

Safe Kids Connecticut Coalition
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Safe Kids Connecticut
860-545-9988

or your local Safe Kids Chapter
or Coalition

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Be Dog-gone Safe This Spring

Dogs are an important part of many families, happily coexisting with people. However, dog bites can and do happen, about 4.7 million times a year. Children make up 60% of people bitten by dogs, with children ages 5 to 9 years old at the most risk.

Dogs of all shapes and sizes are capable of biting, if provoked. But in many instances, a dog bite is avoidable. It is important to avoid making a dog excited or aggressive. For example, don't run past a dog. Dogs like to chase, and like to catch things. Below are some additional tips to keep you and your family safe.

For adults:

- 🦷 Never leave an infant or small child alone with a dog.
- 🦷 Be aware of potentially dangerous situations (for example, a child who may disturb a dog who is eating).
- 🦷 Teach young children to be cautious around pets.
- 🦷 Teach children to ask the owner's permission before petting the dog.
- 🦷 Teach children not to approach strange dogs.

For kids (and adults):

- 🦷 Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see you and sniff you first.
- 🦷 Tell an adult right away if you see a stray dog or a dog displaying unusual behavior.
- 🦷 Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- 🦷 Do not run away from a dog and scream.
- 🦷 Do not bother a dog who is sleeping or eating or who has puppies.



Happy Easter!

This year, consider giving a child's Easter candy in a bicycle helmet, instead of an Easter basket. Not only will this be a memorable way to give a gift, but it will ensure that the child has a helmet that fits them this upcoming year. •



Nominate a Safe Kids Advocate!

At this year's Annual Safe Kids Connecticut Injury Prevention Conference in September, we will be presenting 3 awards to people who have championed injury prevention ideas or activities in their community. Please nominate a "Safe Kids Advocate" by downloading the form at www.ctsafekids.org and returning it by August 15! •

**Make it a
Safe Kids
Summer**

The theme for this year's Safe Kids Week is Make It a Safe Kids Summer! We encourage everyone to think how to keep kids safe at home, in the car and at play. •

REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

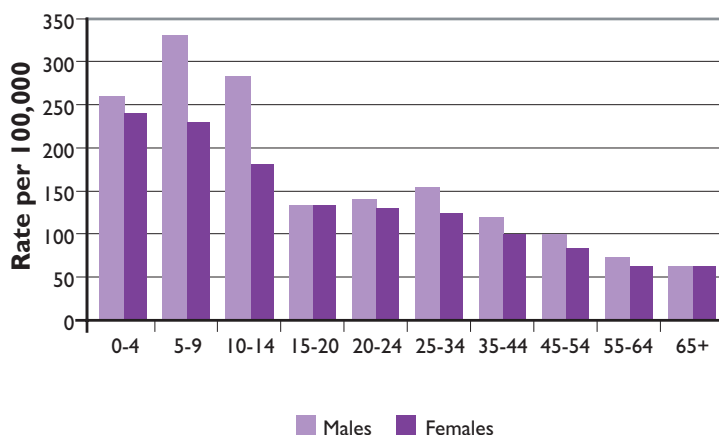
Dog bites

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There are approximately 68 million dogs kept as pets in the United States. About 370,000 people are treated annually for dog bites in Emergency Departments; nearly half of these (42%) are children under the age of 14. The injury rate is highest for boys 5 to 9 years old. The majority (65%) of injuries among children under the age of 5 were to the head and/or neck. •

Rate of nonfatal dog bites treated in U.S. Emergency Departments by sex and age group, 2001



Source: MMWR, 7/4/03, 52(26):605-610.

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