S. **Evaluating Paediatric Injury Hospitalisations From Indoor Trampoline Parks Across Australia: A Multi-Centre Study.** Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health. 2025, 61(3):457-464. doi.org/10.1111/jpc.16770



APSU Scientific Review Panel (SRP)

Thanks are extended to our ongoing SRP members: Dr Mavis Duncanson (NZ), Dr David Lester-Smith, Dr Tasneem Karim, Dr Anne Morris and Prof Elizabeth Elliott. **EOI to join the SRP are currently open**, please contact APSU for further information at email: SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au

The APSU office will be closed from
COB Friday 19th December 2025,
re-opening on Monday 5th January 2026.

**Please report any case of AFP during this closure period directly
to the National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory**

by emailing the AFP Surveillance Co-Ordinator

at: Enterovirus@vidri.org.au

or phone (03) 9342 9607.

Visit our website at: www.apsu.org.au

Find current and past study related material,
as well as our publications library

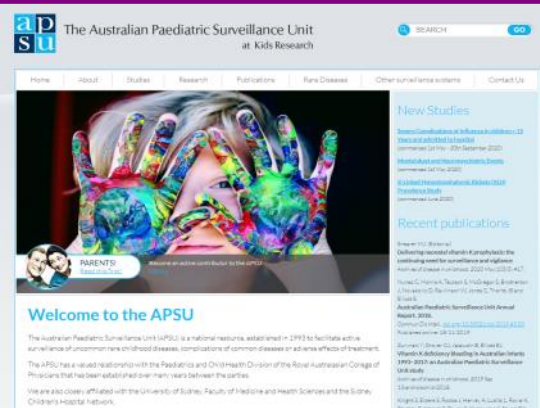
Is there something we can do better?

Do you have any suggestions you would like to share with us?

Is there a resource you would like to see included?

Please contact us with your thoughts and suggestions at:

SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au



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Disclaimer: The information contained in Rare Kids Newsletter is accurate at the time of publication. The material does not constitute professional advice.

The APSU is affiliated with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Paediatrics and Child Health Division) and Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney. The APSU is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

REDCap Online Reporting: APSU Contributors can complete case report forms through our ONLINE data capture and management system REDCap. Visit our [Current Studies page on the APSU website](#) and click on the relevant links to access Study Information Sheets (includes Case Definition), printable Case Report Forms and links to ONLINE Case Report Forms specific to each study. If you have any difficulties accessing the links or would like more information about completing the forms online, please contact us at SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au

Still returning the yellow card by post? If you are one of the remaining 60 clinicians still receiving the yellow report card by post, we would like to make responding easier for you. To start responding via email, please contact us at: SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au

Changed your contact details? Please let us know your new details by emailing us at: SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au

Not currently an APSU Contributor? We invite clinicians in paediatric and child health to become a member of the APSU and contribute data to support our unique national surveillance effort. To join the APSU, please contact us by email at: SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au