

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS:

April 12, 2012-Safe  
Routes to School  
Training Workshop

April 18, 2012-Safe  
Kids Sports Safety  
Webinar

April 21-28, 2012-  
Safe Kids Week

April 24, 2012-  
Webinar: Leaving  
No Stone Unturned:  
Tips and Tricks for  
Funding Your SRTS  
Program

May 3-4, 2012-The  
2012 Injury Preven-  
tion Conference  
sponsored by Safe  
Kids Indiana and the  
Automotive Safety  
Program

May 9, 2012-First  
National Bike to  
School Day

May 19-25, 2012-  
National Safe Boat-  
ing Week

Plan a sports safety  
event to coincide  
with the Summer  
Olympics!

Contact Jamie at  
317.948.3218 or  
smithjak@iupui.edu  
to learn more de-  
tails!

# Safe Kids Indiana

SPRING 2012

## Did You Know?

*Excerpts from a new report  
from Safe Kids Worldwide:*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **about 165 young kids every day are seen in emergency rooms after getting into medications.**

While the death rate among children from poisoning has been cut in half since the late 1970s, medication deaths as a percentage of all child poisoning deaths have nearly doubled.

**What's responsible for this disturbing trend?**

There are many reasons: more medications than ever are in the home, including prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, vitamins, and herbals; the pace of today's lifestyle means that medications may not be properly stored immediately after every use; a rise in multi-generational households in which children may now have greater access to grandparents' medications; working and single parents relying on multiple caregivers, who may not coordinate closely on the timing of

children's dosages; and formulation of children's medications that are designed to taste good and may entice children to take them when unsupervised.

Safe Kids Worldwide decided to examine this issue and researched historical trends in morbidity and mortality of unintentional medication overdoses among children ages 14 and under.

**How can we reduce the threat?**

Consider this: among young children, 95% of unintentional medication overdose visits to emergency departments are caused by a child ingesting medication while unsupervised and approximately 5% are due to dosing errors made by caregivers. **Safe storage and safe dosing mean safer kids.**

By continuing the progress we have made through packaging and labeling improvements, providing dosing information and educating children's caregivers, we can reduce medication-related poisoning deaths, calls to poison control centers and trips to the emer-

gency room even further. **Use Poison Control Centers**

The poison control center network, composed of 57 centers across the nation, provides free, direct assistance, a service that medical professionals should take full advantage of as it benefits society in two ways.

First, the network reduces medical costs by fostering more efficient and effective care.

Consultation with a poison control center by medical staff has been shown to decrease the length of stay for patients admitted to a health care facility and results in an average saving of more than \$2,000 per patient.

Second, calls to poison control centers by medical professionals contribute to public health surveillance conducted by the poison control center network.

Go to <http://www.safekids.org/assets/docs/safety-basics/safety-tips-by-risk-area/medicine-safety-study-2012.pdf>

for a full version of the report!



**Safe Kids  
Indiana  
Preventing  
Injuries:  
At Home,  
At Play,  
And On The  
Way!**

## Safe Routes to School

The Indiana Department of Transportation's application cycle for 2012 Safe Routes to School funding is now open.

**Applications are due to the INDOT Central Office by 3 pm on May 29, 2012;** however, please note that applications requiring INDOT district endorsement must be submitted to the appropriate district office for review by May 14th. **Training Workshop - Preparing a Successful Safe Routes to School Funding Application**

There will be a training workshop to provide information and guidance for potential applicants. The agenda will include: an overview of INDOT's application, review and award process; tips, guidance and lessons learned from successful past applicants; and plenty of time for Q&A, discussion and networking. The workshop will be held on Thursday, April

12, from 9 am - Noon at the American College of Sports Medicine (401 W. Michigan Street, Indianapolis).

Register for this workshop at: <http://healthbydesignonline.org/index.html>

## Safe Kids Buckle Up Badge of Courage Award

Safe Kids Buckle Up encourages coalitions to identify local heroes (law enforcement, EMS, or citizens) who helped play a role in rescuing a child from a hot car.

**Goals of Award Program**  
Invite nominations from the field to:

- Recognize those who help rescue children from hot cars to help prevent heat stroke.
- Promote the norm and encourage citizens to call 911 when they see a young child alone in a car.
- Encourage law enforcement and EMS to get unattended children out of hot cars to help prevent heat stroke.
- Educate about the dan-

gers of (and in some cases, laws about) leaving young children unattended in cars.

Please don't forget to talk with families about the dangers of leaving children in vehicles at your local Health Fairs this spring and summer!

## Spot the Tot<sup>SM</sup>

Danger can come from any direction, and parents must be aware of the risk of "backover" incidents. Many of these preventable injuries and deaths occur in driveways or parking lots when drivers are unaware children are near vehicles.

Tragically, these drivers are often family members or friends of the injured child.

Remember, Safe Kids Coalition/Chapter Coordinators can request to borrow the Spot the Tot<sup>SM</sup> carpet for their Community Events. This carpet provides a powerful visual aid to caregivers about the dangers of backovers. Contact Jamie at 317.948.3218 or [smithjak@iupui.edu](mailto:smithjak@iupui.edu) to learn more.

### Upcoming webinars:

April 24, 2012: Injury Prevention Services Survey

June 19, 2012: Drowning Prevention Programs

August 21, 2012: Pedestrian Safety Models for Success

Go to [www.childrenshospitals.net/InjuryPrevention](http://www.childrenshospitals.net/InjuryPrevention) to learn more!