

Safe Kids Connecticut Coalition
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Safe Kids Connecticut
860-545-9988

or your local Safe Kids
Greater Naugatuck Valley
203-732-1337

supported by Griffin Hospital and the
Valley Parish Nurse Program

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

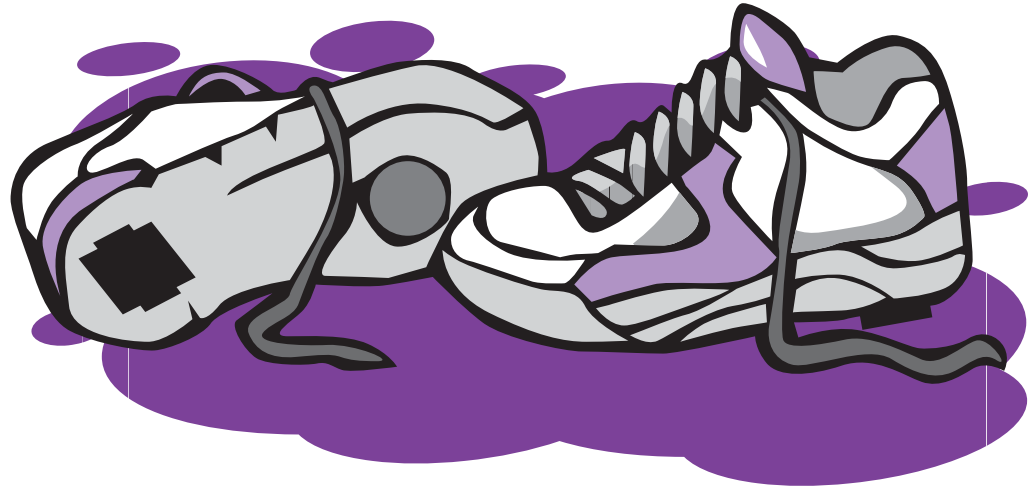
Fairfield County
203-853-7115

supported by Danbury Hospital and
Greenwich Hospital

New London County
860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Roll with caution



Shoes with wheels? Skate Shoes, also known as roller shoes or by the brand name Heelys, are popular street shoes made for kids, which have a wheel or wheels in the heel of the shoes. By simply shifting their weight, a child can go from walking to rolling. While the manufacturers of these shoes encourage the use of protective gear and may even sell pads and helmets with their brand name on it, most children are not using these safety devices. In medical studies, most injuries seen in the emergency room occurred in the upper body, such as injuries to wrists and elbows, with most of these children not using safety gear.

Many parents feel that because of the relatively slow speed at which the children can roll, safety gear is not necessary. However, this perception is not true. Kids can and have been injured on skate shoes, and both safety advocates and manufacturers

recommend the use of appropriate safety gear. Below are some additional safety guidelines to be safe on skate shoes:



Always wear protective gear such as a helmet and wrist, elbow and knee pads.



Never roll faster than you can walk.



Avoid rolling on roads, sidewalks and wet surfaces.



Do not roll over rocks, sand or water.



When you are losing your balance, put your toes down and lean forward.



Like other sports, there is a learning curve, so learn to use your skate shoes safely.

Congratulations!




Marisol Feliciano, coordinator of Safe Kids Windham County, was chosen by Safe Kids Worldwide to be the National Spokesperson for Spanish Media for Safe Kids Week. She worked with national spanish language media for the kick-off of Safe Kids Week in D.C. We are very proud of our media star! •

Welcome!

Safe Kids Connecticut would like to welcome Olga Fruster, our new program assistant. Olga has worked in a variety healthcare areas, as well as working for a community agency in Hartford. Welcome Olga! •

Spot the Tot

Every year, hundreds of children are injured or killed by drivers who don't see them near or behind their vehicles. Below are 3 tips to keep kids safe:

-  Parents and caregivers should hold childrens' hands in driveways, parking lots, and on sidewalks.
-  Drivers should walk all the way around a parked vehicle to check for kids, toys and pets before starting the car.
-  Drivers should be aware of children walking or playing around cars as children move quickly and may end up in the path of the car.

Information courtesy of Safe Kids Worldwide •

REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

Time trends by geography

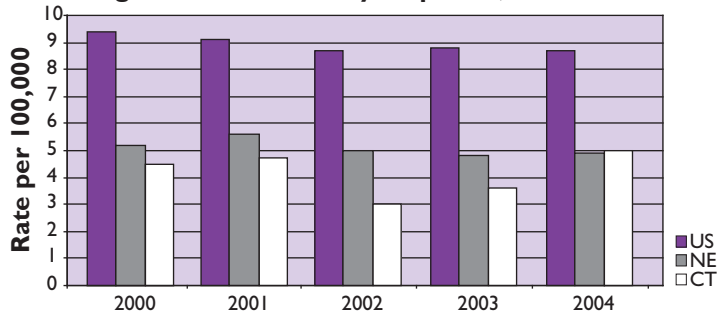
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Unintentional injury death rates among persons ages 0-14 for the five year period, 2000-2004 are compared for the U.S., North East Region (CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT), and CT.

There is less variation by year in the United States and North East Region compared to Connecticut. Overall, death rates are twice as high in the U.S. compared to Connecticut. The North East region usually falls in between, just slightly higher than Connecticut. Most of the disparity between Connecticut and the U.S. can be explained by socio-economic status with poorer states reporting higher death rates. •

Unintentional injury death rates among persons ages 0-14 for the five year period, 2000-2004



Source: U.S. Vital Statistics, 2000-2004..