



NO. 11

SUMMER 2000

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

SAFE KIDS WEEK 2000

Get into the game



Jennifer Sargent, a certified athletic trainer, discusses sports safety with students from Martin Luther King School students in Hartford.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS and the Waterbury Chapter of Connecticut SAFE KIDS had a very successful SAFE KIDS week in May, with activities focusing on sports safety and other injury prevention areas.

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MESSAGE FROM
THE COORDINATOR

A workshop that works



Eileen A. Henzy

It has been a very busy spring, with many safety programs implemented throughout the state.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS kicked off the season with a SAFE KIDS Injury Prevention Workshop held in Cromwell on March 9. More than 75 SAFE KIDS Coalition members attended to learn more about unique safety programs they can implement in their communities.

Highlights of the workshop included:

- An opening session by Carolyn Pennington and Grant Stinchfield of NBC 30 on how to get your message out through the media.
- A first peek at the new Connecticut SAFE KIDS Mobile Car Seat Check-Up Event Van.
- Displays by Operation Lifesaver, Connecticut Poison Control Center, EMS-C, Connecticut State Police Rollover Simulator, and Gametime Playground Safety Materials.
- Interactive sessions on organizing and implementing bike, fire, pedestrian, home, gun, playground, and child passenger safety programs.

Due to the overwhelming response to this program and the enthusiasm of the participants, plans are underway for another workshop next spring. Stay tuned for details. ■

Get into the game

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Thanks to the following participants who helped to make SAFE KIDS day at Connecticut Children's Medical Center such a success: Connecticut ELKS; Connecticut Children's Medical Center and its Auxillary; Eastern Rehabilitation Network; Connecticut State Police; LIFE STAR; Connecticut Poison Control Center; Wolfpack Hockey Team; Hartford Police Department; and the Hartford Fire Department. ■

Doing it right



Officer Darrell Dublin, of the Waterbury Police Department, educates a father on the proper use of his daughter's booster seat at a recent Waterbury Chapter event.

SAFE KIDS WEEK 2000

Survey of sports injury in America

One of every three children who has participated in organized sports has been injured, according to a nationwide survey released by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

And while an estimated half of all sports-related injuries are preventable, most parents believe there is nothing they could have done to prevent their children's injuries.

Results of a SAFE KIDS survey, "Get Into the Game: A National Survey of Parents' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Self-Reported Behaviors Concerning Sports Safety," were released during National SAFE KIDS Week, May 7-13, 2000.

According to key findings reported from the survey sponsored by SAFE KIDS and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Research & Education Foundation, many parents don't view sports safety as a top priority.

- More than half of parents (53%) express little concern about the possibility of their child's getting hurt, despite the fact that nearly one of every three children (30%) is injured playing team sports.
- Four of 5 parents whose child suffered a sports injury believe "it was part of the game and probably would have happened anyway."
- One-third of parents (34%) say they do not often take the same safety precautions during their child's practice as in a game, although most sports injuries occur during practice.

- Only one in four organized sports activities always has a certified athletic trainer on site, despite recommendations to have one present during all sporting activities.
- More than a third (41%) of parents report that their children's coaches are not certified in CPR and do not keep a first-aid kit on hand during play.

The popularity of organized sports activities has skyrocketed. As a result, kids are treated each year in emergency rooms for sports injuries as serious as concussions, broken bones, dislocated joints, torn ligaments and lacerations.

Parents need to know that more than half of these injuries could have been prevented through proper conditioning, protective equipment, adequate hydration and close supervision. ■

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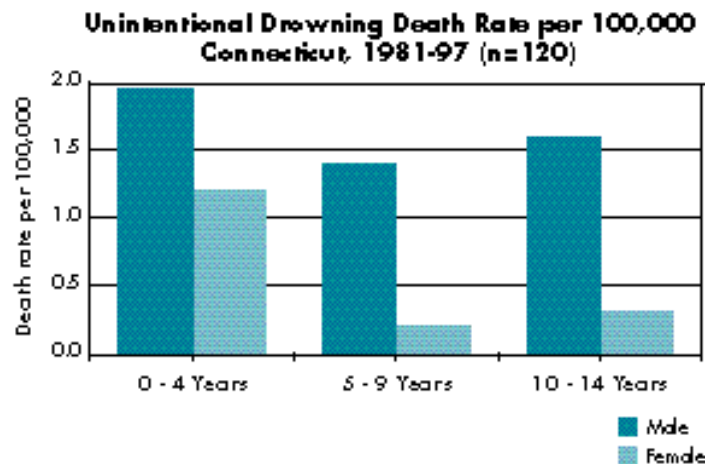


Reporting on childhood injury: Incidence of drowning



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

Drowning death rates are significantly higher for males than for females in every age group up to 14 years old.



SAFE KIDS

Kudos!

Accomplishments and programs of Coalition members.

We are grateful to the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association for its commitment to bicycle safety in Connecticut. Also many thanks to SAFE KIDS Coalition member Christine Burbank for her dedication to this program.

Again this year, Christine organized the ordering and distribution of thousands of bike helmets to school-children throughout Connecticut. She also coordinated the educational programs in the schools that makes this program so unique and effective.

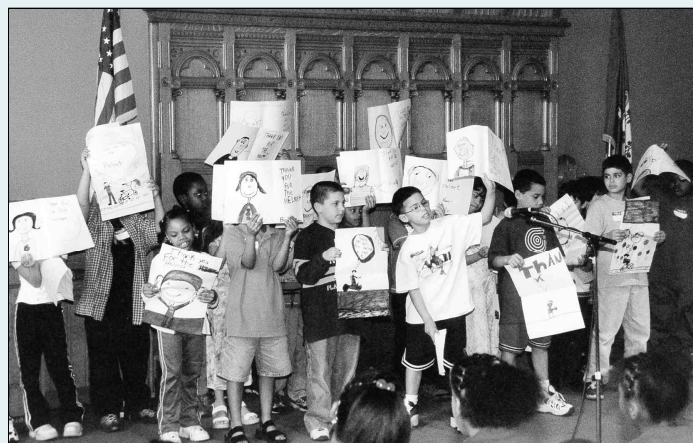
We also send special thanks to Coalition members who assisted with presentations at schools throughout the state, including Beacon Falls, Bridgeport, Danbury, Groton, Hartford, Middletown, New Britain, New London, Norwich, Torrington, Waterbury and Windham.

The program concluded with a special ceremony at the State Capital to kick off SAFE KIDS Week in May. Many of the children who received helmets attended

and performed safety songs, poems and skits to demonstrate what they had learned.

Because of Christine's dedication to this program, and the support of the Connecticut Trial Lawyer's Association, many more children will be safer on their bikes this summer. ■

Connecticut SAFE KIDS is pleased to recognize individuals and groups for their ongoing commitment to child safety. Please send us copies of your clippings and award letters, to be included in this column.



Youngsters from the Madison school in Bridgeport show what they learned about bike helmets during a "Safety Celebration" at the state Capitol in Hartford this May.

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!

September 7, 2000 **Coalition Meeting**
Noon – 2:00 CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

November 2, 2000 **Coalition Meeting**
Noon – 2:00 CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

February 1, 2001 **Coalition Meeting**
Noon – 2:00 CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

April 5, 2001 **Coalition Meeting**
Noon – 2:00 CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

Lunch is served, and parking is validated.
Please RSVP to (860) 545-9988

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www.ctsafekids.org

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