A new study conducted by the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP found no association between children's weight and their risk of crash-related injury when seated in an appropriate child safety seat or belt-positioning booster seat. The findings, published online this month in *Pediatrics*, were based on an analysis of nearly 1,000 1- to 8-year-old children involved in crashes and suggest that children, regardless of their weight, are optimally protected in a crash as long as they are restrained according to the most recent recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

"Given that nearly 32 percent of children in the United States are categorized as overweight or obese, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for all children, we wanted to better understand how these two threats to children's health interact," says lead author Mark Zonfrillo, MD, MSCE, an attending emergency physician at CHOP, an investigator with CIRP's Epidemiology team, and an associate professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

The paper's results also reinforce the important role pediatricians and family physicians play in making sure their patients are well-protected in vehicles. During each visit where height and weight are evaluated, they should counsel parents to check their child's measurements against their child's safety seat and to refer them to [www.chop.edu/carseat](http://www.chop.edu/carseat) and their local certified child passenger safety technicians for more information and guidance.

Read the *New York Times* "Wheels" blog.  
Read the study abstract.  
Visit [www.chop.edu/carseat](http://www.chop.edu/carseat).

**Focus On:**  
**Student Opportunities at CIRP**

Alec McGinley, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania and part of the Center's inaugural Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, recently traveled to Arlington, VA to present his research. One of 73 students chosen to present at the 2011 Conference of REU Student Scholarship, McGinley exemplifies the National Science Foundation-funded REU program's mission to support active research participation by undergraduate students. In addition to McGinley, CIRP's summer 2011 REU program included seven exceptional students from schools around the country who worked side-by-side with researchers. Their injury prevention research projects spanned the fields of engineering, behavioral science, and epidemiology.

McGinley's research project during his time at CIRP was on the Chair's Initiative, *Minds Matter: Improving Pediatric Concussion Management*, a two-year grant from the Department of Pediatrics at CHOP to CIRP. He worked with the team to quantify the state of concussion care at CHOP and elsewhere with the goal of developing evidence-based interventions to improve concussion management within the CHOP Care Network. For the opportunity to attend the Conference of REU Student Scholarship, McGinley and the other CIRP REU students created detailed presentations on their summer research.
Autism Spectrum Disorders Want to Drive & Do

A new study conducted by CIRP researchers and funded by the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS), a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center at CHOP, found that among a sample of 300 15- to 18-year-olds with a higher functioning autism spectrum disorder (HFASD), all of whom were old enough to drive in their state, two-thirds are currently driving or plan to drive. The study, which will be published in the January issue of the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, surveyed the parents of these teens.

After analyzing their responses, the researchers determined the following predictors for driving among this teen population: age 17 or older; enrollment in full-time regular education; plans to attend college; previous employment; parent who taught another teen to drive; and inclusion of driving-related goals in individualized education plan (IEP).

The findings suggest that parents of teens with HFASDs would benefit from guidance in deciding if driving is the right choice for their individual family. Readiness to drive can be difficult to assess, and parents should be encouraged to seek the help of their child’s physician and in some cases, an occupational therapist or driving instructor.

“As a clinician who specializes in children with disabilities, I was interested to find that so many teens with high functioning autism spectrum disorders want to drive and do,” says Patty Huang, MD, a developmental and behavioral pediatrician at CHOP and the lead author of the study. “We need to help them. Establishing a few indicators for these teens that will likely have an interest in driving is the first step in developing targeted strategies and interventions to support them and their families.”

Read the study abstract.
Read about Teens With Special Needs and Driving.

Greening Up Urban Blight Can Improve Health Outcomes

A significant drop in gun assaults and vandalism occurs when vacant lots are cleared of debris and planted with grass and other greenery, according to a study recently published in the American Journal of Epidemiology that looked at 4,436 lots that were "greened" over the past 10 years in Philadelphia.

Residents in certain sections of the city also reported exercising more and feeling less stressed after the lots were reclaimed and beautified. Funded by the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence...
Prevention Center (PCVPC), the study was led by Charles C. Branas, PhD, PCVPC Information Core co-director and associate professor of Epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The research is the first to look at the health effects of transforming vacant lots with greenery.

Read the Philadelphia Inquirer article. 
Read the press release. 
Read the study abstract.

National Teen Driver Safety Week: Five Years of Building Awareness

National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) has gained momentum on a national level in building awareness of teen driver safety. Now in its fifth year, the week increased its impact, with over 675 communities and 41 states participating in activities designed to get people talking about how to prevent teen crashes.

“We’ve been tracking simple benchmarks for National Teen Driver Safety Week since 2007, and we’re impressed by the grassroots movement and continued media support,” says Suzanne Hill, director of Advocacy and Outreach at CIRP. “Large corporations, non-profit groups, hospitals, and federal, state, and local government use NTDSW to engage their local networks and grow the teen driver safety movement.”

Media coverage also grew by 16 percent over 2010 coverage, with more than 4,000 news stories about teen driving safety running during a two-week period (before and during NTDSW). USA Today, Redbook, MSN Money and the Chicago Tribune were high impact outlets that specifically promoted NTDSW. Many articles focused on the importance of helping parents to support their teens while they learn to drive and more than two-thirds of the news stories promoted Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL).

Start planning now for National Teen Driver Safety Week 2012. Learn more about the history of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

Zonfrillo Chosen for AAAM Committee

Mark Zonfrillo, MD, MSCE, an attending physician at CHOP and an investigator with CIRP’s Epidemiology team, has been selected to join the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) Content Committee. The AIS is the internationally accepted tool for ranking injury severity. As part of the committee, Dr. Zonfrillo will be involved in ensuring the proper updating and development of new AIS versions.

Visit Us On

You can now access a variety of our evidence-based video resources on YouTube. The Center has three channels: ChildPassengerSafety, with a lineup of important child passenger safety (CPS) videos, including a podcast explaining the American Academy of Pediatrics’ new CPS recommendations and our popular crash simulations, teendriversource, with a wide array of teen driver safety-related segments, including a series for parents called "Communicating With Your Teen About Driving," and AfterTheInjury, with videos supporting content found on
were the Site Director John Bolte, associate professor of Mechanical Engineering and Anatomy, and members of the second academic site for CChIPS at The Ohio State University. Sponsoring industry members continue to play an integral role in setting the research agenda for CChIPS. Minnesota HealthSolutions, a small business affiliate, was welcomed as the newest CChIPS Industrial Advisory Board Member.

CChIPS was also selected by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to participate in its “Behind the Scenes, Behind the Science” video series. On November 1st, CChIPS directors and students, along with industry members, traveled to NSF headquarters in Arlington, VA to film a panel discussion highlighting the value of CChIPS in front of a live audience. The conversation centered on the strong collaboration between academia and industry, as well as the importance of training future injury research scientists.

Learn more about The Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS).

On October 25th two members of the CHOP team were honored to be invited to witness the signing of Lacey’s Law by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, along with sponsors, victims’ families, and teen driver safety stakeholders that all contributed years of effort to educate and support policymakers in their deliberations. Lacey’s Law restricts the number of passengers for teens with provisional driver licenses, makes teens riding in teen-driven vehicles without seat belts a primary offense, and adds 15 hours to the current 50 hours of pre-test supervised driving practice required to obtain a junior license. Pictured above seated left to right are: State Rep. Kathy Watson (R-144th Dist.), Governor Tom Corbett, and State Senator John Wozniak (D-35th Dist). Standing left to right are: Austin Laudenslager, Pennsylvania SADD Student of the Year, Felicity DeBacco-Erni of the PA DUI Association, Kent McElhattan, of the National Safety Council, Suzanne Hill of CHOP, Joe Ucciferro of the National Safety Council, Richard

AfterTheInjury.org, the award-winning website to help children recover after an injury. Video content on all three channels is updated regularly. Be sure to check back frequently.

Subscribe to the ChildPassengerSafety channel.
Subscribe to the teendriversource channel.
Subscribe to the AfterTheInjury channel.

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)

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)
Recent Center Publications


Recent Center Presentations


Winston FK. The Impact of Cloud Computing and Online Solutions on mHealth. mHealth Summit. Washington, DC. December 5, 2011.

