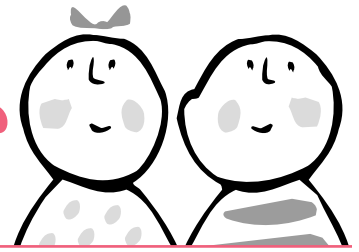




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

SPRING 2003

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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Just a Bump on the Head? Think Again!



After a long winter, spring sports can be a welcome relief to both children and parents. Yet, these sports are not without their risks. One of the most under-recognized risks is a concussion, specifically, "second impact syndrome." A concussion is any alteration in mental function after a blow to the head. There are an estimated 300,000 sports-related concussions every year in the United States. "Second impact syndrome" is when a person sustains a second concussion shortly (hours, days, weeks) after the first concussion. Receiving two or more blows to the head in a short time period can harm a person's thinking ability for years and can even be fatal. Children who participate in spring sports, such as baseball and soccer, as well as other seasonal sports, such as hockey, football, and basketball, are all at risk. Parents and coaches all need to be aware of the serious effect of concussions and know what to look for before returning their kids to athletic play.

Thanks to the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, Inc (BIAC) for this information. For more information on brain injuries and this syndrome, please visit www.biact.org. To receive a laminated card on the "Management of Concussions in Sports," please contact Barbara Nadeau at BIAC at 860-721-8111 x102. •

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy spring!
Connecticut SAFE
KIDS, along with
the other SAFE
KIDS coalitions in
Connecticut, has



Karen Brock

been working hard on our legislative effort, a booster seat bill introduced by Senator Bill Finch. In late February, our bill had its public hearing and we had a diverse group, which included parents, police officers, EMTs, physicians, and Connecticut SAFE KIDS, testify before the Transportation Committee. Additional information about the booster seat bill and other legislative things is available on our website, www.ctsafekids.org.

In addition to our legislative efforts, our winter has been very busy. We have helped host a four-day CPS class with the Greater Waterbury Chapter in Watertown, worked with the Injury Free Coalition for Kids on their booster seat program at Hartford elementary schools, and ran the new 2003 CPS update/refresher course. This spring, we are looking forward to our Annual Connecticut SAFE KIDS Conference on April 3rd, and SAFE KIDS Day on May 8th.

I hope everyone has a busy and safe spring!

Karen
Karen Brock

Graduates from child passenger safety class get to work

Congratulations to the two classes of child passenger safety technicians that were recently certified! Connecticut SAFE KIDS with its two chapters held two classes this fall and winter.

One was in Storrs with the Windham County chapter and the other in Watertown with the Greater Waterbury chapter. Good work to all involved! •

Watertown class, January 2003



Storrs class, October 2002

Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grant Awards



Congratulations to the Spring 2003 Keep Kids Safe License Plate grantees! In February, these groups received funding for their programs to keep kids safe from unintentional injuries.

- Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, Inc., “More Than Just a Bump on the Head” project
- Bridgeport Hispanic Firefighters, Inc., “Spanish Fire Prevention Educational Program”
- New London County SAFE KIDS, a four-part traveling “Water Safety Educational Program”
- Saint Mary’s Hospital, Women’s and Infants Center, “Dial-a-Belt” Mobile Seat

The next round of Keep Kids Safe License Plate grant applications will be available in August.

It’s that time of year again!

Don’t forget to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when we change the time on April 6th. Day-light Saving Time is the perfect time to make sure all detectors are in working order! •



New website for children with special needs

Children with special healthcare needs often require special seating and support throughout their lifetime, making safe transportation challenging. The Safe Transport Project at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, supported by a grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau and Directed by Eileen Henzy, MPH, has created a web site that provides a chart of special needs car seats as well as links to resources for safe transport and FAQs. Please take a look and be sure that ALL children ride safely: www.ccmckids.org/safetransport.



Keep informed of Connecticut SAFE KIDS happenings! Sign up for our listserve at groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsafekids.



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Greater Waterbury Chapter

The Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS sponsored a car seat tech class in January at the Watertown Fire Department. All of the people who attended the class were certified, while Chris LaRiviere became an instructor. Also in January, the chapter participated in a day-long injury prevention fair at Center Elementary School in Terryville for grades K through 6. At the fair, 525 students had the opportunity to go through six different injury prevention stations: fire safety (with the Terryville Fire Department); fingerprinting (with the Terryville Police); bicycle helmet safety; pedestrian safety; poison control; and "911". It was fast, effective and noisy!! Finally, in February, a car seat clinic was held at the AMR garage in Waterbury, where there was actually one car seat that was installed properly! Please contact Sheila Staib at 203-597-3655 or ssaib@stmh.org for more information.

Windham County Chapter

The Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS received several donations this winter, including a generous \$500 donation from the Willimantic Elks Haunted House Committee and \$524 from the Willimantic Rotary to purchase 75 bike helmets, which will be distributed from the Windham Community Memorial Hospital's (WCMH) Emergency Room. Additionally, the chapter is working with WCMH's monthly childbirth education classes on educating expectant parents on child passenger safety.

In January/February, two chapter members were very active with the booster seat bill. When meeting with Rep. Walter Pawelkiewicz, they gave him 259 signed letters from parents and caregivers supporting the bill, and

he co-sponsored the bill! Finally, the Windham chapter will hold their big bike rodeo in May and will work with the foster children of Windham and Tolland Counties for this event. For more information on the chapter, please contact Karin Davis at (860) 423-4534 ext 318 or at wrc.kdavis@snet.net.

Fairfield County

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK) has been very busy on the legislative front with their sister coalitions. It is hoped that the next newsletter you receive will have BOOSTER SEAT LEGISLATION PASSED in bold letters across the front page. In February, Bob Cordes, along with Ed Hedge, taught the new National SAFE KIDS CPS Update at the Mohegan Sun Government Center. Information about FCSK's schedule of upcoming classes, including their April 32-hour CPS Training, can be found on their web site: www.fcsafekids.org. Having just returned from the Lifesavers Conference in Chicago, FCSK asks that you look at www.lifesaversconference.org/workshop_2003.htm to find all presentations and handouts from the conference. Finally, FCSK will hold the 9th annual Timothy Coppola bicycle rodeo in Stamford on May 3rd. Last year 1,500 children passed through the safety course and hundreds of volunteers attended, but new volunteers are always welcome in this very rewarding day. For more information, please contact Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway at 203-325-5566, or at rcordes@fcsafekids.org or cconway@fcsafekids.org.

New London County

Highlights of SAFE KIDS New London County's (NLCSK) activities include the child safety seat inspection

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

APRIL 21 – 25, 2003

National Window Safety Week

MAY 3 – 10, 2003

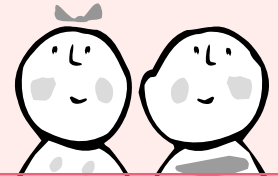
National SAFE KIDS Week
"Wrap Your Arms Around Safety"

MAY 2003

National Bike Safety Month

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Coalition Meeting
Noon – 2pm
Location: TBA



station which has checked over 800 seats since its inception in May and is promoting booster seat use by giving away a booster seat a week, with the help of a local radio station. Also related to child passenger safety, NLCSK conducted a two day awareness program for child care providers about transporting children, and is running at least one car seat clinic a month (the list of clinics is available at www.nlcsafekids.org). Additionally, NLCSK received a \$2,500 grant for a water safety kit (anyone interested in borrowing this kit, please call NLCSK). Finally, in March NLCSK ran a FREE sports safety workshop that included coaches, parks and recreation departments and officials. For more information, please contact Esther Schuman at 860-442-0733 or esther@community-partnerships.com.

Valley Amity

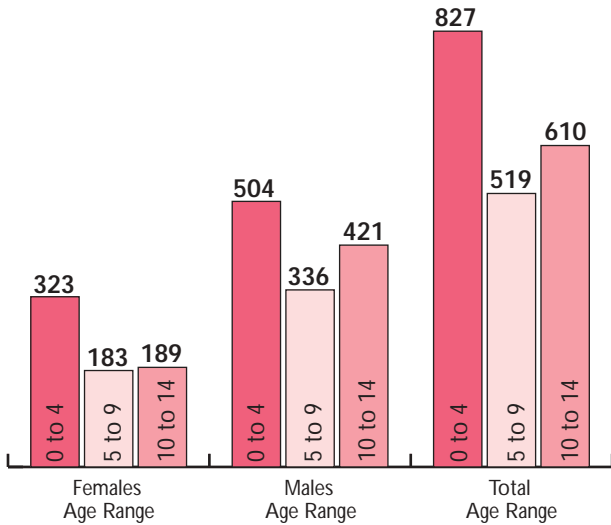
For more information, please contact June Marcucio or Frank Marcucio at 203-888-8843 or at JCMFFM@aol.com or svacems@aol.com.



Head injury, a special concern

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



Head Injuries in Connecticut, 1995-1999, based on hospital admissions

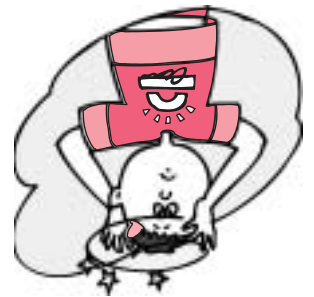
Source: Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

In very young children, the head is proportionally larger and heavier than in older children and adults—making it a prominent point of injury—and is associated with a large percentage of injury hospitalizations and deaths. In Connecticut, from 1995-99, there were 1,956 hospitalizations (391 per year) due to head injury among persons under the age of 15. Head injury hospitalizations in each age group were higher among boys than girls.

The leading causes of head injury are injuries from falls

(41%), bicycles (16%), motor vehicle crashes (occupant) (13%), and pedestrian injuries (10%). While children who survive head injuries may experience long-term impairments, children with mild injuries can also have lingering physical, psychosocial, and behavioral changes. Head injury prevention measures (e.g., helmets, occupant restraint devices, window guards, stairway gates), if universally adopted, would have an immediate effect on reducing the magnitude of this problem. •

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Think Again!



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