



NO. 18

SPRING 2002

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.



Connecticut SAFE KIDS recently co-sponsored a press conference in Hartford with the Connecticut State Police. The two organizations are working together to raise awareness of the dangers to children who travel unrestrained on Connecticut roads. Release of a National SAFE KIDS study found that too many children in America ride unrestrained, or in the wrong restraint, or in the wrong size restraint. See story on page 2.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Let's get helmets on kids!



Eileen A. Henzy

It's that time of year again:

frantic planning to get our safety messages out through presentations, fairs and clinics. National SAFE KIDS Week is May 4 -11, 2002, and this year's theme is "Use Your Head, Wear a Helmet."

Many bike crashes and other wheel-related incidents (from scooters, skateboards and inline skates) result in broken bones, scrapes and bruises.

But thousands of kids are seriously injured or die as a result of preventable traumatic brain injury (TBI). More than 75% of these deaths and injuries can be prevented with the proper use of a helmet.

During SAFE KIDS week, national sponsors Bell Helmet and Johnson & Johnson will be raising money to donate \$1 million worth of free helmets to Coalitions in the coming year. We expect that some of these helmets will be available for Connecticut Coalition member activities. More details will follow this summer.

To help kids stay safe during wheel-related activities, Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition members are encouraged to host interactive educational programs focusing on the need for helmets to prevent traumatic brain injuries

Best of luck with all of your efforts to keep kids safe. Do not hesitate to contact Connecticut SAFE KIDS if we can be of any assistance in planning your programs.

Focus on failure to restrain children

During Child Passenger Safety Week this February, Connecticut SAFE KIDS and the Connecticut State Police sponsored a joint press conference to raise awareness regarding unrestrained children traveling on Connecticut roads. The press conference included the release of a National SAFE KIDS study, "Child Passengers at Risk: A National Study of Restraint Use," which found that more than 14% of children in America ride unrestrained. The study included observations from here in Connecticut done by the Valley Amity SAFE KIDS Coalition, and by 47 other state and local SAFE KIDS Coalitions.

Major findings of the study include:

- 33% of children were in the wrong restraint for their size and age,
- 63% of these inappropriately restrained children were children who should have been in boosters seats, but instead were restrained by ill fitting seatbelts,
- 40% of children riding with unbelted drivers were completely unrestrained compared to only 5% of unrestrained children who were driven by belted drivers.

National SAFE KIDS recommends that states enact stronger child occupant protection laws, enforce those laws with stiff penalties for offenders, and educate adults about the dangers of not properly restraining children.

The Connecticut State Police and many local police departments participate in enforcement waves in Connecticut. In addition, pending legislation would increase the required age for child restraint use to children under 6 years old.

Connecticut Coalition members are encouraged to continue their daily efforts to educate the public on proper restraint use through educational seminars, safety fairs and child safety seat checks. ■

SAFE KIDS

Kudos!

Congratulations to Valley Amity SAFE KIDS Coordinator **Frank Marcucio**, who has been named the 2001 EMS Responder of the Year by the Fire and Emergency Television Network. This award recognizes his leadership as Chief of Seymour Ambulance and his efforts to keep kids in the Valley safe through both the SAFE KIDS Coalition and the Safe Communities program.

In 2001, the **West Hartford Police Department** inspected over 500 car seats at its fitting station, which is recognized by the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety. Officer **David Cavedon** of the Community Relations Division oversees this program and often provides assistance to other departments. We salute Officer Cavedon and the West Hartford Police Department for a successful fitting station and for their efforts to keep families safe on the road.

Welcome to **Catherine Rogers**, the new program assistant for Connecticut SAFE KIDS. Catherine will work part time for SAFE KIDS and part time for the Violence Prevention Program. With her experience in working with at-risk children and their families, she will focus on two main program areas: window falls prevention in Hartford and Pedestrian Safety in New Britain. We are thrilled to have Catherine join the SAFE KIDS team! ■

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Reporting on childhood injury:

Bicycle injury among Connecticut children



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

Each year, numerous Connecticut children are injured and killed on bicycles. Many of these injuries can be prevented through the use of a properly fitted bicycle helmet and by following the rules of the road. In Connecticut, children ages 10-14 are at greatest risk of death and injury in a bicycle crash. Encourage all children and adults to wear a helmet every time they ride and to always obey the rules of the road. ■

■ Deaths 1988-1998

26 DEATHS

5 occurred among 5-10 year olds
15 occurred among 10-14 year olds
6 occurred among 15-19 year olds

■ Hospital Admissions 1994 -1999

905 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

35 occurred among 1-4 year olds
256 occurred among 5-9 year olds
450 occurred among 10-14 year olds
164 occurred among 15-19 year olds

■ Emergency Department Visits 1995-1999

18,222 EMERGENCY VISITS

1,226 occurred among 1-4 year olds
6,203 occurred among 5-9 year olds
7,747 occurred among 10-14 year olds
3,046 occurred among 15-19 year olds

SOURCE: CONNECTICUT CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION CENTER

Low-cost safety products for spring programs

Members of Connecticut SAFE KIDS have access to the following low-cost safety devices for educational programs:

Bell Bicycle Helmets*

Toddler through adult sizes
\$6.99 each (minimum 12 helmets)

Evenflo Car Seats

Infant, convertible and booster seats
(minimum \$750 order)

Smoke Alarms

Ionization Smoke Alarm \$5.00
10-Year Alarm \$15.00

CO Detector

AC powered
\$19.00 each

* Multisport, ski and equestrian helmets also available:
prices available upon request. ■

Wheel-Safety Links on the Web

ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
www.apbp.org

BICYCLE HELMET SAFETY INSTITUTE
www.helmets.org

INTERNATIONAL BICYCLE FUND
www.ibike.org

INTERNATIONAL INLINE SKATING ASSOCIATION
www.iisa.org

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS
<http://bikeleague.org>

NATIONAL BICYCLE SAFETY NETWORK
www.cdc.gov/ncipc/bike

NATIONAL CENTER FOR BICYCLING AND WALKING
www.bikefed.org

NHTSA BICYCLE SAFETY
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFORMATION CENTER
www.bicyclinginfo.org

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	National Youth Sports Safety Month www.nyssf.org
April 1-7, 2002	National Public Health Week www.apha.org
April 22-26, 2002	National Playground Safety Week www.uni.edu/playground
May	National Bike Safety Month
May 4-11, 2002	National SAFE KIDS Week www.safekids.org
June 23-25, 2002	Tristate Child Passenger Safety Conference Omni Hotel, New Haven To register, call (203) 888-8843

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

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www.ctsafekids.org

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