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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Play it Safe During National Public Health Week, April 4-10



Safety is No Accident: Live Injury-Free is the theme of this year's National Public Health Week observance during April 4-10.

Since 1995, the first full week of April has been the time to highlight ways to improve the public's health. The observance is part of the American Public Health Association's (APHA) efforts to educate the public about

issues that affect the health of all communities.

Injuries at home, at play and in the workplace account for 12 percent of the nation's medical care spending each year, or as much as \$69 billion. Here are some statistics that highlight the role that injuries play in the nation's health:

- Two-thirds of children killed in bicycle-related accidents could have been saved had they worn a helmet.
- Properly installed child safety seats reduce the risk of death by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers four years of age and younger.
- A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of death from a house fire by 50 percent.

As part of National Public Health Week, the Pinellas County Health Department's St. Petersburg center will host Child Passenger Safety expert Kris Scholz, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6.

The public is invited to ask questions about car safety seats, including how to properly use and install them to protect infants and children. No reservations are required. Fact sheets on safety seats and other safety topics will be available. The Pinellas County Health Department's St. Petersburg center is at 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N. and the Q&A will be at the center's second floor.

The Pinellas County Health Department's Injury and Violence Prevention program includes education efforts throughout the county in areas that include domestic violence, child abuse and drowning prevention. For information and community resources, go to <http://www.pinellashealth.com/InjuryViolencePrevention.asp>.

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