



NO. 12

FALL 2000

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

SAFE KIDS van on a roll



ictured are technicians and staff at a recent Watertown Wal-Mart car seat check-up event. Officers from Connecticut State Police Troop L and the Plymouth Police Department participated in the event, as well as Pat Zainc from the Waterbury Health Department and Mark Blake of the Weston Fire Department.

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS Chevy Venture mobile car seat check-up van has been very busy throughout Connecticut, assuring the safety of children in their car seats.

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MESSAGE FROM
THE COORDINATOR

Our new partner delivers



Eileen A. Henzy

I am very excited to announce a new partner of National SAFE KIDS that will assist us with one of our biggest injury problems here in Connecticut. Federal Express has entered into an agreement with



National SAFE KIDS to provide funding for a pedestrian safety program entitled "SAFE KIDS Walk This Way."

The program will surround Walk Your Child to School Day in early October, and will include school-zone speed surveys, enforcement activities, classroom lessons, and a parent/child safety celebration. The site chosen for this event is New London. Officer Ed Hedge was eager to take on the program to address these ongoing pedestrian safety issues.

Pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 5 to 14. Children are especially vulnerable to pedestrian death because they face traffic threats that exceed their cognitive, developmental, behavioral, physical and sensory abilities. Additionally, parents often underestimate their child's pedestrian skills.

This innovative program will look at both the child's and parent's skills and knowledge of pedestrian safety, as well as engineering and enforcement



ment issues. We applaud the local FedEx offices for their involvement

in this issue, and look forward to a long-standing partnership. n

Safety Net

www.ctsafekids.org

**Connecticut
SAFE KIDS**

Listings of current safety events, locations of child passenger safety technicians, fact sheets and more.

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Information on all types of traffic safety including pedestrian, bike and child passenger safety.

www.cpsc.gov

**Consumer
Product Safety
Commission**

Latest consumer recalls, safety tips and publications related to child safety.

www.nfpa.org

**National Fire
Protection
Association**

Information on fire safety and the Risk Watch injury prevention curriculum.

www.cdc.gov

**Centers for
Disease Control
and Prevention**

All types of related information, with a whole section on injury prevention and control.

www.nsc.org

**National
Safety Council**

A variety of safety information for children and adults.

SAFE KIDS

Kudos!

Please join me in welcoming Molly Temple to the role of Connecticut SAFE KIDS Child Passenger Safety Coordinator.

Molly has been a student with the Connecticut SAFE KIDS program since October of 1999. She completed an internship with us as part of her master's in Public Health at the University of Connecticut.

Prior to coming to Connecticut, Molly attended Coastal Carolina University, where she received a bachelor's in psychology.

Molly became a certified child passenger safety technician in March of 1999, and has played a key role in the continuing development of the Child Passenger Safety Program. Of particular note is a research project Molly lead regarding child safety seat misuse in Connecticut. She presented the results at the International Child Passenger Safety Conference held in Texas this past June.

We are thrilled to have Molly as part of our growing program. If you have questions about car seat clinics or child passenger safety activities, call Molly at (860) 545-9985. ⁿ

SAFE KIDS van on a roll

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From February to June 2000, the van participated in events in towns all over the state, including Litchfield, Waterbury, Derby, Danbury, Hartford, Andover, Willimantic and New London. During this time 1,050 child safety seats were inspected by dedicated child passenger safety technicians.

In addition, over 2,000 people received information regarding child passenger safety at these events. This program has been tremendously successful and nationwide has checked over 100,000 child safety seats.

Thanks to all the coalition members and technicians who participate in these events and spread this important message. ⁿ

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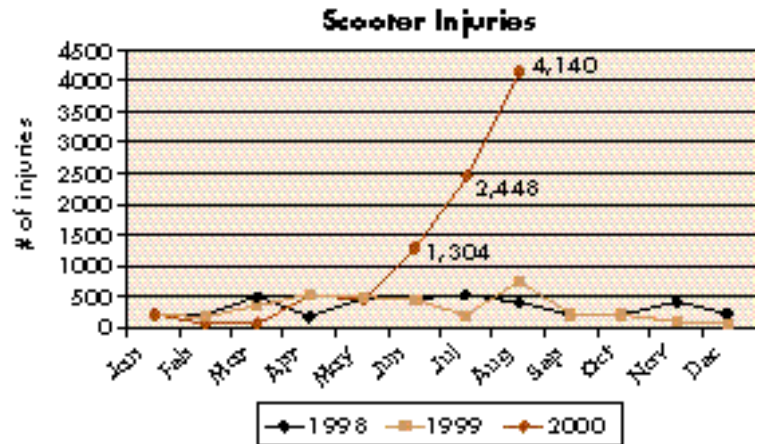
Reporting on childhood injury:

Scooter injury alert



Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH
Director, Injury Prevention Center,
T Children's Medical Center; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
and Public Health, Univ. of CT School of Medicine

With the recent popularity of unpowered, lightweight scooters, injuries associated with them have increased dramatically, nearly doubling each month since May 2000. In August 2000 alone there were over 4,100 emergency department injuries. This is more than there were in either of the two previous full years combined.



SOURCE: NEWS FROM CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, 8/2000

Scooter sales/injuries soar

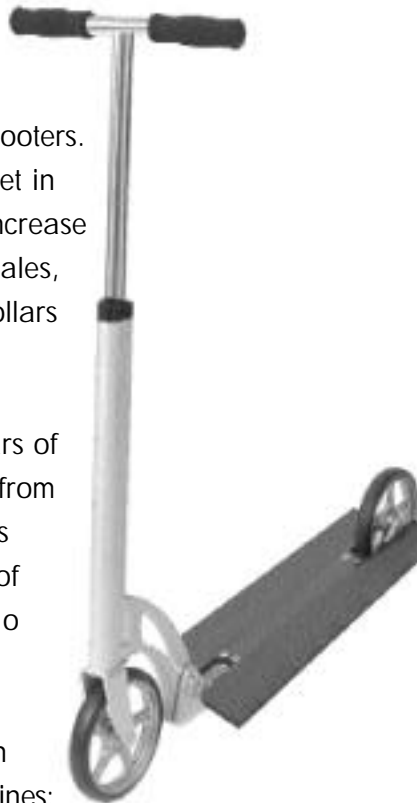
The Consumer Product Safety Commission has reported a 700% increase in emergency room-treated injuries related to the popular new scooters.

The scooters first went on the market in the United States last year, and the increase in injuries has been reflective of the sales, which will total nearly 200 million dollars this year.

Ninety percent of scooter injuries occurred in children less than 15 years of age. Most injuries resulted from falls from the scooter. Fractures and dislocations were reported most frequently. Most of these were to the arms and hands. No deaths have been reported.

Connecticut SAFE KIDS and the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend the following safety guidelines:

- Wear a helmet that meets safety standards, as well as knee and elbow pads
- Ride the scooter on smooth, paved surfaces without any traffic. Avoid streets and surfaces with water, sand, gravel or dirt.
- Do not ride the scooter at night ⁿ



Safety Celebrity

Connecticut has its very own nationally recognized safety star. Mouy Taing, a seventh-grader from Granby entered the National SAFE KIDS American Plastics Council Safety Contest in the spring.

She wrote an eloquent essay on how a seatbelt saved her life when she and her family were involved in a horrific car crash. She was one of 20 children selected as grand prize winners from more than 12,000 essays.

In addition to receiving a U.S. Savings Bond, Mouy will be a safety ambassador in her community: She has chosen to distribute 100 bicycle helmets in her neighborhood during a bike rodeo.

To read a copy of Mouy's essay, visit the Connecticut SAFE KIDS website at www.ctsafekids.org and link to "be a safety star." ⁿ

Why become a SAFE KIDS member?

- n You will receive the latest research and program information.
- n You will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost safety supplies and materials for your program.
- n You will be participating in an active, growing movement to reduce childhood injury.

Please send me a SAFE KIDS brochure and membership application.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone: (_____) _____

or call (860) 545-9988

Mark your calendar!

| | |
|--|--|
| October 2000 | Brain Injury Awareness Month |
| October 8-14, 2000 | National Fire Prevention Week |
| October 15-21 | National School Bus Safety Week |
| November 2, 2000 Noon – 2:00 | Coalition Meeting CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D |
| February 1, 2000 Noon – 2:00 | Coalition Meeting CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D |
| April 5, 2000 | Connecticut SAFE KIDS Second Annual Workshop DETAILS TBA |

**Car seat
check-up van
on a roll**



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www.ctsafekids.org

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