

*Outcomes for Safe Kids, Greene County:*

- Increase knowledge related to safety & the prevention of childhood injuries through programs, education, promotional items & written material.
- Provide safety devices, as available, to those in need
- Coordinate with other groups/agencies/events in promoting safety awareness



**To all Greene County Agencies:**

Greene County SAFE KIDS, a subcommittee of the MAGIC community team, Safe Communities, is requesting your support for several important initiatives\* that are being offered to Greene County residents:

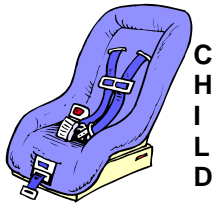
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**DETECTORS**

**Fires and burns** are the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under. Smoke alarms are extremely effective at preventing fire-related death and injury. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level and in every sleeping area. They should be tested once a month and the batteries replaced twice a year. Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. **Safe Kids will provide smoke detectors free of charge to parents who are unable to afford them.**

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**CARSEATS**

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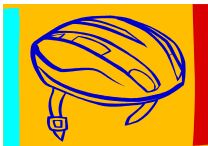
**Car crashes** remain the number one leading cause of death of children ages 3-14 in the United States. Parents and caregivers should use the right safety gear for kids on **every** ride in a vehicle. A rear-facing infant car seat should be used to age 1 year and 20 pounds. Once they outgrow the rear-facing seat, a child should ride in a forward-facing safety seat in the back seat until they reach the upper weight or height limit of that particular seat (usually age 4 and 40 pounds). Children ages 4-8 should be in a car booster seat and restrained with a lap and shoulder belt in the back seat. **Safe Kids will provide car seats free of charge to parents who are unable to afford them.**

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**Airway obstruction** is a leading cause of death for infants. Most infants suffocate while in their sleeping environments; their faces become wedged against or buried in a mattress, pillow, soft bedding or against another person. Cribs (primarily older used cribs) are responsible for about 26 strangulation and suffocation deaths each year. Children sleeping without any crib are at a higher risk. **Safe Kids will provide cribs free of charge to parents who are unable to afford them.**

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**HELMETS**

**Unintentional accidents** are leading causes of death to those under the age of 14. Bicycle helmets are 88 percent effective in reducing the risk of brain injury and have contributed to a 60 percent decline in the death rate from bike-traffic injuries among children in the past two decades. **Safe Kids will provide bicycle helmets free of charge to parents who are unable to afford them.**

*\*Washington, D.C. (December 16, 1999) – According to a report by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, safety devices such as smoke alarms, car seats and bike helmets have contributed to a 46 percent decline in the unintentional injury-related death rate among children ages 14 and under.*

SAFE KIDS, Greene County hopes that local agencies will support this effort by identifying and referring clients who are in need of the listed items.

Educational information will also be provided by SAFE KIDS.

If you know of a household with children and who are in need of any of these items, please call SAFE KIDS at 724-627-3168.

Thank you!