Don’t Knock Your Noggin!

More children ages 5-14 go to emergency rooms for bicycle-related injuries than with any other sport; many are head injuries. Like car crashes, bicycle crashes can happen at any time. Helmets are the single most effective piece of safety equipment riders of all ages can use. Everyone should choose to wear a helmet; it just makes sense!

For this reason, this summer a program for free bike helmets was created. This program is being offered to WIC clients for their children 5 years and under. Each child who is eligible receives a bike helmet and is fitted by certified bike helmet fitters. Education is given to each parent and the kids are allowed to pick out reflective stickers to put on their helmet. So far, the program has been very successful.
Heatstroke Safety Tips

Babies and young kids can sometimes sleep so peacefully that we forget they are even there. It can also be tempting to leave a baby alone in a car while we quickly run into the store. The problem is that leaving a child alone in a car can lead to serious injury or death from heatstroke. Young children are particularly at risk, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult’s. These tragedies are completely preventable. Here’s how we can all work together to keep kids safe from heatstroke.

Reduce the number of deaths from heatstroke by remembering to ACT

A: Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you’re not in it so kids don’t get in on their own.

C: Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you’re not following your normal routine.

T: Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.

Go a Step Further: Create Extra Reminders and Communicate with Daycare

- Create a calendar reminder for your electronic devices to make sure you dropped your child off at daycare.
- Develop a plan with your daycare so that if your child is late, you’ll be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off children at daycare.

Teach Kids Not to Play in Cars

- Make sure to lock your vehicle, including doors and trunk, when you’re not using it. Keep keys and remote entry fobs out of children’s sight and reach.
- Teach kids that trunks are for transporting cargo and are not safe places to play. If your child is missing, get help and check swimming pools, vehicles and trunks.
- If your children are locked in a car, get them out as quickly as possible and dial 911 immediately. Emergency personnel are trained to evaluate and check for signs of heatstroke.

For more information visit www.safekids.org
Coalition Events from May to June 2014

The Third Annual National Bike to School Day
At County Line Elementary School in Germantown, 68 students rode to school along with their parents. Injury Prevention Coalition members Michelle Large from the Washington County Health Department and Officer Ray Borden from the Germantown Police Department greeted them as they arrived at the bike racks.

At Barton Elementary in West Bend, Injury Prevention Coalition members Lori Loof and Beth Bellin from the Washington County Health Department greeted 27 students and their parents at the bike racks. Injury Prevention goodie bags were given out to all students at both locations. It was a great way to start the day.

The Second Annual West Bend Fire Department Open House and Safe Kids Car Seat Check
was held at Station #3. Seventeen car seats were checked and installed. Some of the other fun activities on that day were face painting, home safety, safety wheel, home safety game, safety buttons, CPR and blood pressure checks by the firefighters. Kids could also have their picture taken on the old 1929 fire engine truck.

Street Smart Kidz
The Injury Prevention Coalition partnered with Officer Eric Rasmussen from the Hartford Police Department along with Principal Neil Hanlon at Lincoln Elementary School in Hartford to present this program. Ninety-one 3rd grade students received bike and pedestrian safety education and reinforcement of safe street crossing. Along with the education, the students participated in a “put on the brakes activity” which educates students on how long it takes a vehicle to stop, reflectivity and a bike/scooter rodeo. 78 students received free bike helmets by our certified bike helmet fitters.

Super Safety Summer Day Camp
On a sunny warm muggy day at Glacier Hills County Park in June, Washington County Injury Prevention Coalition members Beth Bellin and Lori Loof distributed and fitted 25 bike helmets along with coalition members Michelle Large and Kelly Scannell at Super Summer Safety Day Camp. Safety gear was also discussed with the five to ten year old children. A very fun safety gear relay race was the highlight of the day.
Michelle Large has been with the WCIPC for 11 years. She is the beauty and the brains behind the coalition. Her hard work, planning, organizing and presence can be seen at all of the coalition events. Also, Michelle has worked for the Health Department for 27 years! She is a Certified Car Seat Technician. She educates and assists parents and grandparents on car seats for the safety of Washington County’s littlest ones. In addition, she helps with the Well Women Program and assists with many behind the scenes activities at the Health Department on a day to day basis. We are so thankful for Michelle!

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Marcel Proust

Washington County Injury Prevention Coalition
meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am.
For more information on the meetings please call Lori Loof at 262-335-4471

Community Partners

Washington County Health Department
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Human Services
Medical Examiner
Sheriff Department

Hartford Community Service, Inc

Washington County Injury Prevention Coalition