



NO. 14

SPRING 2001

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

#### KEEP KIDS SAFE LICENSE PLATES

# Grants awarded for spring programs

The License Plate Grant Review Committee once again had a difficult time choosing from the many worthy Keep Kids Safe License Plate grant applications.

Were there an unlimited pot of money to access, each program would be funded. However the following programs were chosen based on their innovative and comprehensive approach to injury prevention programs for children:

Continued on page 2



MESSAGE FROM  
THE DIRECTOR

## Let's go for an "A"



Eileen A. Henzy

During Child Passenger Safety Week in February, National SAFE KIDS Campaign released a comprehensive analysis of child occupant protection laws throughout the United States.

A press conference was held on February 8, 2001, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford to release the rating for Connecticut's child passenger safety legislation.

Connecticut received a "C" and tied for the fifth most comprehensive law in the U.S.

National SAFE KIDS applauded the fact that Connecticut requires all children to be restrained in all seating positions, but expressed concern that children are allowed to ride in an inappropriate restraint.

Specifically, Connecticut's current law allows children 4 years old or 40 pounds to ride in an adult seat belt. But children under the age of 8 are better protected when using a booster seat to improve seat belt fit and function.

While our state received a passing grade, we find no comfort in a grade of C when it comes to protecting our children in motor vehicles. This study shows that Connecticut has a long way to go before it can say our children are truly protected when riding in motor vehicles. We must do more because children's lives depend on it.

Currently there are several bills in the legislature that address these issues. We'll keep you posted on the progress and efforts to assure that our children are kept safe during travel. ■

# Connecticut SAFE KIDS Workshop

The second annual Connecticut SAFE KIDS Workshop will be held at the Rocky Hill Marriott on April 5, 2001.

Last year's program was a tremendous success, and this year we have expanded the scope to include nationally recognized child safety experts.

We are thrilled that our keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara Barlow of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids. This program involves a network of children's hospitals whose mission is to address injury in children.

Dr. Barlow, director of pediatric surgical services at Harlem Hospital, developed innovative programs to protect children, including "Kids Don't Fly," a window-falls prevention program. In addition, she has wonderful ideas on motivating communities to become involved in child safety issues.

**Connecticut  
SAFE KIDS  
Workshop**

April 5, 2001  
Times TBA  
Rocky Hill Marriott

*Registration: \$45  
Reservations required:  
www.ctsafekids.org  
or (860) 545-9988*

In addition to Dr. Barlow, the following speakers are scheduled to present:

- Kerry Fernandez, of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, on Booster Seat Programs
- Gerry Dworkin, founder of Livesaving Resources, on Water Safety
- Peg Carson of the National Fire Protection Association, on the Risk Watch Program
- Marion Lavine, Associate Librarian UCHC, regarding using the Web for injury prevention resources and funding opportunities.

In addition, there will be plenty of opportunity for networking as well as exhibits of programs and materials to assist you in your injury prevention programs. ■

## Grants awarded for spring programs continued from page 1

**MIDDLETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
In-School Safety Presentations

**CITY OF HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Smoke and CO Alarms

**MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Hospital Car Seat Training

**CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY OF SOUTHEASTERN CT**  
School Based Bike Safety Program

**GUILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Car Seat Fitting Station Supplies

**WESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Scooter Safety Rodeo

**MERIDEN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Safety Curriculum Development

**FRESH WATER COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Safety Rodeo

**WEST HARTFORD-BLOOMFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Booster Seat Clinic

**NORWICH YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
Home Safety Materials

**NEW LONDON COUNTY SAFE KIDS CHAPTER**  
Coaches Safety Program

**CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE, TROOP K WINDHAM HEIGHTS**  
Car Seat Loaner Program

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# Reporting on childhood injury: Seasonal Trends



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

Connecticut SAFE KIDS has participated in a national study regarding the seasonal trends in injury. In doing so, we reviewed the emergency room visits to Connecticut Children's Medical Center 1997 to 1999.

All injury-related visits were isolated, and the top causes of visits listed. This data will help the Coalition to plan targeted educational opportunities for the future.

In addition, look for information in the early summer months regarding seasonal trends of injury. ■

## Emergency Room Visits 1997-99 Connecticut Children's Medical Center

	0-4 Years	4-9 Years	10-14 Years	Total
<b>VISITS FOR ALL INJURIES</b>	<b>7031</b>	<b>5147</b>	<b>4397</b>	<b>16575</b>
Falls	4135	2684	2138	8957
Motor Vehicle Occupant	98	122	121	341
Bike	31	144	142	323
Pedestrian	29	82	84	195
Drowning	5	3	2	10

SOURCE: CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER E-CODE DATA

*Falls accounted for nearly half of all injuries treated at the emergency room of Connecticut Children's Medical Center 1979 to 1999.*

## New products and prices for spring safety programs

Members of Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition may purchase the following products to use for educational programs:

### Child Safety Seats from Evenflo:

- Infant Seats.....\$24-45
  - Convertible Seats.....\$37
  - Forward Facing Only Harness/Booster.....\$33
  - Right Fit Booster.....\$17
- Prices do not include shipping. Minimum order \$500*

### First Alert Products:

- Smoke Alarm (ionization).....\$5
  - Smoke Alarm (10-year).....\$15
  - CO Detector (plug-in).....\$19
  - CO Detector (battery).....\$19
- Includes shipping. No minimum order.*

### Bell Helmets:

- Bike Helmets: Toddler-Adult.....\$6.99
  - Multisport Helmets: Youth/Adult.....\$10-19
  - Ski Helmets: Small Child/Youth/Adult.....\$30-40
- Includes shipping. Minimum order 12 helmets*

**(860) 545-9988**

## Scooter injuries continue to soar

From January 2000 through December 2000, there have been about 40,500 emergency room treated injuries associated with scooters, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

This September, for the first time, scooter injuries surpassed in-line skating injuries. Nearly all of the injuries were to children less than 15 years old.

All children riding scooters should wear a helmet, knee and elbow pads. Wrist guards are NOT recommended as they decrease ability to control the scooter. Children under age 8 should not use scooters without close adult supervision. ■



**JUST LIKE THIS** – Brothers Ryan (left) and Gregory Kristopik learn about safe scooting from Eileen Henzy, director of Connecticut SAFE KIDS.

## 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!

April 2001	Playground Safety Month
April 2-8, 2001	National Public Health Week
April 5, 2001	Connecticut SAFE KIDS Workshop Registration required. Call (860) 545-9988 for information
May 2001	National Bike Safety Month
May 5-12, 2001	National SAFE KIDS Week

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)

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