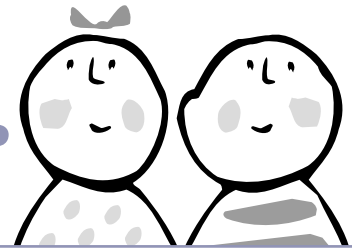




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

SPRING 2005

Connecticut
SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
Medical Center
282 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106
TEL (860) 545-9988
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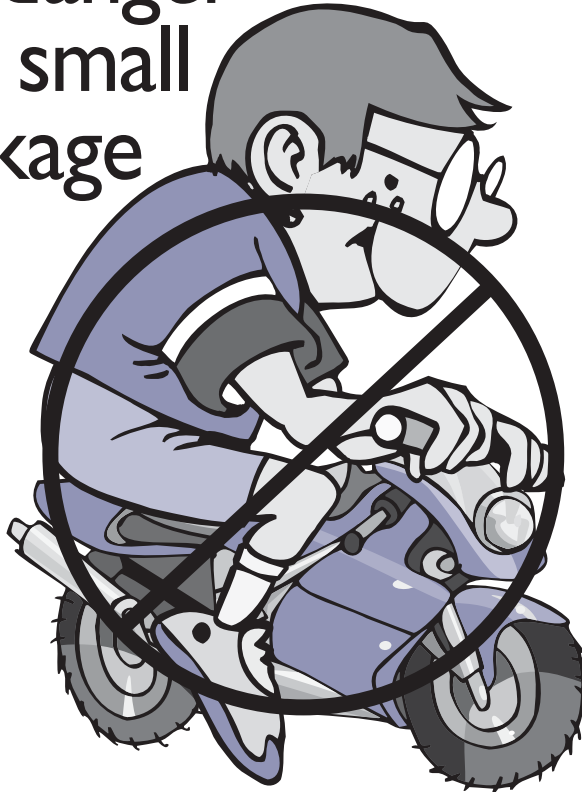
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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Big danger in a small package



With Spring on the way, many children are ready to ride their bikes. Most parents are aware of how to keep their kids safe on a bike, but they may not be aware of a newer and more dangerous version of the bike: the pocket bike.

Pocket bikes are miniature motorcycles, but are also known as "pocket rockets," "quick scooters" or "novelty scooters." These vehicles are small (under 2 feet tall), have 2 wheels, have an engine under 50 cubic centimeters and can be either gas-powered or electric-powered. They are also relatively inexpensive and can reach maximum speeds of up to 40 mph.

These vehicles are unsafe for a variety of reasons. Because of their small size, the bikes are hard for motorists to see on the road. Because of their small engine size, they are not able to keep up with the flow of traffic. Importantly, some of these vehicles may lack the following essential safety features:

- ⦿ Brake stop light or lights
- ⦿ Brakes on both wheels
- ⦿ Turn signal lights
- ⦿ Rear view mirror or mirrors

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring!
I hope that everyone had a productive and safe winter. Spring is going to be very busy for Connecticut SAFE KIDS.



We are working on booster seat legislation again. This year's bill, HB 6660, is making its way through the legislative process. As always, we ask that you contact your state senator and representative and encourage them to vote for it. To help promote booster seat safety and awareness, several booster seat giveaways will be happening around the state. Connecticut SAFE KIDS will be hosting one in Meriden in April.

We are also working on some trainings for injury prevention professionals, including CPS trainings, a home safety training and a fire safety training. The fire safety training, *Play Safe! Be Safe!*, will be held on June 14, 2005 at the Norwalk Community College from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Finally, we encourage you to attend the April coalition meeting which will be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Not only will you be able to learn all about the latest fire safety education and materials, but you can sign up for a guided tour of the fire academy at either 11am or 2pm. We hope to see you there!

Karen

Coalition Change

Valley Amity SAFE KIDS was terminated as a SAFE KIDS coalition in January 2005, by National SAFE KIDS. This area (Oxford, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby, Woodbridge, Orange and Milford) will now be covered by Connecticut SAFE KIDS for all SAFE KIDS activities. However, Connecticut SAFE KIDS hopes to establish a chapter there soon. If you are interested in potentially joining the new chapter, please contact Karen Brock, Director of CT SAFE KIDS, at kbrock@ccmckids.org or 860-545-9977.

Big Danger in a Small Package

(continued from page 1)

These vehicles are dangerous for children AND adults. Many organizations have already recognized the danger. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is currently gathering data specifically on pocket bikes, but reports in 2003, there were 2,345 people treated in emergency rooms for injuries from motorized mini-bikes. The World Against Toys Causing Harm (WATCH) listed pocket bikes as one of their top 10 Worst Toys for 2004. The National Sheriffs Association, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) all advise parents not to purchase pocket bikes for their children. Finally, in Connecticut, several towns have recognized the danger this vehicle poses and have banned pocket bikes.

Information courtesy of National SAFE KIDS Campaign

Play Safe! Be Safe! Training

Bic's *Play Safe! Be Safe!* Fire Safety Training is coming to Connecticut! The training targets fire safety for preschoolers and we especially encourage firefighters, child care workers, nurses, EMTs and others to attend. The training will be held at Norwalk Community College on June 14, 2005

from 9:30am to 12:30pm. All participants will receive an instructor kit and a certificate of participation. Registration is first come, first serve. Please call 860-545-9988 to RSVP. •

play safe! be safe!



Children's
Fire Safety
Education
Program

Ages 3-5

Playground Safety Training

The National Recreation and Park Association is sponsoring a playground safety training May 18 through 20th in Windsor. Please visit www.crpa.com/edutrain/npsi.html for more details. •



Kudos!

Congratulations to Stan Zajac, Meriden Police Department. Stan recently had his first documented save when a 9 month old baby survived a rollover crash without any injuries. The mom had taken the CPS class that Stan teaches at Midstate Medical Center and had also gone to Meriden Police Department's fitting station. Despite being upside down in her infant carrier after the crash, the 9 month old baby was laughing and unharmed when she was handed out of the rear window of the crashed vehicle. Stan was able to supply the mom with a new seat donated by the Elks. Congratulations! •

Training Resources

Want information about various events and trainings in Connecticut? Here are two places that might be helpful. The Connecticut Clearinghouse has resources, courses, newsletters and more. Please visit them at www.ctclearinghouse.org. Additionally, Train Connecticut is a learning resource for public health professionals. Please visit them at ct.train.org. •



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

GWSK has had a busy winter. In December, they printed a holiday safety message on tags for Christmas trees and distributed these tags to area nurseries to be put on the trees after purchase. For child passenger safety week, GWSK hosted a car seat clinic at AMR. This spring will also be busy with more car seat clinic and educational events, as well as conducting the four-day NHTSA child passenger safety class in March at the Waterbury Police Department Training Facility. For more information call Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 709-3655.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

WCSK has been focusing on National Child Passenger Safety Week. They are partnering with National SAFE KIDS and Chevrolet to survey parents and caregivers about their knowledge of child passenger safety, with the goal of assessing any increase in that knowledge from participating in a SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP checkup event. The Champagne Chevrolet dealership in Willimantic has been an ongoing collaborator in their efforts to improve child passenger safety. On February 3rd, WCSK conducted an employee CPS presentation with Champagne Chevrolet employees. They also displayed a CPS informational booth on February 10th at Champagne Chevrolet. A car seat clinic on the 12th was their very successful wrap-up event for the CPS Week.

WCSK is undergoing organizational restructuring at this time. The following are contacts for any CPS questions and installations. Willimantic Police Department contact (Officer

Michael Cancellero) (860) 465-3135, Putnam Police Department contact (Officer Donald Morrison) (860) 928-6565 and Troop D in Danielson contact (Trooper Timothy Brezniak) (860) 779-4900. Any further WCSK questions please contact Marisol Feliciano at (860) 423-4534 ext. 314.

Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSC)

This chapter has been temporarily discontinued while it is being restructured. If you are interested in potentially joining the chapter once it is relaunched, please contact Karen Brock, Director of CT SAFE KIDS at kbrock@ccmckids.org or (860) 545-9977.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

This winter, NLCSK participated in dozens of community events promoting children's health and safety; and conducted targeted presentations to families on the importance of booster seat safety through a grant from the Community Foundation of South-eastern Connecticut. They also hosted a booster seat giveaway for Hispanic families, as well as beginning the process of educating our local legislators on expanding the current occupant protection laws for children. NLCSK has also made several changes to their website, which they encourage parents and caregivers to utilize: www.nlcsafekids.org. For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS hopes you are enjoying your winter and are wearing your helmets out on the ski

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

March 20 – 26, 2005

National Poison Prevention Week

April 7, 2005

Coalition Meeting*
Noon to 2pm
CT Fire Academy
Windsor Locks, CT

Tours of the Academy will be given at 11am and 2pm. Please specify which tour you'd like when you RSVP

April 24 – 30, 2005

National Window Safety Week
National Playground Safety Week

April 30 – May 7, 2005

National SAFE KIDS Week

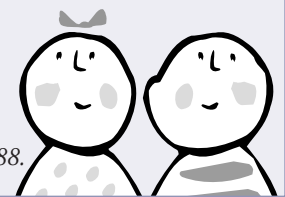
June 14, 2005

Play Safe! Be Safe! Fire Safety
Training
Norwalk Community College

October 5, 2005

Walk to School Day

* To RSVP
for this
meeting,
please call
860-545-9988.



slopes. As this goes to press, FCSK coalition members are working feverishly to obtain as many co-sponsors as possible for CT House Bill 6660, An Act Concerning Booster Seats. For National Child Passenger Safety Week, FCSK held their car seat clinic at Karl Chevrolet in New Canaan. Congressman Christopher Shays stopped by for forty-five minutes to show his support for all that you do in trying to prevent unintentional childhood injury. FCSK has a busy spring planned with a variety of events through the county; please check our upcoming events calendar at www.fcsafekids.org. For more information, call Bob Cordes, FCSK at (203) 853-7115. •



Bicycle injuries

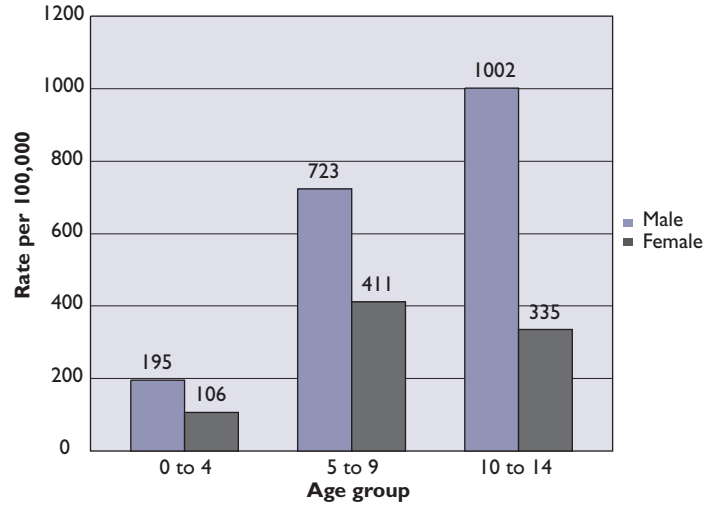
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Bicycles are associated with more childhood injuries than any other consumer product except the automobile. Each year about 115 children under age 15 are killed in the U.S. and almost 287,000 require emergency department treatment.

For all age groups, boys have a higher non-fatal injury rates compared to girls and for boys 10-14 years old it is 3 times higher (see figure). Four out of five bicycle-related deaths result from head injuries. Other serious injuries include abdominal injuries from contact with handlebars, foot injuries from entanglement in bicycle spokes, and genital injuries from falling or sliding onto the top bar of the bicycle frame. Circumstances that contribute to bicyclist injuries include performing stunts or speeding, riding double, road hazards (e.g., loose gravel, road grates that catch wheels), loss of control on downhill slopes, product failure, poor bicycle maintenance, and bicyclist error or inexperience.

The importance of brain injury as a cause of death or permanent disability means that all cyclists should wear safety approved bicycle helmets. •

Nonfatal bicycle injury rates, < 15 years, U.S., 2001-03 (n=859,845)



Source: CDC, NCIPC, WISCARS, 2001-03

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NON. 30
SPRING 2005

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