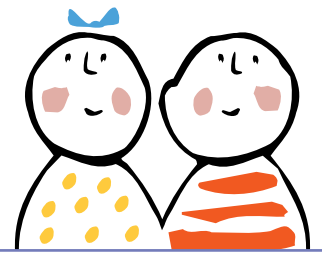




# SAFE KIDS CONNECTICUT Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

SPRING 2010  
NO. 49

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## Safer Swimming

While no swimming is completely safe, there are ways to keep kids safe around water. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death in the U.S. among kids under 15.

Below are some facts about young children who have drowned:

- 70% are in the care of one or both parents at the time
- 75% are missing from sight for five minutes or less.
- 65% of young kids drownings occur in the child's home pool
- 33% occur at the homes of friends, neighbors or relatives

There are 3 areas to focus on to keep kids safe:

### Water:

- Install, maintain and use a 4-sided isolation fence
- Have a self-closing, self-latching gate
- Consider hiring a lifeguard for pool parties

### Kids:

- Learn to swim by age 8
- Have constant, adult supervision
- Have a designated water watcher (adult)

### Response:

- Adults should learn CPR and first aid
- Prepare an emergency action plan
- Have a phone by the pool at all times

*Information courtesy of Swim for Life Foundation*

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! I am just back from a fantastic conference on drowning prevention.



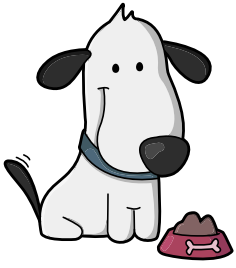
I've never attended a national water safety conference and it certainly was amazing the new innovations that are available in the field as well as the interesting programs that people are running across the country. In the good-things-to-know category, the term "life jacket" is now the preferred generic term for what used to be called PFDs or Personal Floatation Devices. Most parents and caregivers have an idea what a life jacket is, although they may be amazed at what is available today. And let's face it, many people still thought PFDs were computer files...

Another word choice to be aware of is that the phrase "safe swimming" is out, and to instead use "safer swimming." We don't want to give parents and caregivers the impression that you can make a child "drown-proof." And as with all things water safety, nothing replaces constant and active adult supervision.

I hope you have a safe and productive spring!

*Karen*

## Dog Bite Bookmarks Now Available!



Dog bites are continually one of the top 10 reasons Connecticut kids go to the emergency room. Safe Kids CT has developed a bookmark on dog bite safety to help teach kids and adults how to interact with dogs. Email us at [safekidsct@ccmckids.org](mailto:safekidsct@ccmckids.org) to request some today! •

## CPSC Will Ban Drop Side Cribs This Year

By the end of 2010, it will be illegal to sell a drop-side crib. And public places such as day-care centers and hotels will be prohibited from using them. The federal government is moving to ban drop-side cribs, saying that these cribs with a moveable side poses lethal dangers to children. •

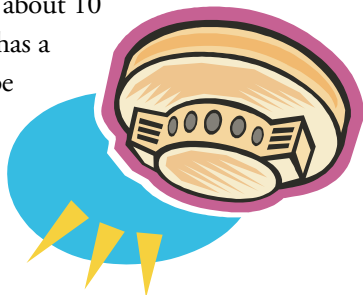


## Don't Forget

The 10th Annual Safe Kids Connecticut Injury Prevention Conference is June 10th at the Waterbury Holiday Inn. Visit [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) to download a registration form. We hope to see you there! •

## Did You Know?

Smoke detectors expire after about 10 years. If the smoke detector has a yellow-ish tint to it, it may be time to replace the smoke detector itself. •



## Safe Kids Day 2010



The Bones Have It: 1st through 5th graders from Manchester's Verplanck Elementary School learn about how to protect their brain with help from a skeleton at Safe Kids Day on May 6th, on the front lawn on Connecticut Children's Medical Center



Kids learn about look-alike products (or example, a clearer and juice bottle may have similar packaging) at the poison safety table.



Kids learn about how to be safe in the water and use life jackets at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) safety station.



## CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Spotlight on:

### Safe Kids

#### Greater Naugatuck Valley

We have had a very busy year, touching the lives of over 16,000 youth. Our Walk to School Day in Seymour, LoPresti School was a great success. We continued right into the month with a dozen Halloween safety programs. The Fifth Annual Anti Drug, Alcohol, and Smoking calendar was produced in December. We acquired a Safe Kids Buckle Up minivan to help transport and support our programs. Through generous grant support we have received \$7200 to use toward the purchase of child safety seats. Our newest program is geared toward drunk and/or distracted driving among our teens.

Our Walk to School Day event was again held at LoPresti School in Seymour. Our friends from Fed Ex, Seymour schools and police were on hand to run activities inside and out through out the day.

After walking with the kids as they came in, we held mini assemblies inside and the children "walked" on a road with intersection in the gym and then played the bean bag toss game at the end of the road after successfully and safely walking thru it.

Our Fifth Annual Anti Drug, Alcohol, and Smoking calendar was produced and distributed to over 3500 children in the Valley area. Along with the calendar, 25 poison prevention education programs were held.

In late fall we acquired a Safe Kids Buckle Up minivan from Safe Kids Connecticut. This has greatly helped us to help transport and support programs and materials to our 16 regular monthly sites and additional special

requests sites.

We recently received funding through the BJ Charitable Foundation to purchase 76 various seats and booster for families in need. We also received funding from the Valley United Way Special Needs grant to purchase 4 special needs seats for emergency use for families

Our latest program is geared toward drunk and or distracted driving among teens (and adults benefit too). One of our Chapter partners, Seymour Public Schools, had the idea to purchase "pedal carts" (go carts with out motors) and design a track so that teenagers can drive/pedal thru the course first, without impairment. Then they wear the drunk goggles and try it again. A third time is while trying to text. The students and adults are amazed at how poor their skills become and how quickly a crash or near crash can happen. We have purchased 4 carts and provide programs at high schools and fairs. They are in high demand around prom and graduation time.

In the upcoming months, we will be hosting two health and safety fairs that display all of our interactive injury prevention programs and car set clinics. Please join us for free family days!

May 22nd, 10-2 at the Ansonia



**Pedestrian Safety in Action! Safe Kids Greater Naugatuck Valley teaches kids how to be safe walkers with pint-size cars, school bus and crosswalk.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information  
[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)

**June 6 – 12, 2010**

Sun Safety Week  
[www.sunsafetyalliance.org](http://www.sunsafetyalliance.org)

**June and July**

National Fireworks Safety Months

**August 23 – 27, 2010**

National Safe at Home Week

**September 15, 2010**

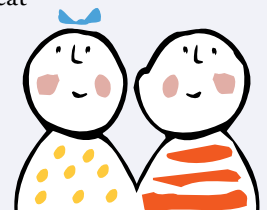
National School Backpack Awareness Day, [www.promoteot.org/AI\\_BackpackAwareness.html](http://www.promoteot.org/AI_BackpackAwareness.html)

**September 19 – 25, 2010**

National Child Passenger Safety Week, [www.nhtsa.gov/childps/planner2009](http://www.nhtsa.gov/childps/planner2009)

**September 25, 2010**

NHTSA Seat  
Check  
Saturday



Armory and September 19th, 9-1 at the Boys & Girls Club in Shelton. For more information on any of our programs, please contact Cathi Kellett at 203-732-1337 or [ckellett@griffin-health.org](mailto:ckellett@griffin-health.org).



**Greater Naugatuck Valley 203-732-1337** supported by Griffin Hospital and the Valley Parish Nurse Program • **Greater New Haven 203-946-8186** supported by New Haven Health Department and Quinnipiac University, Occupational Therapy • **Greater Waterbury 203-709-3655** supported by St. Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Medical Association • **Litchfield County 860-626-8201** supported by Education Connection, Northwestern Connecticut Community College and Torrington Fire Department • **Windham County 860-456-6978** supported by Windham Hospital • **New London County 860-442-0733** supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

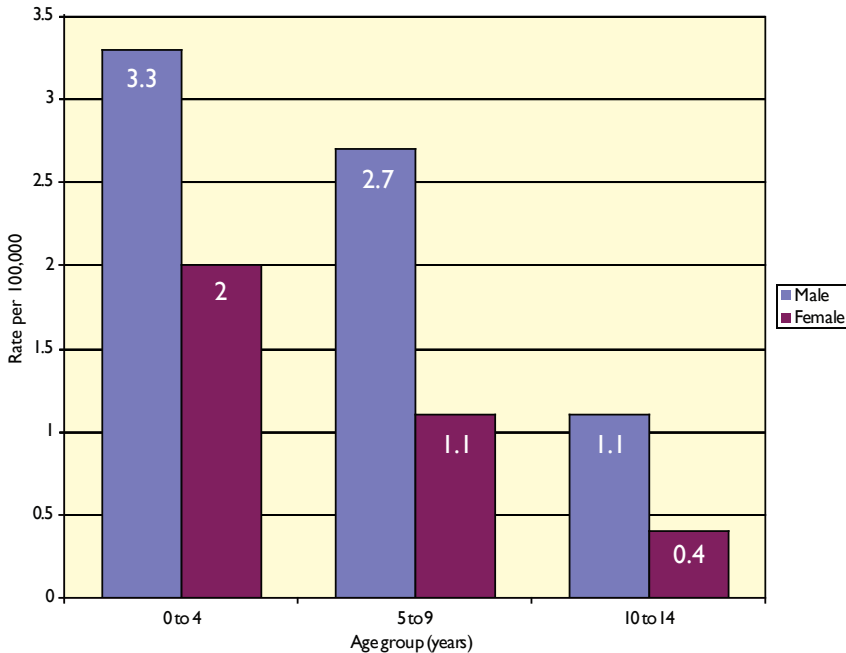


## REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

# Drowning

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 (per 100,000) by age and sex, 0-14 years, 1999-2006, U.S. (n=6,685)**

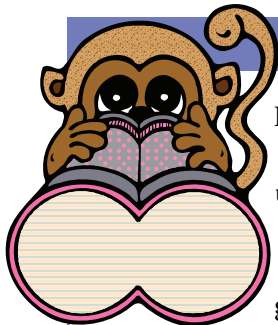


Unintentional drowning death rates vary by age group and sex. Death rates are highest for children 0 – 4 years old. In all age groups, males have a higher death rate than females.

Home pools figure prominently in drownings of young children. A common scenario occurs when a toddler falls into a pool while out of sight of any caretaker; often the child is found soon enough that immediate resuscitation attempts would be effective, but resuscitation is not attempted until the rescue unit arrives, often too late. For this reason, anyone who has a swimming pool should be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Childproof pool fencing that completely surrounds the pool is extremely effective in preventing drowning of young children. •

Source: Centers for Disease Control, WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System).

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD



Free CEUs! Safe Kids Worldwide has teamed up with NHTSA to provide CPS technicians an easy way to get the last few needed

CEUs for recertification. If you visit [www.safekidswebinars.org](http://www.safekidswebinars.org), there are several options to earn online CEUs. Options include Vehicle Safety Part 1: Federal Regulations, Transportation of Children in Vehicles Other Than Cars, Tech's Guide to Recalls, and the School Bus Module. All of these options are FREE and don't require the purchase of any books or newsletters to complete. After completing and passing a module, you will get a certificate to print out and keep for CPS auditing purposes. As with all CEUs, the technician is responsible for updating the information in their online profile.

With the hot weather, Safe Kids Worldwide has kicked off their NEVER LEAVE YOUR CHILD ALONE campaign. The goal is to make sure no more children will die in 2010 because they were left unattended in a vehicle. To see a demonstration of how quickly a car heats up in moderate temperatures, please visit [www.ggweather.com/heat](http://www.ggweather.com/heat).

• • •

NHTSA has just released their "Seat Belt Use in 2009" report. Nationwide seat belt use was 84 percent in 2009 as measured by NHTSA's National Occupant Protection Use Survey. Connecticut's usage was reported 85.9%. While we are above the national average, we are still down from our high of 88% recorded the previous year (2008). The summary can be viewed at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811324.pdf>

In mid May, the CPSC recalled 1.8 million toy dart gun sets, sold exclusively at Family Dollar stores. If a child places the soft, pliable plastic toy dart in his/her mouth, the toy can be inhaled into the throat and prevent the child from breathing. The agency has received reports of two asphyxiation deaths involving a 9-year-old boy in Chicago (IL) and a 10-year-old boy in Milwaukee (WI). Consumers should immediately take the toy target sets from children and discard them or return the guns and darts to a Family Dollar store for a full refund.

• • •

Safe Kids Worldwide has announced some grilling safety tips and a pledge, to keep all family members safe around the grill. Visit <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/grilling-safety/> for more information.