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Partnering With Ford Motor Co. to Save Children’s Lives

Bioengineers at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention are working with Ford Motor Co. in developing a simulated child abdomen that fits into the standard crash test dummy designed for the average 6-year-old. For years researchers have known that the abdomen is the second most commonly injured body part, after the head, in seat-belted children. With this new insert, safety engineers at vehicle manufacturing companies can now precisely measure the risk of abdominal injury in children ages 4 to 8. Researchers from the University of Virginia, Wayne State University, and Takata Corp., the Japanese auto restraint manufacturer, also participated in the three-year research project. Ford will share the prototype at a Society of Automotive Engineers committee meeting this month, the first step in making it available to the entire auto industry.

Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications Inc. The grant Center for Injury Research and Prevention, accepted a $50,000 grant from The Philadelphia Inquirer for her team’s work on the project. (Read the article.)

Promoting Occupant Protection at the Auto Show

Computational engineers from the Center were on hand at The Philadelphia Auto Show in early February to help visitors safely experience driving under various conditions using a vehicle and simulator donated to the Center by the Automobile Dealers Association of Greater Philadelphia’s CARing for Kids Foundation. This generous $50,000 donation will allow CIRP researchers to study teen driving behavior under varying conditions, including inclement weather, sharp turns, and driving while intoxicated. The findings from this research will help develop protocols to validate this portable simulator technology for potential use in assessing driving skills, teaching driving skills, and evaluating the effectiveness of driver training.

On Kids’ Day, the last day of the show, certified car safety technicians and educators from the Center showed parents how to correctly position their children in various child restraints and provided educational handouts on child passenger safety rules and regulations.

Medicaid Paper Released

Findings from a unique study conducted by Injury Center researchers were published in the January 16, 2008 issue of the journal Ambulatory Pediatrics. The study shows that distinguishing car safety seats among economically disadvantaged children could be as cost-effective as long-established federal vaccination programs. The paper is significant because it also offers insights for state and national lawmakers involved in setting future healthcare policy, particularly for those interested in exploring programs with a greater focus on preventive care for children. UPI, ABC.com, and various policy newsletters covered the study. Limited pilot testing of the proposed Child Restraint Systems (CRS) program at the state or community level is the recommended next step in evaluating its “real world” applicability, effectiveness, and cost savings. (Read the press release)

Center Receives Grant for Pediatric Traumatic Stress Research

On February 1, Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, founder and co-scientific director of the Center for Injury Research and Prevention, accepted a $50,000 grant from The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications Inc. The grant money will be used to help prevent traumatic stress in children after an injury. Researchers at the Center are working with injured children and their families to develop effective screening tools and interventions that can be integrated into hospital trauma care. They are creating a state-of-the-art interactive Web site that will provide parents with easy access to credible information, tips, and practical tools to help support their injured children’s emotional recovery. In prospective studies of children’s and parents’ reactions to traffic crashes and other medical emergencies, Center researchers have found that most families experience at least a few acute stress disorder (ASD) symptoms within the first month after injury. Six months later, 1 in 6 of them still has clinically significant symptoms. (Read the press release)

40 Days of Non-Violence

On January 14, the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) hosted a press conference at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia on behalf of Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA), former Philadelphia Mayor Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Jr., and the Corp. for National Community Service to launch the “40 Days Of Non-Violence: Building the Beloved Community” initiative. The initiative honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of a “beloved community” of peace and brotherhood, marking the 40th year since his assassination. The press conference highlighted the work of medical, vocational, mentoring, research, preventive, and activity-based programs designed to end youth violence in Philadelphia. Through this 40-day program, 40 or more of Philadelphia’s most effective anti-violence initiatives will take center stage, and citizens will be encouraged to volunteer to assist with the ongoing effort to curb youth violence in the city. Using the expertise of its partners, PCVPC created “40 Tips for 40 Days” evidence-based ideas for preventing violence, as part of the initiative.

Hewitt Named to CPS Board

Resources for Educators

Free to use for non-profit education purposes

Collection of Child Passenger Safety Illustrations

Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) recently developed a series of 37 illustrations for educational use. These clear and concise drawings are perfect for...
Tracey Hewitt, MS, CHES, coordinator for Outreach and Advocacy at the Injury Center, recently joined the National Child Passenger Safety Board. Hewitt was elected by her peers to help the Board provide program direction and technical guidance to states, communities and organizations to maintain a credible, standardized child passenger training and certification program.

In the News

Kristy Arbogast, PhD, the Center’s associate director of field engineering, shared her views on side-impact improvements to child restraints in an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on December 13, 2007. (Read the article)

Fact Sheets Now Available

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention recently updated its Fact Sheets. These 10 four-color sheets give a detailed overview of the Center, its people, and each research core.

New Web site

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) recently launched its Web site. Part of the Center for Injury Research and Prevention, the PCVPC performs community-based participatory research to reduce the frequency and impact of youth violence in Philadelphia.

Research Sponsors Wanted

Our center is performing cutting-edge research on injury prevention in children. Doctors and researchers at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention partner with industry and academia to determine ways to prevent injuries and to effectively cope when injuries do occur. If you are interested in sponsoring our research, please call Karen Matthews, the center's administrative director, at 215-590-3118.

Recent Publications from the Injury Center