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Kids' Football Helmets: Unsafe, Untested

Hundreds of thousands of youngsters who participate in tackle football are wearing helmets that are too old to protect them from dangerous brain concussions. And even new helmets provide little protection from concussion.

These are just two of several eyebrow-raising findings in a report from the [New York Times](#). Writer Alan Schwarz says:

Helmets both new and used are not — and have never been — formally tested against the forces believed to cause concussions. The industry, which receives no

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governmental or other independent oversight, requires helmets for players of all ages to withstand only the extremely high-level force that would otherwise fracture skulls.

The standard has not changed meaningfully since it was written in 1973, despite rising concussion rates in youth football and the growing awareness of how the injury can cause significant short- and long-term problems with memory, depression and other cognitive functions, especially in children.

Even worse, the industry's few safety standards are flouted by companies that recycle old helmets, returning them in dangerous condition, according to the Times:

Some of the businesses that recondition helmets ignored testing rules, performed the tests incorrectly or returned helmets that were still in poor condition. More than 100,000 children are wearing helmets too old to provide adequate protection — and perhaps half a million more are wearing potentially unsafe helmets that require critical examination, according to interviews with experts and industry data.

Read more [here](#).

Families interested in learning more about our firm's legal services, including legal representation for children who have suffered serious injuries in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia due to medical malpractice, defective products, birth-related trauma or other injuries, may ask questions or send us information about a particular case by phone or email. There is no charge for contacting us regarding your inquiry. An attorney will respond within 24 hours.

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