



NO. 15

SUMMER 2001

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

# Healthy and safe homes



Connecticut SAFE KIDS has partnered with the Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center and Liberty Mutual to create homes safe from lead, asthma and injury throughout Hartford.

The Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center received initial funding for this project through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Connecticut SAFE KIDS was able to supplement this program through a donation from Liberty Mutual, a company committed to preventing injuries and death by removing its causes from home, highway and work environments.

Young children are at particular risk of injury

Continued on page 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Make it a **SAFE KIDS** Summer!  
Don't take a vacation from safety.



Eileen A. Henzy

This summer, thousands of Connecticut children will visit emergency departments for preventable injuries. As a result, the theme of this year's SAFE KIDS week held in May was "Make it a SAFE KIDS Summer, Don't Take a Vacation from Safety."

For the fourth year in a row, children from Hartford schools were bused to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center to participate in an interactive safety fair during SAFE KIDS week.



At the SAFE KIDS interactive fair at Connecticut Children's Medical Center this May, Hartford youngsters learned how to ride, swim, play, walk and wheel safely this summer.

We are grateful to the Elks of Connecticut for sponsoring the Connecticut SAFE KIDS program, as well as Connecticut SAFE KIDS day.

This program wouldn't be possible without other partners, who helped to make the day such a success: Hartford Police Department; Hartford Fire Department; Lifestar; Connecticut State Police; American Medical Response; American Red Cross; Connecticut Steering Committee members Pat Zainc, Robert Cordes and Marion Storch; Employees of Connecticut Children's Medical Center Primary Care Center, Emergency Department, Injury Prevention Center, Foundation and Public Relations.

I hope that each of you have a safe and happy summer season and look forward to seeing you all at the September coalition meeting. ■

Newington resident Christine Roberge and her 10-month-old daughter were on their way to church when the unthinkable happened: In the blink of an eye, a car crashed into their vehicle at approximately 45 mph. The air bag exploded, and Christine blacked out. When she regained consciousness, she saw that while her car was totaled, her baby girl, Julianne, had survived the crash without a scratch or bruise.

Christine contributes this to her properly installed child safety seat. And she has Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition member **Officer Tom Gallo, Southington Police Department**, a certified child passenger safety technician, to thank. Officer Gallo educated Christine on the proper use of her child safety seat at a fall Connecticut SAFE KIDS Car Seat Clinic held at Babies 'R Us.

Christine says: "It was a hot day. There was a long line of people waiting to get their seat checked. I waited about 45 minutes, but it was the best 45 minutes I ever spent." The harnesses on the child restraint were much too loose and the seat was not tightly installed in the vehicle. Any of these factors could have caused injury to Julianne in the crash.

Kudos to Officer Gallo for the commitment he has made to keeping families like the Roberges safe. ■

## Healthy and safe homes

continued from page 1

in the home from falls, poisonings and burns.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS has provided training to the Center's case workers, which enables them to work with families on home-safety assessments.

In addition, safety materials such as smoke alarms, window guards, cabinet latches and outlet covers are provided and installed to keep kids safe from injury.

We salute the Liberty Mutual for its commitment to children and families, and we welcome them to the SAFE KIDS family. ■

## Trial Lawyers help kids use their heads!

For the sixth consecutive year, the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association has completed a spring program that purchases and distributes helmets to thousands of children throughout Connecticut.

Most importantly this program, led by Communications Director Christine Burbank in collaboration with Connecticut SAFE KIDS, provides education to children on why they need to wear a helmet.

Over the years more than 15,000 children have received helmets thanks to this program, and three times that many children have participated in the school safety presentations.

This year, the program wrapped up with a Bike Safety Celebration at the Capital on May 4. Participating schools performed songs and skits to showcase what they learned about bicycle safety.

Heartfelt thanks to the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association for its ongoing support of this wonderful program. ■



Children from Laurel Ledge School in Beacon Falls, Conn., learned the importance of bike helmets, thanks to a program sponsored by the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
282 Washington Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 545-9988 TEL  
(860) 545-9975 FAX  
[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)

Editor

**Eileen Henzy, MPH**  
Connecticut SAFE KIDS Director

Contributor

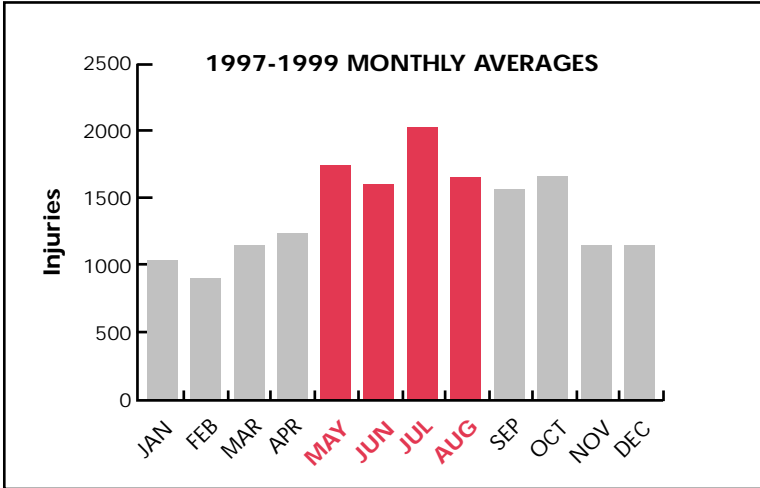
**Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH**  
Director, CT Childhood Injury  
Prevention Center

Honorary Chairman

**Senator Christopher J. Dodd**



# Reporting on childhood injury: Injury rates soar in summer



SOURCE: CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

National SAFE KIDS Campaign recently released a report entitled: Trauma Season, A National Study of the Seasonality of Unintentional Childhood Injury. Connecticut SAFE KIDS contributed to this report by providing Emergency Department data from 1997 to 1999 that reflected injury-related visits to Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

From 1997 to 1999, 16,868 children ages 14 and under visited the Emergency Department at Connecticut Children's for unintentional injury. Nearly 42% of these visits occurred between May and August. This is a 24% increase above average, compared to the rest of the year. Children ages 5 to 9 were found to be at highest risk. ■



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

## Log on for safety's sake

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS web page at [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) features resources and referrals to assist with injury prevention programs in your community.

Highlights include:

- A locator for certified child passenger safety technicians in Connecticut.
- Fact sheets on a variety of unintentional childhood injuries with local data.
- Information on Connecticut SAFE KIDS programs and events.

In August, you will also find the latest application for the Keep Kids Safe license plate minigrant. The application can be downloaded and mailed or e-mailed directly, making it easy and convenient to apply for funding to support injury prevention activities in your area. ■

## 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!

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition will take a summer break and resume meetings in September.

### September 6, 2001

Noon – 2 PM

### Coalition Meeting

CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D

### November 1, 2001

Noon to 2 PM

### Coalition Meeting

CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D

### February 7, 2002

Noon to 2 PM

### Coalition Meeting

CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D

### April 4, 2002

Time TBD

### Connecticut SAFE KIDS

### Annual Workshop

Location TBD

Coalition meetings are held at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. Lunch is served, and parking is validated. Members are encouraged to come share their program ideas and learn from others. Please RSVP at least two weeks prior to the meeting by calling (860) 545-9988 or e-mail [ehenzy@ccmckids.org](mailto:ehenzy@ccmckids.org)



Healthy and  
safe homes

NO. 15  
SUMMER 2001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
282 Washington Street



Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Hartford, CT  
Permit No. 3745