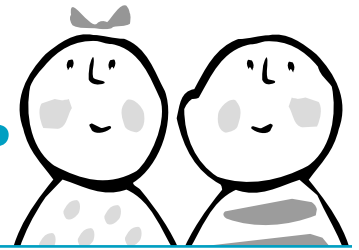




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

SUMMER 2005

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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Booster Seat Law Keeps Kids Safe



In October, children in Connecticut will start riding safer. On October 1st, Connecticut's booster seat law will go into effect and children will need to be in an appropriate child restraint system until they are over 6 years old and over 60 pounds (they must meet both the age and weight requirements). For most

**On October 1st, Connecticut's
booster seat law will go into effect.**

child restraint systems, this means that when the children are between 40 and 60 pounds, this system will be either a booster seat or a forward facing seat with a weight limit for the harnesses of at least 60 pounds. Additionally, when children are in a booster seat, they must use a lap and shoulder belt. •

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wonderful news! Connecticut is the 34th state to have a booster seat law! Thank you to everyone who worked very hard educating their legislators, making numerous phone calls and emails, and sending postcards. Together we have made sure that Connecticut kids travel safer!



In other news, Connecticut SAFE KIDS had a successful SAFE KIDS Day on the front lawn of CCMC on May 5th. Thank you to the Elks and all the volunteers who made this day a fun and educational day of safety for over 200 children. In addition to Governor Rell proclaiming it SAFE KIDS Week in Connecticut, we were able to unveil our new fire safety certificates which, along with the smoke detectors donated by the Elks, served as a reminder to the children and their parents about the importance of practicing fire safety at home.





Finally, Connecticut SAFE KIDS has been busy in child passenger safety—running a booster seat giveaway, hosting car seat clinics and participating in car seat technician training classes. Additionally, we are working on developing home safety boxes, updating our web-based fact sheets, preparing for our annual Conference and assessing interest for new chapters.

Have a safe summer!

Karen

Cars Are Not Babysitters

With the temperatures getting hotter, it is important to be aware of children, heat and cars. Of children who died of heat in vehicles, 62% were in car seats. Some tips for keeping kids safe:

-  Lock car doors when not in use.
-  Teach kids that cars are not for playing or sleeping.
-  Search the car when a child goes missing.
-  Don't use keys to jingle in front of kids. Plastic toy keys and real keys are similar and kids may confuse the two.

For more information, click on www.lookbeforeyouleave.org

Keep Kids Safe License Plates are Great!



We encourage all parents, caregivers and injury prevention advocates to purchase a Keep Kids Safe License Plate to help keep the grant program successful!

Kids and Teens in the Back Seat

Children under 15 years old risk serious injury from an airbag if they ride in the front seat, according to a study in the journal *Pediatrics*. Age, not



size, was the most accurate predictor of safety.

SAFE KIDS Day: Follow the Leader – Safety Starts with You!

SAFE KIDS Day was a big success with the help of all of our volunteers. The theme for this year, Follow the Leader – Safety Starts with You!, was aimed at making sure that all members of the family were safe from injury.



SAFE KIDS Days volunteers Pat Zainc and Reanne Criscio talk to the kids about how to keep safe from germs.



A volunteer Elk helps one of the children fill out her fire safety certificate which explains how to stay safe from fires.

Booster Seat Law for Connecticut

As of October 1, 2005, Connecticut's child restraint law will change and children will need to be in an appropriate child restraint until they are over 6 years old **and** over 60 pounds. With most car seats, this means that at 40 pounds, a child will change from riding in a car seat with harness straps to riding in a booster seat. Children must use a lap and shoulder belt (not just a lap belt) with a booster seat. Additionally, the law states that infants will need to remain rear-facing until they are at least one year old **and** 20 pounds.



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Valley Parish Nurse Community Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS

Connecticut SAFE KIDS is pleased to announce a new chapter based in the Lower Naugatuck Valley area, which covers the towns of Woodbury, Southbury, Oxford, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Seymour, Woodbridge, Ansonia, Derby, Orange and Milford. They have been busy collecting educational materials and writing grants to do future safety programs. During SAFE KIDS Week, they held a bike safety program at the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club and over fifty 10-12 year olds participated with great enthusiasm. They are also in the process of refurbishing a Poison Safety Box Program. They held their first Quarterly Meeting on May 31st and look forward to much community support. Their next meeting will be on September 13th. The contacts for the new Chapter are Cathi Kellett and Daun Barrett at the Valley Parish Nurse Program office, (203) 732-7584.

Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

In March, GWSK participated in a child safety day with Toys R Us at the Waterbury store, demonstrating the need for booster seat use and poison prevention. In April, they hosted a four day technician class for child passenger safety at the Waterbury Police Community Center, including a car seat clinic at the Champion Ambulance garage. In May, they presented a safety day to the Sprague Elementary School in Waterbury. Over 180 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders had instruction on bicycle, pedestrian, poison, seat belt safety, water safety and 911 safety. Finally, they participated in a safety day in Wolcott on May 22nd. 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 exciting news: they have successfully completed their transition from Windham Regional Community Council (WRCC) to Windham Hospital as their lead agency. WCSK wishes to thank WRCC for its support over the past years which allowed the chapter to flourish. WCSK looks forward to working with WRCC in their new relationship as a community partner.

WCSK's new home at Windham Hospital, which is an affiliate of CCMC, means several changes, the most immediate of which is that the chapter has new contact information. They can now be reached at 860-456-6978 or safekids@wcmh.org or c/o Windham Hospital, 112 Mansfield Avenue, Willimantic, CT 06226. WCSK had its first post-transition chapter meeting on May 21st and will have its kickoff event on June 25th.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

NLCSK has had a busy spring and are looking forward to this year's summer events. They are particularly excited to report that there will be a new SAFE KIDS Buckle Up van in Connecticut by early summer. This new resource will be shared between the coalitions and chapters of eastern CT, and they hope to reach more families and provide education on the importance of protecting children in motor vehicles. They are also thrilled to report that the coalition has checked over 3,500 child safety seats at its inspection stations located at L&M Hospital and Mohegan Tribe since their inception in May 2002.

Other activities this quarter have included the beginnings of an animal bite prevention team for New London

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

June 14, 2005

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

June 2005

National Safety Month

September 2005

Baby Safety Month

September 2005

CT SAFE KIDS Annual Workshop
Date and Place TBA

October 5, 2005

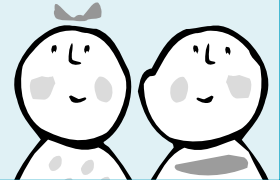
International Walk to School Day

October 9-15, 2005

National Fire Prevention Week

October 16-22, 2005

National
School Bus
Safety
Week



County, advocating for booster seat legislation, several bike rodeos, a car seat clinic, and participation in many health and safety fairs/presentations. For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

For more information, call Bob Cordes, FCSK at (203) 853-7115.

A New Name and a New Look

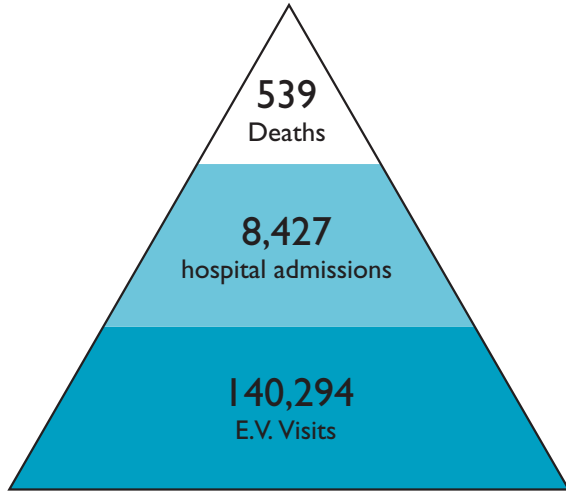
In July, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign will officially change its name to Safe Kids Worldwide and change its logo as well. All SAFE KIDS coalitions and chapters will be changing their logos too and Connecticut SAFE KIDS will unveil its new logo in the upcoming months. •



REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

MV occupant injury among booster seat age children

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



Among children 4-8 years of age

Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS

In 2001-02, motor vehicle crashes resulted in 539 deaths, 8,427 hospital admissions, and 140,294 emergency department visits among U.S. child occupants 4-8 years of age. Presented another way, for each occupant death there are 16 nonfatal injuries severe enough to result in a hospital admission and another 260 emergency department visits. Unfortunately, many children in this age group ride unstrained or restrained with adult seat belt. Inappropriate seat belt restraint for this age group results in a 3.5-fold

increased risk of significant injury and a more than four-fold increased risk of significant head injury. Booster seat use for children in this age group will reduce injury and death. •

CORRECTION: In the previous issue, the numbers in the graph for the nonfatal bicycle injury rates for children under 15 were switched for the girls and the boys. The chart should have showed that the boys have a higher rate non-fatal bicycle injury than the girls. We apologize for our error.

Booster Seat Law
Keeps Kids Safe



NOV. 31
SUMMER 2005

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