

Newsletter Submission

Protect the Ones You Love Celebrate World Health Day: Family Road Safety—April 7, 2004

(CDC) Atlanta, GA—February 12, 2004—Join concerned citizens around the world by celebrating World Health Day: Road Safety, sponsored by the World Health Organization and supported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center. Worldwide, 1.2 million people die each year from road traffic-related injuries, with developing countries suffering the greatest losses. In the United States alone, more than 40,000 people die in motor vehicle crashes each year. April 7 will be a day devoted to making roadways safer for you, your loved ones, and your community.

Medical costs due to motor vehicle-related injuries in the United States exceeded \$21 billion in 2000. Globally, the economic burden is enormous, with road traffic injuries costing \$518 billion annually. Everyone is affected by road safety:

- Motor vehicle injuries are the greatest public health problem facing U.S. children. This is the leading cause of death among children after their first birthday.
- Second only to HIV/AIDS, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for men ages 15 to 44.
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 30 minutes and injure someone every 2 minutes.
- Motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries among older adults are rising. By 2020, there will be 40 million licensed older adult drivers.
- Two-thirds of children killed in alcohol-related crashes are riding with the drinking driver.

Can we prevent road traffic injuries? Yes, through more effective research and safety programs, consistent enforcement of our traffic laws, safer vehicles and roadways and greater public awareness. Road safety benefits everyone.

CDC's Injury Center supports research and programs in motor vehicle injury prevention through partners, including its injury control research centers (ICRCs), academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, state and local health departments, and other federal agencies. Priority areas include alcohol-impaired driving, older drivers, young drivers, child passenger safety, and pedestrian safety. However, we can all, as individuals, do our part to prevent road traffic injuries. Wear your seatbelt. Use proper child restraints. Don't drink and drive. Follow speed limits. Obey the rules of the road.

This April 7 and throughout the year, be alert and find ways to keep our roadways safe. It's a great way to Protect the Ones You Love.

You can find information about Family Road Safety at CDC's Injury Center website: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whd2004. Or, learn more about global efforts to make roadways safer by visiting the World Health Organization's website: www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/en.

Contact Info:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control**

Mailstop K65—4770 Buford Highway NE
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

Phone: 770.488.1506; Fax: 770.488.1667; E-mail: OHCINFO@cdc.gov