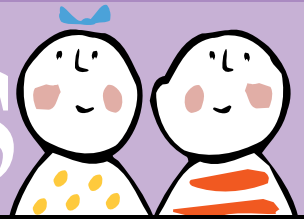




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for Parents



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A PROGRAM OF CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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or your local Safe Kids

**Greater Naugatuck Valley
203-732-1337**

supported by Griffin Hospital and the
Valley Parish Nurse Program

**Safe Kids Greater New Haven
203-946-8186**

supported by New Haven Health Department
and Quinnipiac University, Occupational Therapy

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supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

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203-853-7115**

Distracted Driving



While many people think of distracted driving as an issue for adults, the reality is that it affects children in a variety of ways.

As most adults know (or find out), children mimic their parents. Today's child watching a parent drive and talk on the phone, is tomorrow's teen driver who is talking, texting and driving. It is important that parents give their attention to driving, so that they can show their kids good behaviors as a driver and keep their attention on the road.

Q. Do cell phones cause car crashes?

A. Research shows that driving while using a cell phone can seriously distract the driver and affect their performance. NHTSA estimates that driver distraction from all sources contributes to 25% of all traffic crashes.

Q. Is it safe to use hands-free cell phones while driving?

A. The available research indicates ANY cellphone use -- whether it is hands-free or hand-held -- is enough to lessen a driver's performance. In turn, the driver may miss key visual and audio cues needed to avoid a crash.

Q. Is talking on a cell phone really worse than talking with someone in the car?

A. Any activity can potentially distract the driver from their primary task -- driving. The research is split on this topic. Some findings show car conversations and cell phone use to be equally risky, while others show cell phone use to be more risky. A big difference between the two is that a passenger can monitor the driving situation along with the driver and pause for, or alert the driver to, potential hazards. The person on the other end of the cell phone, however, is unaware of the traffic situation.

Q. If cell phone use is dangerous, aren't other tasks like eating or drinking dangerous too?

A. All the tasks are distracting, but current research doesn't have a definitive answer as to which behavior is riskier. One study which compared eating and operating a voice-activated cell phone to continuously operating a CD player, found that the CD player operation was more distracting than the other activities. A test track study conducted by NHTSA showed that manual dialing was about as distracting as grooming/eating, but less distracting than reading or changing CDs. Keep in mind that some activities are carried out more often and for longer periods of time and so may result in greater risk. •

Information courtesy of NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

Safe Kids International Walk to School Day

Waterbury Police Officer Andrea Deyo, State Police Sergeant J. Paul Vance and Principal Pamela Baim all teach the children how to be safe pedestrians at Safe Kids Greater Waterbury's International Walk to School Day event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

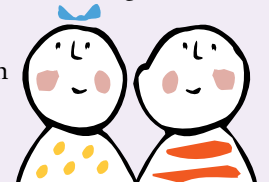
December 2009
 Safe Toys and Gifts Month
www.safekids.org

February 4, 2010
 Safe Kids Connecticut Coalition Meeting
 Noon to 2pm
 Location TBD
www.ctsafekids.org

February 7 – 13, 2010
 National Burn Awareness Week

March 14 – 20, 2010
 National Poison Prevention Week
www.poisonprevention.org

April 2010
 National Youth Sports Safety Month

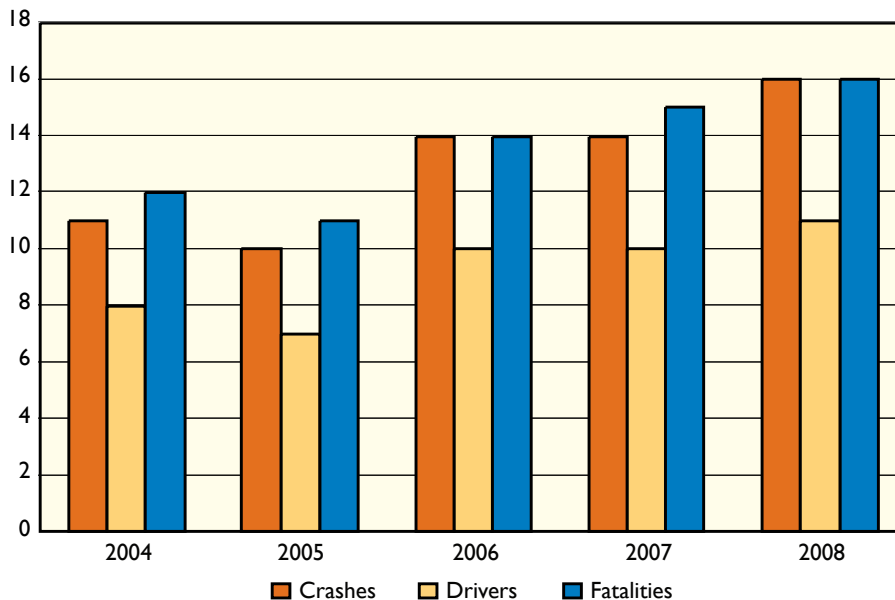


REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

Distracted driving

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

Percent of fatal crashes, drivers, and deaths in crashes involving driver distraction by year



Nearly 6,000 people died and over 500,000 injured last in U.S. motor vehicle crashes due to drivers being distracted, particularly by mobile cell phones. The percent of all fatal crashes, drivers, and fatalities due to distracted driving is increasing from 2004 – 2008 (see Figure). The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers is the under-20 age group (16%) vs. 9% among adults 50-59 years of age. Distracted drivers not only pose a danger to themselves but other road users including child occupants, and pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists of any age. •

Source: Traffic Safety Facts, Research Notes, DOT HS 811 219, September 2009.