

Summer 2009

Maryland SCFRT Members

Akin Akintola, MD

A. LaToya Bates, LCSW-C

Julie Drake, Esq.

Nerita Estampador-Ulep, MD

Vice Chair

Mary Gentile, LCSW-C

Roger J. Lerner, Esq.

Richard Lichenstein, MD

Chairperson

Ling Li, MD

Jennifer Maehr, MD

Michael Mann, JD

Donna Mazyck, RN, MS

Vernice McKee, MSW

Laurel Moody, RN, MS

David Putsche

Albert Rolle, MD

Amanda Scott, JD

Marsha Smith, MD, MPH

Hal Sommers, MA

Anntinette Williams, LICSW

DHMH Advisors

Bonnie Birkel, CRNP, MPH

Lee Hurt, MS, MPH

Pam Putman, RN, MPH

Joan Stine, MHS, MS, CHES

S. Lee Woods, MD, PhD

DHMH Staff Support

Joan Patterson, LCSW-C

For Information contact Joan
Patterson at (410) 767-6727 or

jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us

Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)



Maryland SCFRT Newsletter

From Richard Lichenstein, MD. ... SCFRT Chairperson

What is PRAMS?

PRAMS, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments. PRAMS collects state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Unlike looking at vital statistics and death data, this system looks at the behaviors of the living. A drop down menu in CPONDER, (CDC PRAMS Online Database for epidemiologic research), includes a wide variety of topics pertinent to child death review such as breast feeding, crowding, physical abuse, and infant sleep position.

PRAMS was initiated in 1987 because infant mortality rates were no longer declining as rapidly as they had in prior years. In addition, the incidence of low birth weight infants had changed little in the previous 20 years. Research has indicated that maternal behaviors during pregnancy may influence infant birth weight and mortality rates. The goal of the PRAMS project is to improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse outcomes such as low birth weight, infant mortality and morbidity, and maternal morbidity. PRAMS provides state-specific data for planning and assessing health programs and for describing maternal experiences that may contribute to maternal and infant health.

The website is located at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/cPONDER/> and includes years 2000-2006. Not all of the state questions are identical; for example New Jersey asks about co-sleeping whereas Maryland currently does not.

I encourage team members to try out the on-line system to see how the data may help in planning activities for our prevention activities.



Maryland's CFR Electronic Data System Training Date Has Been Set! It's Friday, September 25, 2009:

Teri Covington, Director of the National Center for Child Death Review (NCCDR), is scheduled to conduct this important training opportunity for local CFR leaders. In addition to the "on-site" training being held at DHMH, up to 7 remote locations can participate via networking capability. Contact Joan Patterson for more information: 410-767-6727 or jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us.



Upcoming Conferences & Training Dates:

Next State CFR Meeting
September 25, 2009

**Maryland Suicide Prevention
Conference**
October 7, 2009

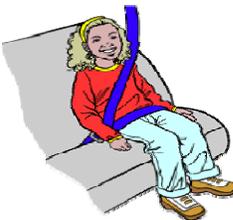
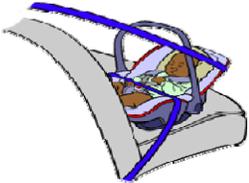
Annual State CFR Conference
November 17, 2009



Maryland SCFRT Newsletter Summer 2009 (cont.)

Child Car Seat Safety

It's been a year since Maryland's new Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect. **Every child** under 8 years old must ride in an appropriate child restraint unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds. **Every child** from 8 to 16 years old who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured in a vehicle seat belt.



Do you need more information?

Call **Maryland Kids in Safety Seats**

1-800-370-SEAT or 410-767-6016

Or visit them online www.mdkiss.org



Important Injury Prevention Topics - Summer

Over the July 4th weekend, **Baltimore County Department of Health reminded residents to Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car**. The following message and links to prevention information were highlighted on the County's website:

Baltimore County, Maryland — Summer is here and with it, sunny days that can quickly heat the inside of a vehicle parked outside to deadly temperatures. Research shows that heating occurs very quickly with maximum temperatures reached in less than thirty minutes. Leaving the windows open slightly has very little cooling effect. In 2008, 41 children died nationwide because they were left in cars. Many others suffered heat stroke, a life-threatening medical emergency. Young children are at increased risk for heat stroke because their bodies heat up very quickly, 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's. Heat stroke happens when the child's core body temperature reaches 104° F. A body temperature of 107° F is usually fatal. In as little as ten minutes the temperature inside a car can rise by 19° F. Within 20 minutes, the temperature inside the car may be 29° F hotter than outside. On an average July day (87° F), the temperature inside the car may reach a deadly 116° F in twenty minutes.

Baltimore County Department of Health asks for your help in preventing these tragedies. Please remember:

- Never leave a child alone in a car – not even for a minute.
- If you see a child left alone in a car and cannot see the parent or caretaker,

Call 911 immediately.

Kids and Cars is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assure no child dies or is injured in a non-traffic, non-crash motor vehicle related event. For more information about protecting children in and around cars, please visit www.kidsandcars.org.

1. McLaren C, Null J, Quinn J. Heat Stress from Enclosed vehicles: Moderate Ambient Temperatures Cause Significant Temperature Rise in Enclosed Vehicles. *Pediatrics*. 2005;116:e109-112

2. Jan Null, CCM. Data accessed at <http://ggweather.com/heat>

Schools Are Open ...

Have You Checked Out These Back to School Safety Tips?

1. **American Academy of Pediatrics—Back to School Tips**

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/augschool.cfm>

2. **School Safety - Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Systems**

<http://www.miemss.org/EMSCwww/PPSchool.html>

3. **School Zone Safety - Maryland State Highway Administration**

<http://www.choosesafetyforlife.com/schoolzone.htm>

4. **Distracted Drivers in School Zones: A Deadly Combination**

<http://www.usa.safekids.org/>



If you have news to share, please contact the newsletter editors:

Donna Mazyck at dmazyck@msde.state.md.us or Laurel Moody at lmoody@bcps.org

Our State Child Fatality Review website has changed:

http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/cfr_home.cfm

