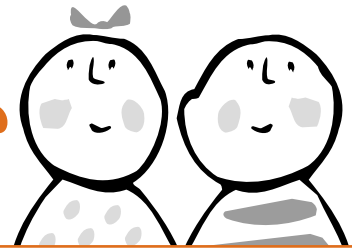




# CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

FALL 2004

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Connecticut Children's  
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Senator Christopher J. Dodd



## Staying safe at any speed



Kids are always looking for a means of going faster. One of the more popular means is All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). ATVs are three- or four-wheeled motorized machines that are specifically designed for off-road travel. As bigger and faster ATVs have been introduced over the past decade, ATV-related deaths and injuries have increased substantially, with nearly 30,300 children under age 15 treated in hospital emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries in 2002. Compared with bicycle-related injuries, ATV-related injuries are six times more likely to result in hospitalization and 12 times more likely to result in death.

The cost of deaths and injuries associated with ATVs is about \$3,500 per ATV sold. The manufacture of three-wheeled ATVs was banned by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1988. Since 1998, ATV manufacturers have been responsible for self-regulation.

In Connecticut, the State of Connecticut requires that all ATVs be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. It is against the law to drive an ATV on any public roadway or property. ATVs may be driven on private property.

*(continued on page 2)*

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Autumn!  
Summer has been very busy with car seat clinics, classes and conference planning.



For the fall, we are working with the Connecticut Poison Control Center and Litchfield County Fire Marshals on a pilot program, "Be in the Know About CO!" Litchfield County has the highest rate of CO poisoning emergency departments visits for children under age 15 of any Connecticut county. This program is designed to survey parental attitudes about CO poisoning while also providing CO detectors to children/families in need in Litchfield County.

Additional projects for the fall include the Connecticut SAFE KIDS Conference, working on new educational materials, and of course, working on a booster seat bill. We encourage all CT SAFE KIDS members to vote in the November election and contact their legislators shortly afterwards to speak to them about the booster seats.

Finally, Columbus Boulevard, the major road to get to CT SAFE KIDS and CCMC, is closed for about the next year. There are detours, but they can be tough to follow. To save frustration, we will have our quarterly coalition meetings off-site. The November meeting will be at the South Windsor Fire Headquarters (see page 3) and I will keep you posted on the others!

*Karen*  
Karen Brock

## Staying safe at any speed (continued from page 1)

Below are some tips on how to prevent ATV death and injury:

- Children under 6 should never ride ATVs.
- No child under 16 should operate an adult-sized all-terrain vehicle under any circumstances.
- Nighttime riding should never be allowed.
- If a child operates a youth-sized ATV, it should be only according to the manufacturer's instructions on a machine that is an appropriate size for the child.
- Children should never operate ATVs on public roads or paved surfaces. ATVs should be operated only on designated trails.
- To ensure safe operation, adults should always supervise all children operating ATVs.
- Parents should consider a child's physical, mental and emotional maturity when deciding if the child is ready to operate a youth-sized ATV.
- All youth-sized ATVs should employ throttle limiters and be equipped with ID flags.
- Personal protective equipment for ATV operators should include U.S. Department of Transportation-approved helmet with face protection, goggles (if the helmet does not have face protection), a long-sleeved shirt or long pants, non-skid boots and gloves.
- Never carry passengers on ATVs.
- Children and their parent or guardian should enroll in and successfully complete an approved ATV safety course.

Information courtesy of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign



## PFDs on Parade

Windham County SAFE KIDS member, Annette Scott and her eager co-pilot wear their PFDs to highlight water safety at the 2004 Boombox Parade in Willimantic.

## Slow Down for Safety

Children who live on streets where speed bumps are installed are up to 60 percent less likely to be injured by an automobile than those who live in areas without them, according to a study in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

## Funding Available!

Keep Kids Safe License Plate

Grants are available again! Please visit [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) to download an application. Applications are to be postmarked by October 18th, 2004.



## Thank You!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS would like to thank the Connecticut Elks for their continued support! To work with a Connecticut Elks lodge in your area, please visit [www.ctelks.org](http://www.ctelks.org) for a list of lodge locations.



## Multilingual Fire Safety

The U.S. Fire Administration has launched a multicultural fire safety campaign for babies and toddlers. A new Spanish-language website, [www.usfa.fema.gov/padres](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/padres), debuted June 30th. Additionally, at [www.usfaparents.gov](http://www.usfaparents.gov), fact sheets are available in Chinese, French, Korean, Russian and Japanese.

## Change the time, change your batteries!

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors on October 31. Don't forget! Detectors should NEVER be installed in a corner.



## CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

### Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

WCSK had a busy summer with its new and ongoing programs. WCSK is continuing its Windham Hospital Bike Helmet Distribution program: children under 14 who come to Windham Hospital with a head injury as a result of a bicycle accident receive bike helmet safety information and a new helmet. They are also continuing with their Windham Hospital smoke detector postcards: mothers on the OB floor are given postcards in their birth certification informational packet stating that they can call the Willimantic Fire Department for a new smoke detector. WCSK once again walked in the 4th of July Boom Box Parade in Willimantic. Approximately 5,000 adults and 3,000 children were in attendance. The WCSK theme for this year was water safety and they promoted water safety, swim with a buddy announcements, and always using life jackets and sun block. For CPS, they hosted car seat clinics and participated in the Chevy Miles Show (Auto Show) at Rentschler Field where technicians ensured children were properly restrained on test drives. For more information contact Marisol Feliciano, Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (860) 423-4534.

### Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

Greater Waterbury Chapter has had a quiet summer, however the fall is starting to shape up into a busy one. GWSK will be coordinating the Walk This Way Campaign and working with Fed Ex for International Walk to School Day on October 6th. They will also be partnering with the Waterbury

Toys R Us for a child safety day on October 2nd, addressing child passenger safety, general injury prevention, and using Safety Street. They are also planning a car seat clinic with Watertown PD in October. For more information contact Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 709-3655.

### Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSC)

Please contact Kathy Shea, Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, at 203-562-3320 or kshea@sponsorhospital.org for more information.

### Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

FCSK is gearing up for a very busy fall; they have numerous bicycle safety related events scheduled in September, please check their web site, [www.fcsafekids.org](http://www.fcsafekids.org) for further details. FCSK has car seat clinics scheduled for September 11, 18, and October 9; please contact Bob Cordes at 203-853-7115 for locations and times. FCSK will be hosting a 32-hour CPS Training at the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department in Brookfield, September 21-24, and there are still a few seats available. Their next Coalition meeting will be on September 30, 2004 at the offices of SAFE KIDS Fairfield County from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Please RSVP for the meeting by September 16, 2004 and lunch will be served. For more information, contact Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway, FCSK, at (203) 853-7115.

### New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

During this summer, NLCSK heated up by hosting 2 bike rodeos, presenting

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information  
[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)

### October 2004

Children's Health Month

### October 3 - 9, 2004

National Fire Prevention Week

### October 17 - 23, 2004

National School Bus Safety Week

### October 31, 2004

Happy Halloween!

Daylight Saving Time ends,

Check your batteries

### November 4, 2004

Coalition Meeting\*

Noon - 2pm

South Windsor Fire Headquarters

1175 Ellington Road (Rt. 30)

South Windsor, CT

\* To RSVP for this meeting, please call 860-545-9988.



dozens of presentations to caregivers on the importance of protecting their children from injuries, and participating in many community health and safety events. Members also helped raise money for NLCSK by organizing a very successful fundraiser through the Norwich Navigators baseball team. During this event NLCSK provided educational information on the importance of using booster seats, Connor Murphy (son of NLCSK member Kelly Murphy) threw out the first pitch, and the coalition received half of the ticket price for those tickets sold by NLCSK members. For more information contact Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

### Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS (VASK)

For more information, call Frank or June Marcucio, VASK, at (203) 888-8843.



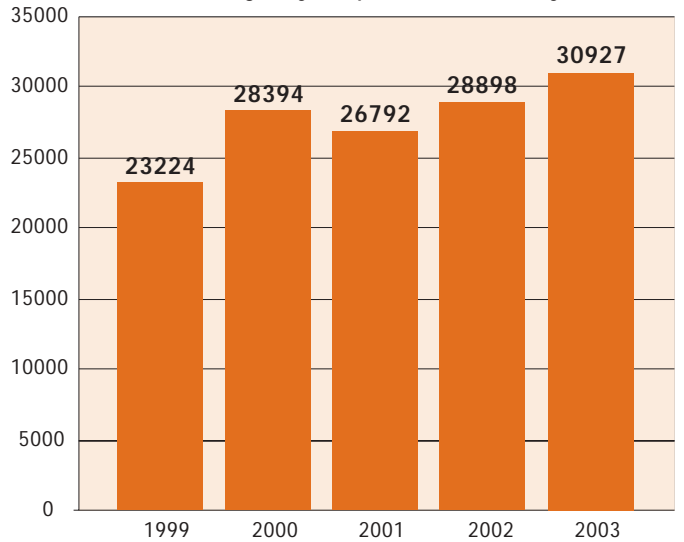
# ATV injuries continue to climb

*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*

From 1999 to 2003, ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) injuries increased by 33%. In 2003, there were 30,927 children under 15 years of age treated in U.S. emergency departments for ATV-related injuries. Of these, 7,867 children received injuries severe enough to warrant hospital admission. Injury rates are high for ATVs because they are heavy, lack protection for riders, and overturn easily on rough terrain. Even without turning over, ATVs can cause severe injury; for example, a

child may stop with an outstretched foot, allowing the rear wheel to run up the back of the leg and the rider to flip. Riding double is especially hazardous. Helmets offer protection against head injury and should be worn, but cannot prevent spinal cord injury. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that persons under 16 should not ride adult ATVs (with engines larger than 90 cubic centimeters). •

ATV injuries treated in U.S. Emergency Departments, <15 years



Source: U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – NEISS database, 1999-2003

Staying Safe at Any Speed



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