

GRANDPARENT ADVOCATES

"Grandma/Grandpa, Keep Me Safe!" is a new program started by the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and its partners, the Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center (AASCSC) and the Orange County Korean American Health Information and Education Center (OCKAHIEC).

This program, focusing on working with Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese grandparents to improve injury prevention for children 0-5 years of age, is funded by the Child Injury Prevention Initiative through the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

"This is such a wonderful program that utilizes grandparents to become child injury prevention health advocates. The grandparents will learn about preventing child drownings, poisonings, falls, burns, and transportation related injuries and then educate other grandparents, parents, and caregivers in the community," said Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director of OCAPICA.

The project was brought about because of the high number of monolingual Asian grandparents who are responsible for taking care of their young grandchildren, yet do not receive information about child injury prevention in their native language. Audrey Doan, the Vietnamese Health Educator on the program, conducted a needs assessment with Vietnamese grandparents. She found that none knew about the law requiring children under 60 pounds or 6 years and younger to be in a child safety or booster seat in the back seat of a car.

In addition to training Asian grandparents to be child injury prevention advocates, the "Grandma/Grandpa Keep Me Safe" program is developing child injury prevention materials in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese to be

distributed by pediatricians in the community, as well as conducting outreach education throughout the community at stores, community centers, churches, temples, beauty salons, schools and through the ethnic media.

If you would like more information about the program, contact OCAPICA at 714-636-9095.



Health Educator, Audrey Doan discussing child injury prevention with a mother and grandmother



CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 4, AAP IPP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2004 • 8:00 a.m.

CHOC PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS:

Pediatric Preventive Medicine

SPEAKERS Kenneth Miller, MD, and Bryan Hanley

BS, NREMT-P - County of Orange Health

Care Agency, Emergency Medical

Services Department

LOCATION CHOC Harold Wade Education Center

APRIL 1, 2004 • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

INJURY PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE MEETING

LOCATION CHOC Harold Wade Education Center

APRIL 21, 2004 • 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

3RD ANNUAL JACK AND JILL CAN'T GET UP THE HILL:

The role of physical activity and nutrition in childhood injury prevention

LOCATION CHOC Harold Wade Education Center

For more information about any of these events, please contact the California Chapter 4, AAP IPP at (714) 971-0695.



Having fun coloring a home safety book and learning about preventing injuries in the home



TODDLER DROWNINGS/NEAR-DROWNINGS ARE NOT SEASONAL

"Revived toddler has brain damage: Damage done when child underwater for 10 minutes." — *Los Angeles Times* 12/11/03

"Toddler drowns in backyard pool." — *KABC News online* 11/12/03

In the last months of 2003, one Orange County child died and one child remains severely disabled from falling into residential pools. Just one year earlier, also during the months of November and December, two OC children similarly drowned.

Neither of the children involved in these recent events was prevented from entering the pool. This

is because neither pool had the only proven effective barrier – a fence that is:

- 4-sided to isolate the pool from the home
- at least 4 feet high
- non-climbable
- equipped with a self-closing, self-latching gate.

Although pool fencing is

the only proven effective strategy, additional preventive strategies must be used since pool fencing has only prevented approximately 50% of drownings among young children. Other essential strategies include controlling egress from the home or garage (with door locks, knobs, out of reach latches and elimination of "doggie doors") and supervision (knowing where the child is at all times is critical). Lapses in supervision are inevitable even with the most vigilant of parents and caregivers.

We pediatricians need to:

- **Advocate for stronger regulations.** Current California law only requires residential pool barriers for new construction. It does not require a pool barrier at time of sale or lease of an existing pool. The AAP recommends this type of legislation and has a

model bill which can be accessed at www.aap.org.

■ Include anticipatory counseling regarding drowning prevention:

- Ask parents if their young children have access to swimming pools.
- Inform them that drowning is the leading cause of death for Orange County toddlers and discuss the prevention strategies.
- Help parents understand the urgency of installing residential pool isolation fencing for existing home pools.
- Help parents and caregivers to realize that the risks of having access to a residential pool may far outweigh any benefits.
- Point out that swimming lessons for toddlers are not a proven drowning prevention strategy.

Perhaps we should even begin recommending that families with young children avoid moving into homes or apartments with unfenced swimming pools and spas.

ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR DROWNING PREVENTION AND POOL FENCING GUIDELINES

- California Chapter 4, American Academy of Pediatrics, SCIPP www.ockeepkidssafe.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics: Policy statement on drowning prevention and swim lessons www.aap.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SafeUSA www.cdc.gov
- Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov
- National SAFE KIDS Campaign and Orange County SAFE KIDS Coalition www.safekids.org



WHAT'S NEW IN HOME SAFETY?

In the summer of 2002, the Orange County SAFE KIDS Coalition conducted a survey of local community-based home visitation agencies in an effort to identify agencies incorporating home safety education in their programs. Fourteen (14) agencies participated in this survey. All expressed interest in participating in formal home safety training for their staff. Based on this information, the Coalition applied for and received a grant in 2003 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to provide training to county home visitors.

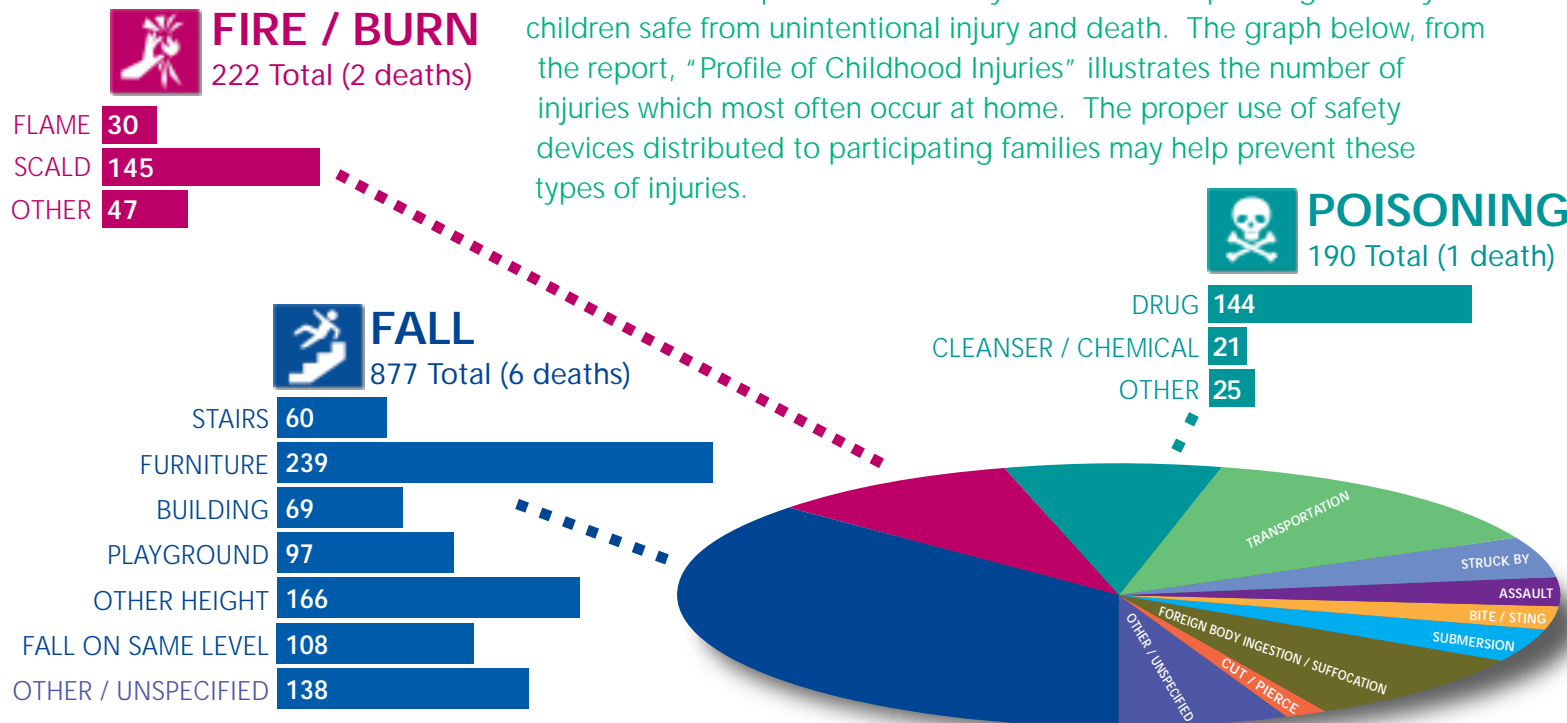
The Home Safety Committee of the Orange County SAFE KIDS Coalition devised a two-pronged approach to address home safety needs of Orange County families receiving home visitation services and the agency staff providing them.

First, in-depth staff training was provided to 52 home visitors in core community-based organizations. In addition, two community-based agencies – Maternal Outreach Management Systems (MOMS) and VNA Home Health

Systems – were given further home safety training for their staff in June of the same year. Second, a home safety assessment tool was developed and implemented, and child safety devices were chosen and purchased. These devices, along with educational materials, were provided at no cost to families that permitted a home safety assessment.

MOMS and VNA Home Health Systems staff surveyed 212 homes. A total of 2,323 safety devices were provided to low-income families in Orange County. Overall, assessment results showed the salient safety issues among the families surveyed included an absence of electrical outlet covers, window stops and emergency phone numbers posted in the residence, inconsistent use of water temperature testing devices in the child's bath and irregular testing of household smoke detectors. These results reinforce the ongoing need for

interventions to improve home safety in order to keep Orange County's children safe from unintentional injury and death. The graph below, from the report, "Profile of Childhood Injuries" illustrates the number of injuries which most often occur at home. The proper use of safety devices distributed to participating families may help prevent these types of injuries.



"1998-2000 Leading Causes of Death and Hospitalization for Orange County Children Ages 0-5."

Profile of Childhood Injuries, 0-5 years produced and distributed by the California Chapter 4 AAP, IPP. Data analysis for this report was done by Diane Winn, RN, MPH, Child Injury and Transportation Safety Research Group at the University of California, Irvine using data provided by California Department of Health Services EPIC Branch.

Kids In and Around Cars

New Legislation to Track Non-traffic Car-related Injuries

The Orange County Register, in a January 3, 2004 article, calls our attention to what seems to be a rising epidemic of car-related injuries in Orange County since 1995 — "24 [children] were crushed in driveways or parking lots, often beneath SUVs or minivans driven by loved ones; and two died of heat stroke after being accidentally left inside parked cars on hot days." In 2003, two children died in Orange County in similar events.

Nationwide last year, at least 128 children died in such incidents, up 11 percent over 2002 and up 39 percent over 2001. The true extent of the problem is unknown, because nontraffic-related, non-crash incidents are not officially tracked. "Tracking these events will provide the documentation needed for implementing the technology needed to detect and protect children," according to Diane Winn, co-director, UCI Child Injury and Transportation Safety Research Group.

SUVs, minivans and light trucks with restricted visibility are more often involved in residential back-over injuries to children. Most of these injuries are to

children younger than 5 years, who are not easily seen, move quickly and are unaware of the hazards.

The Cameron Gulbransen

Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2003, a bill recently introduced in Congress, will require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to track such incidents, test technology that would alert busy parents to dangers, and set standards for installing new safety devices into SUVs, pickup trucks and minivans. Representatives Peter King, R-N.Y., and Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., sponsor the bill named for Cameron Gulbransen, a 2-year-old killed when his father backed over him with the family's SUV in New York last year. **You can support**

this bill by contacting your local representative and asking him/her to vote for HR 3683. In addition to supporting legislation, consider advising your patients to purchase vehicles with **detect and protect technology** (e.g. mirrors and backup devices that detect and warn of the presence of children; sensing/warning devices that alert adult drivers and passengers when children are left in the vehicle).

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Injury Prevention Program

California Chapter 4, American Academy of Pediatrics
12377 Lewis Street, #103 • Garden Grove, CA 92840 • (714) 971-0695 • www.ockeepkidssafe.org

The California Chapter 4, American Academy of Pediatrics Injury Prevention Program was developed in 2001 with the mission to contribute to the prevention of injury, death and disability and secure wellness for children age 0-5 years and their families. Funding for this project is provided by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

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