

Lincoln-Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition



Highlights of 2002

NATIONAL

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign was founded in 1987 to prevent the number one killer of the nation's children ages 14 and under - unintentional injuries.

STATE

The campaign works through over 400 state and local coalitions to address the major areas of unintentional injury. The Nebraska Chapter is coordinated through Nebraska Health and Human Services System. There are currently 4 SAFE KIDS local coalitions in Nebraska. The cities of Kearney, Grand Island and Hastings together comprise a coalition, and there are coalitions in Omaha, Lincoln and Oneill.

LOCAL

The Lincoln-Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition was chartered in 1996. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department serves as the lead agency. The priority injury areas addressed by the coalition include: bicycle safety, child passenger safety and child pedestrian safety. In addition, the Coalition is active in other areas of childhood unintentional injuries, such as fire, burn, home and playground safety.

During 2002, the Coalition coordinated or was involved in the following community based injury prevention activities:

- ★ 8 child safety seat check ups (627 carseats checked...91% misuse rate; 287 free seats provided).
- ★ 28 elementary school bike safety rodeos (300+ low cost helmets sold).
- ★ Helmet safety presentations to over 2000 middle school students (500+ helmets given to students signing pledge to wear them).
- ★ Ultimate SAFE KIDS Day (500+ residents received safety information on home, playground, bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle occupant protection -- approximately 150 helmets were sold).
- ★ School-based pedestrian safety programs (1200+ elementary students participated in safety walks through their neighborhoods).

Injury-Related Information:

- ★ There are 48,798 Lancaster county children 14 years of age and younger (2000 census).
- ★ From 1992-1999, 43,748 Lancaster County children 14 years of age and younger received hospital care for unintentional injuries.
- ★ The leading cause of unintentional injury to Lancaster County children 14 years of age and under is falls (13,689 fall injuries from 1992-1999). The leading cause of unintentional injury resulting in death is motor vehicle crashes (11 motor vehicle crash deaths from 1992-1999).
(Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Injury Surveillance Report 2001)

Legislative Update:

- ★ State child passenger protection law requires children under 6 years to be in a child safety seat, and children under 16 years to wear seatbelts (revised 2002).
- ★ No existing helmet law or ordinance for bikes, scooters, rollerblades, and skateboards.
- ★ Various regulations pertaining to smoke detectors, building codes, playground equipment, and child care facilities.

Current Lincoln-Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition Members:

• BryanLGH Medical Center • Lancaster County Sheriff's Office • Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs • Lincoln Fire and Rescue • Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department • Lincoln Parks and Recreation • Lincoln Police Department • Lincoln Public Schools Nurses • Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital • Mothers Against Drunk Driving • Nebraska Health and Human Services System • Nebraska Safety Council, Inc. • St. Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center • SouthPointe Pavilions • State Farm Insurance

The Lincoln-Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition is making a difference.

Please help us keep children from suffering potentially tragic and life-altering injuries. For more information on the Lincoln-Lancaster County SAFE KIDS Coalition and how you can be involved, call the coordinators:

**Brian Baker, 441-8046
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.**

**Susan Epps, 483-9508
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital**

CHILDHOOD INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE.

