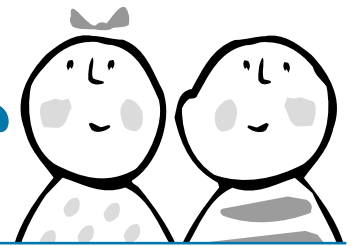




SAFE KIDS CONNECTICUT Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

*Dedicated to
reducing
preventable
injuries and
deaths in
Connecticut
children*

SUMMER 2006

Safe Kids Connecticut
Coalition

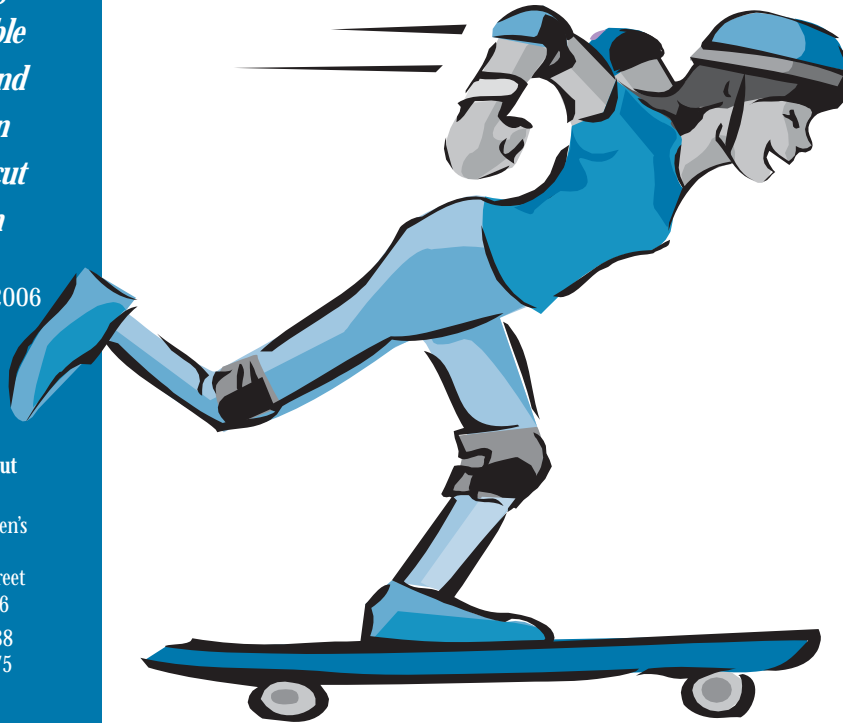
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Not all helmets are created equal

From a very early age, most children are taught to wear a helmet when they ride their bike. Many are taught to wear a helmet for skateboarding and for sports. It is important, however, that kids not only wear the helmet, but wear the right helmet for the right activity. Just like most adults would not let a child wear a football helmet to play baseball, they should also not let children wear a bicycle helmet to skateboard.

All helmets are not the same. Each type of helmet is made to protect the head from the impact most common to that sport or activity. Helmets made for a different activity will not protect a child from a serious head injury as effectively. Additionally, only bicycle and motorcycle helmets must meet federal safety standards. Many other helmets only have to meet voluntary standards. •

Information courtesy of the Consumer Product Safety Commission
(www.cpsc.gov)

See page 2 for Frequently Asked Questions

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy summer! As you might have noticed, we have a new logo and new name. Connecticut SAFE KIDS is now Safe Kids Connecticut. This change was done on a national level and so all the Safe Kids groups will now be known by Safe Kids and then their location. It takes a little while to get used to, but we appreciate everyone's support during this transition.



In other exciting news, we are welcoming a new program assistant, Stephanie Jaczko Robinson. Stephanie has great experience working with people with disabilities as well as working with the media and marketing. We are thrilled to have her join the Safe Kids team!

We have a busy summer planned. We are hosting the Britax Safety Seat Training to update technicians on all the changes with those products. With DPH, we are conducting child passenger safety educational trainings for child care providers, health care workers and other interested injury prevention professionals all over the state. Finally, we are gearing up for our annual Injury Prevention Conference on September 28th. We hope to see you at one of these events!

Karen

Safe Pools for Safe Kids!



Please visit www.ctsafekids.org to learn the many ways parents and caregivers can prevent children from being injured in pools and hot tubs, including active supervision, entrapment prevention, and safer pool environments. •

Save the Date!

Safe Kids Connecticut will be hosting our annual Injury Prevention Conference on Thursday, September 28th. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. Look for registration information in the mail and on our website, www.ctsafekids.org. •

Recall

Schwinn Deluxe Bicycle Child Carriers have been voluntarily recalled as there is a risk of the carrier falling off the bike. Please stop using this product immediately and contact Schwinn at (800) 515-0074 for more information. •



Lifestar's Trish Lohan teaches 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders from Emerson Williams School (Wethersfield) about the importance of helmet safety with the use of an egg and an egg helmet at Safe Kids Day on May 11th.

Fireworks Reminder

For the Fourth of July, keep kids safe from fireworks. The top three injury-causing fireworks are firecrackers, sparklers, and rockets. Safe Kids Connecticut recommends that families only enjoy the dazzle of fireworks at a community-sanctioned, licensed event. However, if used, all other fireworks should be legal and handled only by adults. •



Helmet FAQs:

Can a child only use a bike helmet for bicycling? No. A child can wear a CPSC-compliant bike helmets while biking, in-line skating and riding a nonpowered scooter. For other activities which share a helmet, please visit www.cpsc.gov and click on the "Which Helmet for Which Activity?" guide.

When should a child NOT wear a helmet? Children should not wear a helmet on the playground or climbing trees. The helmet's chin strap could get caught on equipment or trees and possibly strangle the child.

Do I have to replace the helmet after an impact? For bike helmets, yes. They are designed to protect against a single severe impact. Other helmets, such as football or ice hockey, are designed to protect against multiple impacts. If the helmet has visible signs of damage (such as cracks or dents), it should be replaced. Read the manufacturer's instructions for guidance on replacing the helmet.



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Safe Kids Connecticut

Safe Kids Valley Parish Nurse Community (SKVPNC)

In collaborative efforts with local churches, schools, libraries, Salvation Army, YMCA and Team Head Start in the Valley, SKVPNC has participated in 44 safety programs to educate children and adults. We have held over 30 "Gerbuster" programs, 7 poison safety programs, and 4 bike safety/helmet fittings/giveaways. In April, we concluded our Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grant at Irving School in Derby. Over 250 students entered Pedestrian Safety posters or Public Service Announcement essays. Eighteen winning posters and honorable mentions are hanging at the local library and in storefronts to further educate the public. Excerpts from the winning essay were also featured in an article in the New Haven Register. Finally Safe Kids Week began with a Pool/Hot Tub Safety program at the YMCA in Ansonia with over 70 participants. Upcoming events include a car seat clinic in September and more Buzz Box and Bike Safety programs. For more information, please call Cathi Kellett at (203) 732-1337.

Safe Kids Windham County (SKWC)

Saludos from Safe Kids Windham County. We kick started our Child Passenger Safety Week 2006 by hosting a CPS workshop for WIC participants at The ACCESS Agency in Willimantic. Following that event we hosted a car seat clinic at Champagne Chevrolet on February 18th. First Selectman Michael Paulhus proclaimed this week as Child Passenger Safety Week for the Windham Community. On May 20th, SKWC joined efforts with the Mansfield Community Center for bike safe-

ty education and a helmet giveaway. Our Windham Safe Kids Youth Committee continues to put together Poison Safety Awareness and Home Safety gift bags, which are distributed monthly to our local community health agencies and local pediatric offices. SKWC hosted the several car seat clinics this spring and will host many more this summer. Informational and CPS workshops will continue to be conducted throughout the summer. Finally, SKWC is making preparations to march in the annual Willimantic Boom Box Parade on the 4th of July. All are welcome and encouraged to join us at this highly attended event. For more information, please call Marisol Feliciano at (860) 456-6978.

Safe Kids Greater Waterbury (SKGW)

In March, we sponsored a CPS technician class for 25 people and hosted a car seat clinic at AMR where approximately 50 seats were checked. We also participated in a daylong safety event at Plymouth School for 540 children. In April, we ran a booster seat giveaway for 40 Waterbury residents. We also held a CPS workshop for the Waterbury Hospital Child Care Center. In May, for Safe Kids Week, we gave out sneaker reflectors with summer safety tips to area elementary schools. For more information call Sheila Staib at (203) 709-3655.

Safe Kids New London County (SKNLC)

With hopes of "brushing up" on their Spanish-speaking language skills, several members of SKNLC have been participating in a weekly conversational Spanish class. Many members realized

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

June 22, 2006

Britax Safety Seat Training
South Windsor Fire Headquarters
CPS Technicians only
Participants must RSVP

September 28, 2006

**Safe Kids Connecticut
Injury Prevention Conference**
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT

October 4, 2006

International Walk to School Day

October 8- 14, 2006

National Fire Prevention Week

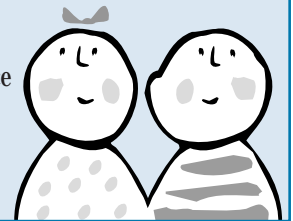
October 15- 21, 2006

National School Bus Safety Week
"I See The Driver, The Driver Sees Me"

November 2, 2006

Coalition Meeting

Noon-2pm
CCMC,
Level G,
Conference
Rooms
C & D



the need to better communicate basic safety information with our Spanish-speaking clients and have been meeting faithfully for the past 8 weeks.

SKNLC's most recent injury prevention outreach events have included a community health day at our local YMCA, a corporate health and wellness evening at Pfizer's Groton location, and car seat education, along with dog bite prevention techniques, at many child care sites. For more information call Esther Schuman at (860) 442-0733.

Safe Kids Fairfield County (SKFC)

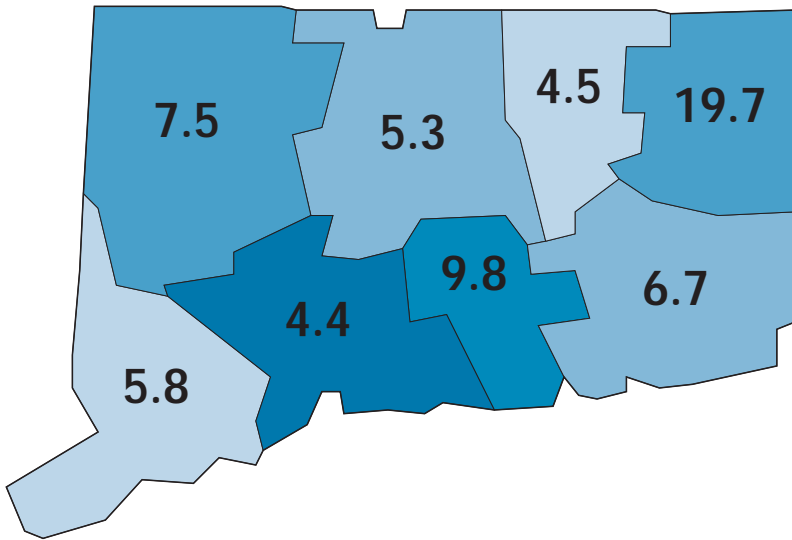
For more information, please Bob Cordes at 203-853-7115 or visit www.fcsafekids.org.



Traumatic Brain Injury

Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

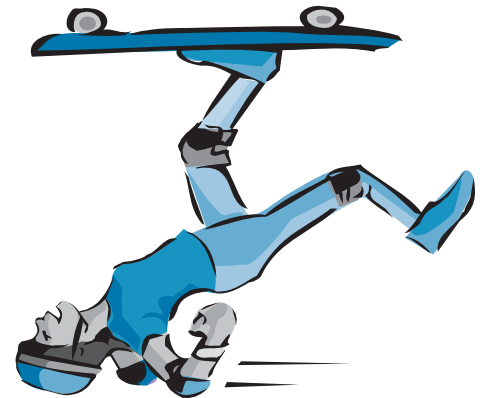
**Emergency Department Visits for Head Injury,
1995 to 2003, 0 to 14 years
Rates per 1,000**



A blow to the head may cause traumatic brain injury (TBI) and may cause problems with cognition (concentration, memory, judgment, and mood), movement (strength, coordination, and balance), sensation (tactile sensation and vision), emotion (instability and impulsivity).

In Connecticut, from 1995-2003, there were 7,400 emergency department visits (825 per year) due to head injury among persons <15 years of age. Head injury visits were higher among young children 0-4 years of age, and males. In Connecticut, Windham County has the highest rate of head injury among children (Figure 1). The leading causes of head injury are falls, bicycle-related, motor vehicle occupant, and pedestrian injury. Head injury prevention measures (e.g., helmets, occupant restraint devices, window guards, stairway gates) would prevent future TBI's. •

Not all helmets
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED