



NO. 16

FALL 2001

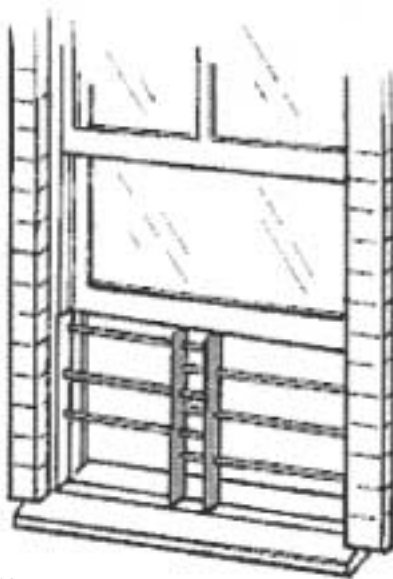
Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

## KIDS CAN'T FLY

# Preventing falls

Children are more likely to die or be severely injured from window-related falls than from falls associated with any other product.

Children falling from windows are more likely to be male, under age 5, and playing unsupervised at the time of the fall. Window falls tend to occur in large urban areas, low-income neighborhoods, and deteriorating and overcrowded housing. Children living in apartment build-



Continued on page 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Walking to school safely



Eileen A. Henzy

On Tuesday October 2, 2001, Connecticut SAFE KIDS will once again partner with FedEx to participate in "Walk Your Child to School Day." Last year's walk took place in New London and resulted in a task force to make changes in the walking environment for children and adults in that community.

This year's walk will take place in New Britain. In addition to FedEx employees, New Britain EMS and Police Departments, as well as the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition, will be working with Connecticut SAFE KIDS to ensure a successful walk.

You are encouraged to plan a walk at one of your local schools. It's quite simple and makes a large impact.

Need some more reasons? The walk promotes safety by teaching children safe walking skills and how to identify safe routes to school. It also increases awareness of how walkable a community is, and where improvements can be made. Finally, it emphasizes reducing traffic congestion and speeding cars in school zones, and is a wonderful way to share time with community leaders, parents and children.

For more information on how to organize a walk in your community visit the Partnership for a Walkable America web site at [www.walktoschool-usa.org](http://www.walktoschool-usa.org) or contact Connecticut SAFE KIDS at (860) 545-9988.

## Preventing falls

continued from page 1

ings have the highest number of window-fall incidents: five times more than children living in private residences.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS is in the process of developing a window-falls prevention program. For more information contact Molly Temple at (860) 545-9985. ■

### PREVENTING FALLS

- **Install window guards on all windows above the first floor**, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics Injury Prevention Program. In New York City, an education and window-guard distribution program, combined with window-guard legislation, demonstrated a 35% reduction in window fall-related fatalities after two years.
- **Move chairs and furniture away from windows.** Children can easily climb the furniture and consequently be close to a window that might otherwise be too high to pose a risk.
- **Don't expect screens to serve as window guards.** Screens are designed to keep insects out, not to keep children in. A child's merely leaning on a screen can easily push it out.
- **Make sure children are supervised by an adult at all times.** A child left unattended, even for a brief period of time, is at risk of injury. Adult supervision is key to injury prevention, including the prevention of window falls.
- **Make sure the landing spot under a window is soft.** Rather than concrete or other hard surface under a window, something softer – such as mulch or bushes – may lessen the injury if a fall does occur.

## Van update

The Buckle-Up Van is now available for use to approved coalition members for safety events, car seat check events, and other programs. Fitting stations tend to work best when educating caregivers on car seat issues; however, general clinics are still common.

A protocol is in the works for anyone who would like to borrow the van to conduct a child passenger safety program. All materials needed to run a clinic are in the van.

Reserve the van early, as many events are planned well in advance. For more information or to request the van, call (860) 545-9985. ■

## Time to apply for license plate funding

The next round of the Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grants is now available for programs running October 2001 through January 2002. The deadline for application this round is October 1, 2001.

Programs that address unintentional injury issues for children 14 and under are eligible for funding up to \$1500. These funds were generated from recent purchases of the Keep Kids Safe license plate.

For further information on eligibility and an application, visit the Connecticut SAFE KIDS web site at [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) or call (860) 545-9988. ■

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## Reporting on childhood injury: Emergency Department visits

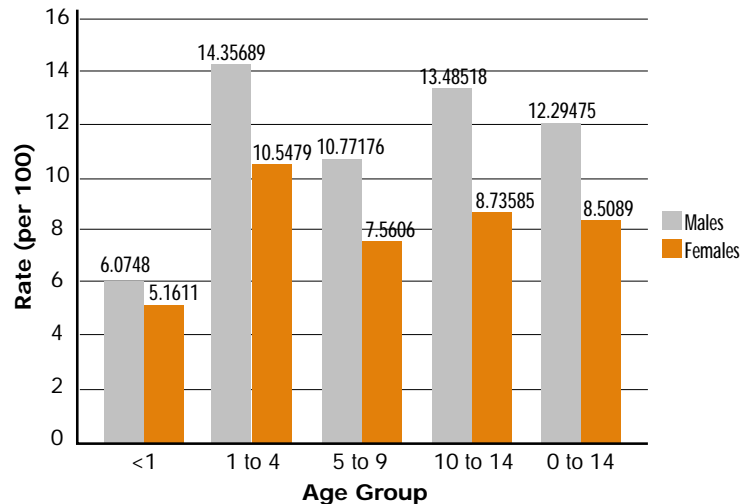


Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH

Director, Connecticut Childhood Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Unintentional injury is a leading cause of emergency department visits for Connecticut children. In each age group, the rate of injury is more frequent in boys than girls, with the highest rate among 1- to 4-year-old boys. Among infants and toddlers, the most frequent cause of injury are falls. Injury prevention strategies should address parent supervision, promote installation of stair gates and window guards, and discourage use of infant walkers. ■

Average Annual Rate (per 100 population)  
of Emergency Department Visits  
due to Unintentional Injury by Age and Sex  
Connecticut Residents, Ages 0-14, 1995-1999 (n=353,929)



SOURCE: CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

## Fall back, change batteries

Daylight Savings Times ends soon and we'll turn our clocks back one hour. This is a perfect time to change your smoke alarm batteries and check to be sure that all alarms are working.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there is both good and bad news on the smoke alarm front. The good news is that about 90% of U.S. households have smoke alarms installed. The bad news is that in about 20% of these homes – about 16 million – the alarms were not working, usually because the battery was dead or missing.

This is a wonderful opportunity for coalition members to educate communities on this issue. Limited quantities of free smoke alarms may be available in your area through the Connecticut SAFE KIDS/Elks Partnership. Your organization may sponsor a program that identifies areas that are at high risk in your community, and go door-to-door checking smoke alarms to be sure they are functioning.

For more information on conducting a "Get Alarmed" program, contact Connecticut SAFE KIDS at (860) 545-9988. ■

## Workshop: Play Safe! Be Safe!

As part of its continuing effort to support fire-safety education for young children, BIC Corporation (a Connecticut-based company), developed and distributes "Play Safe! Be Safe!," an award-winning fire-safety curriculum for preschool children. Hartford has been selected as one of seven U.S. workshop sites for 2001.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS, in collaboration with the Hartford Fire Department and Connecticut Fire Academy, is pleased to host "Teach the Teacher," a workshop for coalition members, preschool teachers and daycare providers. The workshop will be held in Hartford on Thursday, October 4, 2001, and the training will take about three hours.

Every participant will receive a free "Play Safe! Be Safe!" multimedia curriculum kit. For more information and to register, call (860) 545-9988 or email [ehenzy@ccmckids.org](mailto:ehenzy@ccmckids.org). Registration is free, but space is limited. ■

## Why become a SAFE KIDS member?

- You will receive the latest research and program information.
  - You will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost safety supplies and materials for your program.
  - You will be participating in an active, growing movement to reduce childhood injury.
- Please send me a SAFE KIDS brochure and membership application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

or call (860) 545-9988

## Mark your calendar!

<b>Sept. 2001</b>	<b>Baby Safety Month</b> <b>Children Eye Health and Safety Month</b>
<b>Oct. 2, 2001</b>	<b>Walk Your Child To School Day</b>
<b>Oct. 4, 2001</b>	<b>BIC Play Safe! Be Safe!</b> workshop sponsored by Connecticut SAFE KIDS, Hartford Fire Department and the Connecticut Fire Academy. Registration required.
<b>Oct. 7-13, 2001</b>	<b>Fire Prevention Week</b>
<b>Oct. 21-27, 2001</b>	<b>School Bus Safety Week</b>
<b>Nov. 1, 2001</b> Noon to 2 PM	<b>Coalition Meeting</b> CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D
<b>Feb. 7, 2002</b> Noon to 2 PM	<b>Coalition Meeting</b> CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D
<b>Apr. 4, 2002</b> Time TBD	<b>Connecticut SAFE KIDS Annual Workshop</b> Location TBD

Coalition meetings are held at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. Lunch is served, and parking is validated. Members are encouraged to come share their program ideas and learn from others. Please RSVP at least two weeks prior to the meeting by calling (860) 545-9988 or by e-mailing ehenzy@ccmckids.org

Apply now  
for license plate-  
funded grants.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.ctsafekids.org

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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Connecticut Children's Medical Center



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