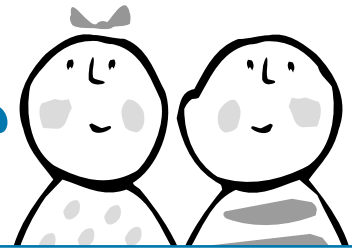




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

*Dedicated to
reducing
preventable
injuries and
deaths in
Connecticut
children*

SUMMER
2003

Connecticut
SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



LEARNING FROM THE PROS – Fourth graders from Burns Elementary School learn about safety at SAFE KIDS DAY

Beat the heat this summer

Playing sports in the warm weather is one of the joys of summer. Yet children who play sports or are physically active in hot weather can be at risk for heat illnesses. Children sweat less than adults, which makes it harder for them to cool off. Parents and coaches need to monitor the child athletes for dehydration and other heat illnesses. Fortunately, heat illnesses can be prevented and successfully treated.

Here are some tips for parents:

- Have your child get a physical before playing sports, which includes questions about any history of heat illness
- Tell your child's coach about any history of heat illness
- Make sure your child is properly hydrated before they go to practice (including giving the child their own water bottle)
- Make sure the coach has your emergency contact numbers
- Check if your child's league/team has an emergency action plan.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Summer!
Connecticut SAFE
KIDS has had a
busy spring. Our
legislative effort,
SB 704, the booster



seat bill, made it all the way to the House before time ran out and our bill wasn't called. Still, the combined efforts of the SAFE KIDS coalition members, plus the lobbyists and legislators, increased awareness of the issue and created a solid foundation for next year! Besides the all-consuming legislative effort, we also sponsored and participated in car seat clinics around the state, hosted a well-received conference on the basics of injury prevention, and had a successful SAFE KIDS day on the front lawn of the hospital with the Burns Elementary School of Hartford.

We'd also like to give a huge "THANK YOU" to our loyal supporters, the Connecticut Elks. The Elks, who have been supporting the children's hospital for 50 years, have gone above and beyond this year to increase their generous contribution to Connecticut SAFE KIDS. We thank them for their time, support, and dedication to keeping kids safe!

I hope everyone has a busy and safe summer!

Karen
Karen Brock

And away we go!

Congratulations to the Windham County chapter on its Bike Rodeo during SAFE KIDS Week. Below is a picture of a happy recipient of both a bike helmet and a new bike! •



Keep Kids Safe License Plate Update

The Keep Kids Safe License



Plate grant applications will be available in August. Due to decreased funding, there will only be one round of applications, which will be due in October. The grant structure will be the same as last time, with larger and smaller grants available for application. •

Keep informed of Connecticut SAFE KIDS happenings! Sign up for our listserve at groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsafekids.

Kids Are Great Award presented

Congratulations to Officer Eddie Hedge of New London Police Department and New London County SAFE KIDS. He was one of three recipients of the Kids Are Great Award, from Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and

Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Eddie received the Health/Medical Award for his "personal dedication and devotion which has made a significant impact in the lives of Connecticut's children." Excellent work! •

Proud new graduates of the June child passenger safety class in Storrs



In June, the Windham County chapter held a four day CPS class in Storrs at the University of Connecticut's Police Department. Congratulations to all the new techs!

New 911 simulators ready for duty

The four SAFE KIDS coalitions have each received a 911 Simulator from a license plate grant. This simulator has a script, a phone, and automated questions so a child may experience what a 911 call is like.

This simulator has questions in both English and Spanish and may be borrowed by CT SAFE KIDS members. Please call CT SAFE KIDS for more information. •





CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

New London County Coalition

NLCSK kicked off National SAFE KIDS week in Griswold with a car seat clinic and injury prevention fair. NLCSK was working hard on the legislative front, ensuring kids ages 4 and up are protected in motor vehicles by riding in a booster seat. Other recent activities have included car seat clinics, a bike rodeo with the Kiwanis of New London, and participation in over a dozen community outreach activities. One such activity was a transporting children with special needs presentation given to pediatric occupational therapists by coalition member and CPS tech Jody Rubino. Finally, NLCSK congratulates Officer Edmund Hedge, New London Police Department on his "KIDS ARE GREAT" Award, given to an individual who has shown an extraordinary commitment to the welfare of Connecticut's children. For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Windham County Chapter

On May 1st, WCSK, in collaboration with the Willimantic Rotary, began a new give-away program addressing bicycle helmet safety with Windham Community Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room. On May 10th, the Chapter hosted a bike rodeo for the foster children of Windham County. During the event, which was co-sponsored by the CT State Police (Troops D & K), Brooklyn Correctional Center, and Hearts, Hands & Homes Community Collaborative, WCSK gave out 80 bikes (refurbished at the BCC), and helmets and locks (courtesy of the state police). There were many additional safety exhibits at the event and everyone in attendance had a great day. This summer and fall, WCSK will continue to do many car seat clinics and CPS educational pro-

grams throughout Windham County. For more information call Karin Davis, WRCC/Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (860) 423-4534.

Greater Waterbury Chapter

This spring, GWSK presented programs at the CT SAFE KIDS Conference, celebrated SAFE KIDS Week by conducting an all day injury prevention event at the St. Frances Xavier School (Waterbury) where 125 students passed through several injury prevention stations, and attended SAFE KIDS Day at CCMC. Other GWSK events include: "Safety Street" and/or a bicycle helmet safety presentation to St. Bridget's School (Cheshire), Terryville Nursery School, the Boy Scouts (Middlebury) and Kids Day at Waterbury Hospital; CPS presentations at Wilby High School; a car seat clinic at Richards Chevy; and a CPS Update/Refresher Class. GWSK also has ongoing bicycle helmet replacement programs at St. Mary's and Waterbury Hospitals. Finally, congratulations to chapter member Chris LaRiviere, who successfully completed the CPS instructor training. For more information call Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 597-3655.

Valley Amity Coalition

In June, the Seymour Board of Education presented Bryan Ryan, the Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS Director of Training, with the David Brummer Award, which recognizes the outstanding commitment of an individual to the Seymour School system. As the Director of Training, Bryan coordinates an injury prevention, CPR and First Aid course that is taught to all students in the Seymour Middle School. This program reaches more than 550 sixth, seventh and eighth graders, is taught as part of their science curriculum, and

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

September 2003

Baby Safety Month

September 4, 2003

Coalition Meeting
Noon – 2pm
Southington Police Department
Southington, CT

October 5 – 11, 2003

National Fire Prevention Week

October 8, 2003

International Walk to School Day

October 19 – 25, 2003

National School Bus Safety Week

November 5, 2003 (Wednesday)

Coalition Meeting

Noon – 2pm

CCMC,

Level G,

Room

C&D



runs in the school from November until March. It is designed to educate the children and certify them in CPR & First Aid by the time they graduate 8th grade. For more information, call Frank Marcucio, VASK, at (203) 888-8843 x200.

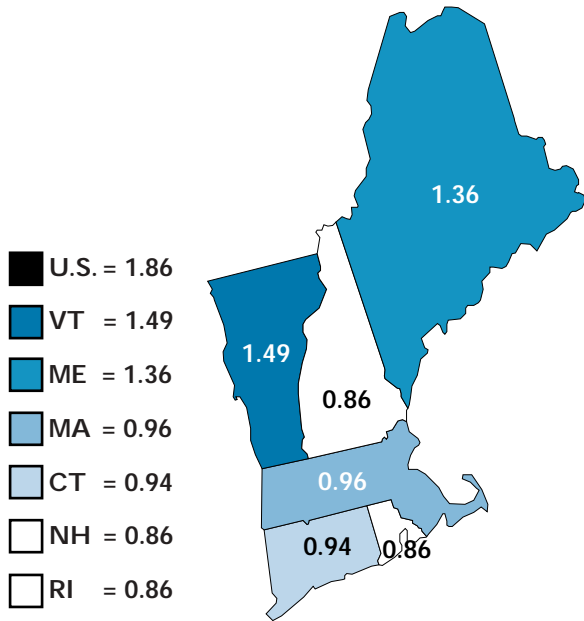
Fairfield County Coalition

Greetings from Fairfield County! Fairfield County had a very busy SAFE KIDS Week; our largest event was a bicycle rodeo in Stamford where 1,700 bicycle helmets were distributed, along with a large amount of education thanks to our hundreds of volunteers. Additionally we have been very busy with numerous car seat clinics, educational programs, and a four-day CPS class in Brookfield. Please check our web site www.fcsafekids.org for numerous downloadable brochures, many of which are in Spanish. For more information, call Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway, FCSK, at (203) 325-5566.



Drowning major cause of childhood deaths

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



Drowning Death Rates for children under 15 years old, 1988-2000

Rates are per 100,000

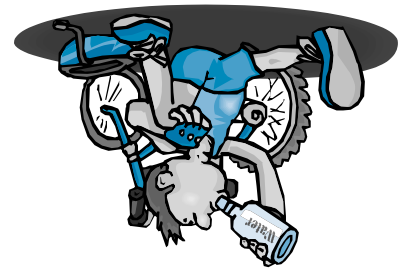
Source: Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Drowning is a major cause of death for children less than 15 years of age. Bathtub drowning is especially likely to involve children with seizure disorders or young children who have been left unattended. Spas, hot tubs, whirlpool baths, and backyard swimming pools are extremely hazardous for toddlers. For these younger children, childproof fencing that completely surrounds the pool is very effective in preventing drowning. For older (school age) children, drowning in fresh water

(e.g., ponds, lakes) and salt water often involve recreational boating. All persons in a boat, children included, should wear a life jacket or personal flotation device.

The drowning death rate among Connecticut children (0.94 per 100,000 persons) is similar to other southern tier New England states (MA, RI), but significantly lower than the U.S. rate (1.86) and the northern New England states of Maine (1.36) and Vermont (1.49). •

Beat the heat this summer!



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SUMMER 2003

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