Research Update

Pediatricians say promoting safe driving agreements important, feasible

from the AAP Department of Research

Through multiple advocacy and policy efforts, the number of U.S. teenagers dying in traffic crashes has declined significantly over the past 40 years (see figure). However, traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death among adolescents.

In 2014, 2,270 U.S. teens ages 16-19 were killed, and more than 220,000 were treated for injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Academy recommends anticipatory guidance to support parents in monitoring teen driving safety. A recent study from the AAP Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) Network found that it is feasible to promote safe driving in office practice (Shope JT, et al. Clin Pediatr. 2016;55:1026-1035, http://bit.ly/2e9ODS).

In collaboration with the PROS Network, the study authors created a brief intervention protocol, training plan, promotional materials and website adapted from the previously tested Checkpoints program (www.youngDRIVERparenting.org).

RESOURCES

• The website developed for the intervention studied in the PROS Network is now maintained by the CDC at www.youngDRIVERparenting.org.
• For more information about PROS, visit http://www2.aap.org/PROS or contact Laura Shone Dr.P.H., M.S.W., in the AAP Division of Primary Care Research, at 847-434-7910 or lshone@aap.org.
•  For more information about PROS, visit http://www2.aap.org/PROS or contact Laura Shone Dr.P.H., M.S.W., in the AAP Division of Primary Care Research, at 847-434-7910 or lshone@aap.org.

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AAP disappointed in CPSC's decision not to ban crib bumpers

by Melissa Jenco • News Content Editor

The Academy is strongly advising parents not to use padded crib bumpers despite a federal agency’s refusal to ban them.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) acknowledged the bumpers can be hazardous but stopped short of pulling them from store shelves.

“Urging parents not to purchase crib bumpers while allowing them to remain on the market is confusing, and inappropriately places the burden of safety on parents while needlessly exposing infants to risk of death,” said AAP President Benard Dr. Dreyer welcomed the CPSC’s warning but said it does not go far enough.

The study was funded by the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (1R18CE001730) and built on the Checkpoints program developed at the National Institutes of Health. The PROS Network receives core funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA UA6MC15585) and the Academy.

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