



NO. 13

WINTER 2001

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.



Connecticut
Elks
Association

Our loyal partners, the Elks

Manchester police officers and Elks Lodge members teamed up for a successful bicycle safety rodeo this fall.



Since May 1999, the Elks of Connecticut has partnered with Connecticut SAFE KIDS to provide child safety devices and educational programs to communities throughout the state.

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MESSAGE FROM
THE COORDINATOR

Save the date!

Plans are underway for the second annual Connecticut SAFE KIDS Injury Prevention Workshop.

This interactive day of programming ideas and resources will be held on April 5, 2001. The location, details and time are still being worked out.

Last year the focus was on statewide programs and resources. This will continue to be a part of the workshop. But it is also possible that we could attract some regional or even national experts in the field who could share innovative ideas with us on addressing childhood injury prevention.

The Director of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, Dr. Barbara Barlow, has been requested to participate as our keynote speaker. She coordinates the childhood injury prevention efforts of nearly a dozen children's hospital-based injury prevention programs.

Dr. Barlow is based in Harlem, NY, and is known for the fall prevention program, "Kids Can't Fly." This program has successfully addressed window fall injuries to children through education and legislation.

The planning committee for the Injury Prevention Workshop consists of members of the Connecticut SAFE KIDS Steering Committee. If you have ideas or suggestions on potential topics or speakers, please contact me at (860) 545-9988 or by e-mail at ehenzy@ccmckids.org.

I look forward to seeing you there and continuing our quest to keep kids safe. n



Eileen A. Henzy

FedEx "WALK THIS WAY" event a success

On October 4, 2000, Connecticut SAFE KIDS, in collaboration with FedEx and the New London County Chapter of Connecticut SAFE KIDS, held a press conference and a Walk This Way: Walk Your Child to School event at the Harbor School in New London.



Students, parents and teachers from Harbor School in New London join FedEx workers in walking safely to school during a recent "Walk This Way" event sponsored by Connecticut SAFE KIDS and FedEx.



At the press conference, results were released from a local survey that was part of a National SAFE KIDS study of speeding in school zones. The results were based on an analysis of vehicles traveling in two school zones in New London.

A total of 264 vehicles were observed. Unfortunately, it was found that 100 percent of drivers were speeding in the school zones, with 55 percent going 10 MPH or more above the posted speed limit.

The results of this survey are a red flag to families, safety leaders and concerned citizens. If cars speed in the areas most sacred for children – school zones – we know that child pedestrians are at risk on our own community streets.

As a result of these findings, Officer Ed Hedge of the New London Police Department will spearhead a Traffic Safety Committee in New London to identify other pedestrian safety issues in the area. In addition, speed limits in school zones will continue to be enforced.

We look forward to making a change in these startling statistics and to expanding the Walk Your Child To School Day event to other areas of the state. ▢

Our loyal partners, the Elks

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Elks funding has purchased child safety seats, bike helmets, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. These have been distributed at educational programs such as bike safety presentations and rodeos, fire safety events and activities, as well as car seat clinics, fitting stations and loaner programs.

Also, thanks to a generous donation from the Elks to our program sponsor, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Connecticut SAFE KIDS is able to fund safety publications. Car seat safety information sheets for physician offices, safety check coloring pages for schoolchildren, and this newsletter for coalition members are all made possible because of the Elks' support. In addition, the Elks have also sponsored the Connecticut SAFE KIDS week activities and events.

We are thrilled to continue this partnership for 2000-2001. Please join me in thanking your local Elks organization for their loyal commitment to keeping kids safe in Connecticut. ▢

To request Elks materials for your community safety program, contact Eileen Henzy, Director of Connecticut SAFE KIDS, by mail at 282 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106. Or e-mail ehenzy@ccmckids.org.

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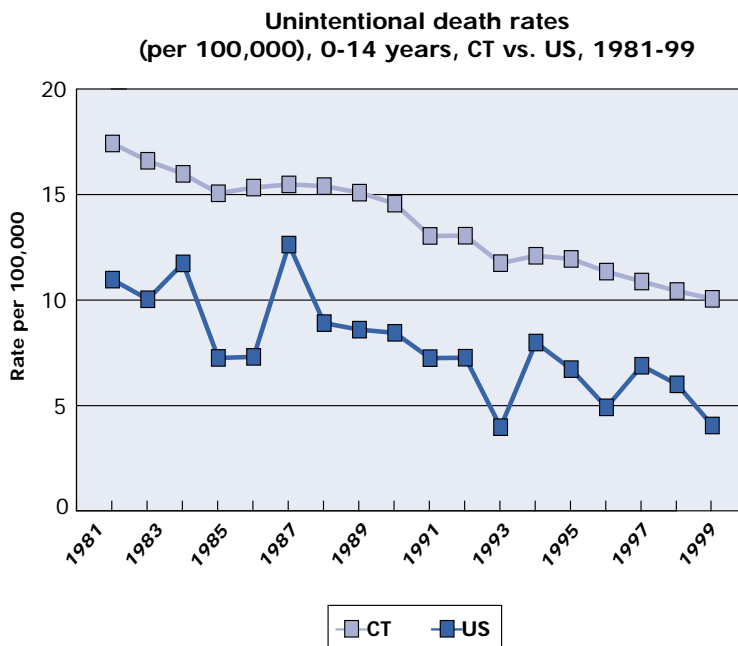
Reporting on childhood injury: Trends in unintentional injury



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

The rate of unintentional injury among children ages 0-14 years is lower among Connecticut children compared to the US. From 1981 to 1998, unintentional injury death rates have decreased significantly for both groups; for Connecticut the rate decreased 63% (from 10.9 to 4.0), and for the US the rate decreased 44% (from 17.4 to 10.0).

These impressive reductions in unintentional injury death rates are related to comprehensive injury prevention programs, like Connecticut SAFE KIDS, that utilize community based education, modifications in environments and products to enhance safety, and enactment/enforcement of safety laws.



SOURCE: U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



Safe Skating

In 1998, more than 15,500 children ages 5 to 14 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to ice skating.

But with extra care, even children as young as age 4 – as long as they are steady walkers – can enjoy the sport.

Keep the following in mind to assure the safest of winter wonderlands:

- Check for signs posted by local police or recreation departments that say ice is safe for skating.
- Educate children to:
 - Never go out on ice that an adult has not approved.
 - Throw away chewing gum or candy before skating.
 - Skate in the same direction as the crowd.
 - Avoid darting across the ice.
 - Never skate alone.
- If a child falls through the ice, he should stretch his arms over the ice and kick as if swimming, in an attempt to crawl back onto solid ice. ⁿ

Why become a SAFE KIDS member?

- n You will receive the latest research and program information.
 - n You will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost safety supplies and materials for your program.
 - n 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!

February 1, 2001

Noon – 2:00

Coalition Meeting

CCTC, Level G, Rooms C & D

February 11-17, 2001 Child Passenger Safety Week

March 13-17, 2001

Tri-State Child Passenger Safety Conference

Fishkill, NY

April 5, 2001

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Annual Workshop

Details TBA

**For more information
www.ctsafekids.org**

Our Loyal Partners



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www.ctsafekids.org

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Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition



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