

Research in Action

A bimonthly e-newsletter from the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Center Study Pinpoints Most Common Teen Driver Errors Leading to a Crash

A new study conducted by the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP and funded by State Farm Insurance Companies® hones in on the most common errors teen drivers make that lead to a serious crash. The findings, published this month in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, were based on an analysis of a nationally-representative federal database of more than 800 teen driver crashes. These "critical errors" are often one of the last in a chain of events leading up to a crash and include lack of scanning for hazards, going too fast for road conditions, and being distracted by something inside or outside the vehicle.

"This study helps dispel the myth that most teen crashes are due to aggressive driving or thrill-seeking," says Allison Curry, PhD, lead author and director of CIRP's Epidemiology and Biostatistics core. "Promoting safe driving skills is as important as preventing problem behaviors." By determining the specific types of teen driver errors most likely to lead to a crash, this study provides new evidence to support advocacy for more hazard detection and speed management training as part of formal driver education and their inclusion in guidelines for parent-supervised driving practice.

[Read the MSN Health Report article](#)

[Read the press release](#)

[Read the abstract](#)

Increasing Awareness of the AAP's New CPS Recommendations

This month, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released its updated recommendations on how best to protect child occupants from motor vehicle injury in the journal *Pediatrics*. To help traffic safety stakeholders and parents better understand the science behind the updates and their implications for action, Dr. Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE, CIRP co-scientific director and lead

Focus On: Kristen Kohser, LMSW



In her role as Research Coordinator at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) at CHOP, Kristen Kohser, LMSW, is able to utilize her sociology and social work background. As part of the Behavioral Research Core at CIRP, she and her team are working to better understand the consequences of pediatric injury and develop effective strategies to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in children.

Working with Nancy Kassam-Adams, PhD, CIRP associate director of Behavioral Research, Meghan Marsac, PhD, CIRP director of Training and a behavioral researcher, and Flora Winston, MD PhD, CIRP co-scientific director, Kohser has been heavily involved in creating AfterTheInjury.org, the center's award-winning website that helps parents help their children recover from injury. In addition current activities in which she collaborates to develop a child-user portion of the site, she also

author of the AAP's new Policy Statement and Technical Report on Child Passenger Safety, participated in a comprehensive communications effort, collaborating with the AAP and Safe Kids USA. Efforts included media interviews placed in more than 500 news outlets, a parent-focused podcast, a presentation at the Lifesavers Conference and, most recently, a webinar for 500 CPS Technician Instructors. CIRP would like to acknowledge the Association of Global Automakers for its generous support of the webinar and podcast production.

[View the podcast, a taped version of the webinar, the presentation slides, news coverage, and the AAP's policy statement](#)

Sign Up Now for 'Advances in Child Injury Prevention 2011' Conference

Safety professionals in industry, government, education/training, and research are invited to hear about the recent advances in child occupant protection and teen driving safety at an upcoming conference hosted by the National Science Foundation [Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies \(CChIPS\)](#) at CHOP. "Advances in Child Injury Prevention 2011" will be held in Plymouth, MI on May 12 and 13, 2011. Formerly known as the "Manufacturers Briefing Conference," this informative event will feature David Champion, senior director of Consumers Union's Automotive Test Division, as the keynote speaker. The conference is made possible with support from Gold Sponsors Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America and Volkswagen Group of America Inc. and Silver Sponsors Britax Child Safety Inc., Chrysler Group LLC, Diversified Technical Systems Inc. (DTS), General Motors Holding LLC, Lear Corporation, and Nissan Technical Center North America Inc. If you or your company would like to sponsor this unique conference, please contact Caitlin Locey at 267-426-2857 or loceyc@email.chop.edu.

[Register now for the conference.](#)

CChIPS Welcomes New Members to Its Cooperative

At its biannual Industry Advisory Board (IAB) meeting on March 30-April 1, the National Science Foundation [Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies \(CChIPS\)](#) welcomed Humanetics, a leading crash test dummy manufacturer, as a member and expanded its research capabilities by partnering with The Ohio State University (OSU) as its second research site.

While the majority of its research is currently focused on preventing road traffic injuries, the leading cause of injury and death for children and young adults, CChIPS plans to diversify into new research thrust areas such as sports injury prevention and orthopedic biomechanics.

spearheads efforts to make AfterTheInjury.org more accessible and user-friendly to online visitors. Using the Center's recently obtained Google Grant which assists the advertising efforts of nonprofit organizations, Kohser works with the Center's Information Technology team to improve the site's search engine optimization (SEO), a key part of improving patient care by building awareness.

Kohser says improving the user experience for the site is extremely important. "Following a pediatric injury, parents may understand how to help their children physically recover, but the emotional aspect isn't something they necessarily know to be aware of and to monitor," she says. "Our site helps them to manage this often overlooked portion of the recovery process. It's important that parents know the site is there as a resource, which is why improving the SEO is so critical."

Kohser is also working with Dr. Kassam-Adams to develop the *PTSD after Acute Child Trauma (PACT)* data archive. The short-term goals of this global initiative are to archive previously collected prospective data on PTSD in children following an injury and to develop a system for sharing data that will have a continuing impact on PTSD research and treatment. An international collaboration, data are currently being collected from the U.S., Australia, Germany, China, the United Kingdom, and France.

"PACT will allow researchers to analyze various sets of PTSD-related data from all over the world side-by-side. The long-term goal of this research is to develop and test a set of risk assessment tools for screening children for PTSD at various intervals after they suffer a trauma," says Kohser. "It's a really unique way for this data to live on and have a lasting impact on pediatric care."

Kohser received her BA in Sociology and Master's in Social Work (MSW) from San Francisco State University. Prior to joining CIRP, she worked as a Mental Health Clinician at Lookout Mountain Community Services in LaFayette, GA and Chattanooga, TN where she provided therapeutic counseling, conducted psychosocial assessments, and developed treatment goals for patients.

The Center has allowed Kohser to expand upon her previous work with PTSD. "Before CIRP, I

[Read the CChIPS 2010 Annual Report.](#)

[Read the CChIPS 2010-2011 Research Portfolio.](#)

Learn How to Keep Teen Drivers Safe

On February 1 and 2, a CIRP-led train-the-trainer webinar immersed more than 200 public health and wellness practitioners, educators, and community leaders in teen driver safety issues and new instructional resources now available on teendriversource.org. This free suite of frontline instructional materials, called *Enhancing Education To Keep Teens Safe On The Road*, brings content found on the site to life through PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and activities for both teen and parent audiences.

Response to the webinar was overwhelmingly positive, with 99 percent of webinar attendees surveyed saying they plan to implement the training they received—in school, community or workplace settings. Missed the webinar? Not a problem: A recording of the three-hour webinar is available [online](#). Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH) for this webinar are also available from the [Society for Public Health Education \(SOPHE\)](#).

Recent Center Publications

Curry AE, Hafetz J, Kallan MJ, Winston FK, Durbin DR. [Prevalence of Teen Driver Errors Leading to Serious Motor Vehicle Crashes](#). *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. April 2011.

Zonfrillo MR, Nelson KA, Durbin DR. [Emergency Physicians' Knowledge and Provision of Child Passenger Safety Information](#). *Academic Emergency Medicine*. February 2011.

Recent Center Presentations

Cole V, Holm K, Hill S, Winston F. [Enhancing Education To Keep Teens Safe On The Road: Two-Part Webinar Series](#). Philadelphia, PA. February 1 and 2, 2011.

Curry A. [Prevalence of Critical Teen Driver Errors Leading to Motor Vehicle Crashes](#). Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities. Phoenix, AZ. March 27, 2011.

Donlon K, Kassam-Adams N, Kohser K, Winston F, and Marsac M. [The Use of a Web-based PTSS Prevention Tool for the Parents of Injured Children](#). National Conference in Pediatric Psychology. San Antonio, Texas. April 15, 2011 (poster presentation).

worked with veterans with PTSD and also with children in clinical settings, but my work here has allowed me to explore PTSD from a new, research-driven perspective. It's been a wonderful experience for me."

A Second Edition for *But I'm Almost 13!*

Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MEd, a CHOP Adolescent Medicine physician and member of CIRP's Teen Driver Research team, recently published a second edition of *But I'm Almost 13! An Action Plan for Raising a Responsible Adolescent* (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2011). The updated book focuses on families, schools, and communities preparing children and teens to thrive through both good and challenging times. [Click here to order a copy.](#)

Winston Receives Biomedical Engineering Honor



On February 21 [Flaura Winston MD, PhD](#), CIRP founder and co-scientific director, was accepted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). This honor is bestowed on leaders who have distinguished themselves as bioengineers in academia, industry, and government. Dr. Winston's many contributions to child injury prevention translational research were celebrated with this achievement.

Follow Key Child Injury Prevention Research on Twitter



Stay up-to-date on important child and teenager injury



prevention research and news via Twitter with regular postings from our very own "[safetymd](#)", [Flaura Winston, MD, PhD](#), co-scientific director at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP and a professor at The University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Think of this as your interactive "Headline News" for injury prevention, compiled, reviewed and summarized by one of the leading experts in the field.

As a vital part of their work, Dr. Winston and her colleagues at CIRP scan the literature and the Web for credible, scientific and other noteworthy contributions. Realizing that much of this information is not widely known, Dr. Winston posts summaries, with links to the original abstract or article when available, several times per week to Twitter. "I hope these posts will stimulate thought and discussion and that the scientific foundation for injury prevention will reach those who can affect change," says Dr. Winston. "I also look forward to learning from those who read my posts and share their knowledge and experience with me."

[Click here to follow safetymd](#). Join the injury prevention conversation and stay connected to stakeholders around the world who care about protecting children and teenagers. If you don't have a Twitter account, [set one up now](#).

Support Our Center

The dedicated doctors, researchers, and outreach professionals at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP are fighting to save the lives of children of all ages. But we need your help. To make a secure, on-line donation, please visit [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation Donation Page](#) and select "Center for Injury Research and Prevention" in the drop-down menu. You also may telephone the CHOP Foundation at 267-426-6500. For more information on our research and programs, please visit www.chop.edu/injury.

The Center's Websites

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (www.chop.edu/injury)

Keeping Kids Safe in Crashes – English language (www.chop.edu/carseat)

Durbin DR. [The American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) Updated Child Passenger Safety Recommendations](#). Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities. Phoenix, AZ. March 27, 2011.

Durbin DR. [Miles to Go: A National Teen Driver Safety Report](#). Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities. Phoenix, AZ. March 28, 2011.

Durbin DR. [The American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) Updated Child Passenger Safety Recommendations: Summary of the Evidence and Practical Implications](#). Webinar. Philadelphia, PA. April 5, 2011.

Hildenbrand AK, Banerjee L, Kohser K, Clawson KJ, Alderfer MA, and Marsac M. [Examining the Pediatric Cancer Experience: Stressors and Coping Strategies Among Children With Cancer and Their Parents](#). National Conference in Pediatric Psychology. San Antonio, Texas. April 16, 2011.

Hill SD. [Ride Like a Friend: An Evaluated Program That Promotes Safe Driver and Passenger Behaviors](#). Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities. Phoenix, AZ. March 27, 2011.

Kassam-Adams N, Winston F, Kohser K, and Marsac M. [Systematic Approach to Development of Sponsored Search Strategies](#). 5th International Conference of the International Society for Research on Internet Interventions. Sydney, Australia. April 6, 2011 (poster presentation).

Kassam-Adams N. [Helping Ill and Injured Children: Understanding and Preventing Medical Traumatic Stress](#). Invited workshop presented in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, and Brisbane under the auspices of the Australasian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. April 11-20, 2011.

Kassam-Adams N. [Pediatric Medical Traumatic Stress](#). Grand Rounds, Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. April 20, 2011.

Marsac M, Banerjee L, Barakat L, Kohser K, Hildenbrand A, Clawson K, Vinsel A, and Alderfer M. [Initial Development of an Innovative Tool to Enhance Adaptation to Pediatric Cancer](#). National Conference in Pediatric Psychology. San Antonio, Texas. April 16, 2011.

McDonald C, Guerra T, Teitelman A, Wiebe DJ, Thomas N, Richmond TS. [Stress and the City: Assets and Stressors for Girls Living in Violent Neighborhoods](#). 2011 Joint Annual Meeting of Safe States, SAVIR and CDC Core I and II State Injury Grantees. Coralville, Iowa. April 8, 2011.

Richmond T, Ackerson T, Ruzek J, Wiebe D, Winston F, and Kassam-Adams N. [Predictive Screener for Post-Injury Depression & PTSD](#). Eastern Nursing Research Society 23rd Annual Scientific Sessions. Philadelphia, PA. March 23, 2011.

Cómo Mantener a los Niños Fuera de Peligro
Durante los Choques – Spanish language
(www.chop.edu/asientos_infantiles)

Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention
Center (PCVPC)
(www.phillyviolenceprevention.org)

After The Injury: Helping Parents Help Their
Kids Recover (www.AfterTheInjury.org)

Ride Like A Friend
(www.ridelikeafriend.org)

teendriversource.org
(www.teendriversource.org)