

## Community Needs Assessment York County Safe Kids Coalition, Pennsylvania

York County is one of the fastest growing counties in both Pennsylvania and the United States. 2006 census data, estimates York County to have over 416,000 residents. York County is located in south-central Pennsylvania, and is within 100 miles of Harrisburg and Baltimore and 150 miles of Philadelphia and Washington DC. York County has 72 municipalities and covers 911 square miles, with approximately 600 classified as rural. It is serviced by three Health Care systems, 16 public school districts, 46 fire departments, 9 regional police departments and a Pennsylvania Dept of Health funded city health bureau located in York City.

York County is an economic hub of manufacturing and service based industries. It has also become a commuter community for professionals who are employed in the Baltimore Washington Metro area but reside in York County.

**I. Population Data** (U.S. Census Bureau; 2006 American Community Survey, unless otherwise noted)

**1) Number of York County Children 0-14**

Age Range	0-4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	Total 0-14 Years
# of Children	24,801	27,194	25,659	77,654

**2) Racial/Ethnic Distribution – Entire Population**

	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American/ Alaskan	Hispanic or Latino any race	One or more races
# of People	381,658	19,752	5,268	793	16,415	4,223
% of Population	91.6%	4.7%	1.2%	0.19%		1.0%

(Total Population = 416,322, distribution for children unavailable)

**3) Language**

English is the predominant language. 5.7% of households (with populations of 5 years of age and over) speak a language other than English.

**4) Income Data**

Median Household Income	\$52,428
Per Capita Income	\$24,950
Families Below Poverty Level	5.4%
Individuals Below Poverty Level	8.0%
Median Value of House	\$159,500
Renter Occupied	23.4%

There are 83,740 (20.9%) residents living below 200% poverty level. However, in the City of York, 52.5% of the population is living below 200% of poverty level.

## II. Injury Data (Hospitalizations and Mortality)

### 2003 Injury Hospitalizations

Under 1	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism
9 / Fall	19 / Fall	23 / Fall	19 / Fall
7 / Other/Unspec.	6 / MVT Occupant	10 / Pedestrian	12 / Pedal Cycle
2 / Poisoning	3 / Poisoning	8 / MVT Occupant	11 / MVT Occupant
1 / Bite/Sting	3 / Other / Unspec.	8 / Other/Unspec.	11 / Transport, other
1 / Struck by, against	2 / Drowning/ submersion	5 / Pedal Cycle	9 / Struck by, against
1 / Suffocation	2 / Fire and burns	4 / Transport, other	7 / Pedestrian
	2 / Pedestrian	4 / Struck by, against	7 / Other/Unspec.
	2 / Transport, other	3 / Bite/Sting	5 / Poisoning
	2 / Bite/Sting	2 / Other natl/envntl factors	3 / Bite/Sting
	2 / Struck by, against	1 / Cut/pierce	2 / Cut/pierce
	2 / Suffocation	1 / Drowning/ submersion	2 / Firearm
		1 / Fire and burns	2 / MVT Other/Unspec.
			1/ Overexertion

## 2004 Injury Hospitalizations

Under 1	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism
8 / Fall	22 / Fall	18 / Fall	17 / Fall
6 / Other/Unspec.	6 / Poisoning	11 / Pedal Cycle	12 / Poisoning
1 / Fire and burns	5 / Other/Unspec.	6 / MVT Occupant	11 / Pedal Cycle
1 / Poisoning	4 / Pedestrian	4 / Struck by, against	10 / MVT Occupant
	3 / Fire and burns	3 / Other/Unspec.	10 / Struck by, against
	3 / MVT Occupant	2 / Pedestrian	8 / Transport, other
	3 / Struck by, against	1 / Cut/pierce	6 / Pedestrian
	2 / Suffocation	1 / Drowning/ submersion	4 / Other/Unspec.
	1 / Pedal Cycle	1 / MVT Other/Unspec.	2 / MVT Other/Unspec.
	1 / Transport, other	1 / Other natl/envntl factors	2 / Bite/Sting
	1 / Other natl/envntl factors	1 / Poisoning	2 / Overexertion
		1 / Suffocation	1 / Other natl/envntl factors
			1 / Suffocation

### 2005 Injury Hospitalizations

Under 1	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism	# / Mechanism
6 / Fall	9 / Fall	17 / Fall	14 / Fall
3 / Other/Unspec.	6 / Fire and burns	8 / MVT Occupant	12 / Pedal Cycle
1 / MVT Occupant	6 / Poisoning	8 / Pedal Cycle	7 / Poisoning
1 / Bite/Sting	5 / Other/Unspec.	7 / Other/Unspec.	6 / Transport, other
	2 / Drowning/ submersion	5 / Transport, other	6 / Struck by, against
	2 / Bite/Sting	3 / Struck by, against	5 / Other/Unspec.
	2 / Struck by, against	2 / Pedestrian	3 / MVT Occupant
	1 / MVT Occupant	2 / Other natl/envntl factors	3 / Bite/Sting
	1 / Pedal Cycle	1 / Cut/pierce	3 / Overexertion
	1 / Pedestrian	1 / Fire and burns	2 / Cut/pierce
	1 / Transport, other	1 / Firearm	1 / Firearm
		1 / Machinery	1 / Machinery
			1 / Pedestrian

Based on 2005 Pennsylvania Department of Health data

### 2003 Mortality

Category	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
<b>All Accidents</b>			
-Transport	0	0	1
- Other transportation non- motor vehicle	1	0	0
<b>Suicides</b>			
- By Firearm	0	0	1

### 2004 Mortality

Category	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
<b>All Accidents</b>			
- Discharge of Firearm	0	1	1
- Motor Vehicle: Transport	1	0	2
- Drowning and Submersion	1	0	0
- Fire, smoke, and flames (accidental)	1	0	1
<b>Homicides</b>			
- Suffocation and Strangulation	1	0	0
<b>Suicides</b>	0	0	0

### 2005 Mortality

Category	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14
<b>All Accidents</b>			
- Motor Vehicle: Transport	0	1	3
- Drowning and Submersion	1	0	0
- Fire, smoke, and flames (accidental)	0	0	0
- Suffocation and Strangulation	3	0	0
<b>Homicides</b>	1	0	0
<b>Suicides</b>	0	0	0

Based on 2005 Pennsylvania Department of Health data

### III. Risk Factors

#### Who is at High Risk?

Adults continue to be a contributing factor in a large number of unintentional injuries and deaths for children. A lack of preventive safety equipment and the parental/guardian failure to follow best practices in injury prevention puts the 0-4 age group at an increase risk during motor vehicle accidents and home safety issues, specifically falls and fires. Falls is consistent across all three age groups and data years as the leading mechanism of injury.

In the past, intervention and education activities have occurred more frequently in the York City area. This area tends to have a higher percentage of lower-social economic status residents, a greater concentration of hyper-transient renters, and the greatest disparities in other health issues. York City has the highest concentration of comprehensive social services and partners with which Safe Kids York County (SKYC) collaborates. In addition to the increasing number of non-native born residents, local laws and recommendations do not always coincide with standards and recommendations of previous residency. Example: Maryland law differs on the law and requirements for child restraint systems. Parents are unknowingly non-compliant of PA laws.

The table below identifies the Death Rate for all York County residents, including the adult population. It has been expressed that parent education is very important in some of the injury prevention activities that are planned for implementation.

Indicator	% Above Pennsylvania Rates	Trend (increase or decrease)	Percent Above HP2010 Goals
Unintentional Injury Death Rate	9%	+10%	213%
Accidental Falls Death Rate	85%	+ 8%	183%
Motor Vehicle Crash Death Rate	27%	+ 20%	71%
Death Rate for Alcohol Related Crashes	43%	+ 12%	43%

*Based on 2005 Pennsylvania Department of Health data. How to Read this Chart: Baseline is set at 100%, the goal of prevention programming is to decrease incidents to below 100%. For Unintentional Injury Death Rate, York County is actually at 109%.*

#### IV. Community Experience in Injury Prevention

##### 1) Brief Description of Current and Past Injury Prevention Activities

**Safe Kids Buckle Up Events:** Safe Kids York County (SKYC) participates in the SKW BuckleUp program. The Community Health Improvement (CHI) department of WellSpan Health presently provides leadership for the Safe Kids BuckleUp program, including coordinating and teaching CPSS courses and technician updates. The solid infrastructure of CPSS technicians, including police officers and EMS personnel from municipal departments in York County, has enabled the coalition to host multiple events at geographically diverse locations throughout the county. CHI has also established a toll-free SKYC phone number and hosts/staffs a permanent child safety seat inspection station.

Over the past year, SKBU program activities have included:

- Safe Kids Car Seat Check Up Sites: Trained CPS technicians in eleven (11) police and EMS departments throughout York County have partnered with Safe Kids to serve as a referral system and provide CSS inspections “by appointment only.”
- Safe Kids Permanent Inspection Station: Effective December 2006, CHI began hosting the coalition’s permanent inspection station on a “walk-in” and/or “appointment” basis during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.
- SKBU Check-Up Events: Eight (8) Check Up events were held throughout the county. One event, conducted in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, utilized funding to integrate “Smoke-Free in Cars” information with car seat checks.
- Car Safety Seats (CSS) Distribution: Car safety seats have been distributed free of charge and/or at a nominal fee at SKBU Buckle Up Check Up Sites, events and at the permanent inspection station. Effective January 2007, parents requesting CSS must meet low-income requirements.
- Targeted “Don’t Risk Your Child’s Life” Presentations: 1) William Penn High School, York City: Teen parents of children enrolled in the high school’s child care center attended a “hands-on” workshop to learn and practice proper use of a CSS. Each child received a free CSS from Safe Kids; 2) Head Start of York: Presentations were made

during parent meetings and children in all classes received an activity book on car seat safety. Booster seats were also distributed, as needed.

- “Tween Safety”: A presentation addressing the issues of elementary school-age children was developed and piloted at a parent-teacher association (PTA) meeting.
- CPS Week 2007 “In and Around Vehicles”: Family activities were held in partnership with the Crispus Attacks Center in York City and the Hanover YMCA.

As a recipient of the annual SKBU Grant, SKYC aims to partner with York County health care, human service agencies, police departments and businesses in order to expand programs and child safety seat check-up opportunities in the upcoming year. Two new initiatives include the creation of a formal Discounted Car Seat Distribution program and a Booster Seat Campaign.

**Bicycle Helmet Safety:** For the past six (6) years various police departments and community agencies have partnered with Safe Kids in grant-sponsored initiatives to provide education, skills training and helmets to children ages 4-13. The York County Sheriff's Department and the City of York Police Department both target high-risk children at community fairs and bike rodeos, with the largest event at the York County Fair, held annually in September. Additional information is distributed by coalition members. SKYC provides bicycle rodeo “program in a box” resources to various organizations including Girl Scouts and some schools. In addition, CHI partners with the local Junior Achievement program to annually provide 100 helmets to 5<sup>th</sup> graders attending its Biztown initiative. Discounted helmets are also available to families throughout the year at the York County Parks system and local pedestrian offices; this program is coordinated by the Pediatrics department at York Hospital.

**Safe Kids Walk this Way Pedestrian Safety Program:** New in 2007, SKYC planned and implemented the Safe Kids International Walk this Way program. On International Walk to School Day, October 3, 2007, three (3) early learning centers and one (1) community center participated in child pedestrian safety programs. More than 100 children participated in interactive educational activities, received parental educational materials, and conducted an informal survey of walking conditions in their neighborhoods. An October Halloween safety event was also held in which 1000 reflective trick-or-treat bags, with information on evening pedestrian safety and how to be a safer driver during the Halloween season, were distributed over a three-week period.

**Cribs for Kids:** The York County Cribs for Kids Program (YCCFK) was started in June 2005 to help reduce infant mortality in York County. The York County program was modeled after the Pittsburgh Cribs for Kids program, which targeted the alarming rate of young infant deaths observed among low-income families in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh program quickly demonstrated a greater than 50% reduction in the number of infant deaths related to unsafe sleeping in Allegheny County. The success of the program has inspired others to replicate the program and there are now over 100 Cribs for Kids partners in 32 states. The York program is directly affiliated with SIDS-PA which oversees all of the Cribs for Kids affiliates.

YCCFK's program goal is to eliminate preventable infant deaths in York County due to unsafe sleep practices through:

1. Dissemination of information on SIDS and safe infant sleep practices
2. Distribution of a safe infant crib to families in need.

Education continues to be a crucial component of YCCFK. Individuals needing assistance receive brochures on ways to reduce the risk of SIDS, and outlining a safe sleep environment for infants. They also may be eligible to receive a Pac 'N' Play and additional materials to reinforce this critical message. In this manner, relevant health education is directly disseminated to program participants and their family, friends, and community.

Since its inception, YCCFK has provided more than 400 families with Pac 'N' Plays to prevent accidental suffocation. YCCFK continues with public education efforts through information pieces on television and radio, and in local newspapers. YCCFK also works with other services such, as the Moms and Mentors program at the YWCA, to provide education on safe sleep habits for infants.

**Home Inspections:** Three (3) partner organizations – Catholic Charities, Head Start of York County, and Nurse Family Partnership – currently provide home safety inspections as part of their case management of at-risk children. In addition, the York City Fire Department provides fire safety inspections and smoke detectors to eligible city residents, and the York City Bureau of Health provides home safety materials as part of their First Time Expectant Mothers Childbirth class.

**Other Partner Activities:** Individual coalition members and their representative agencies provide information and/or resources that promote child identification, fire safety, gun safety and home safety. In 2008, SKYC plans to conduct more rigorous collection of individual member activities and corresponding data.

## 2) Current Community Partners and their Relationship

Community Partner	Injury Prevention Initiatives
Wellspan Health - Community Health Improvement	Lead Agency and Funding Fiduciary; Bicycle Safety; Buckle Up Program Coordinator – CPSS Inspection Station and Technician Trainings; Cribs for Kids - coordination and referral; Pedestrian Safety  (Other departments within WellSpan Health also: coordinate marketing and public relations; assist with grant funding opportunities; conduct CPSS research and assist with education/referrals/PR, and; voluntarily present on various injury prevention topics.)
Access-York	Referral Partner
Catholic Charities	Cribs for Kids and Child Passenger Seat referral partner; CPSS technicians; Home Safety Information
Center for Traffic Safety	Child Death Review team member; CPSS technicians
City of York	Bicycle Safety; Buckle Up Program; Cribs for Kids referral partner; Child Death Review team member; Falls Prevention; Fire Prevention; Gun Safety; Pedestrian Safety
Family First Health	Cribs for Kids and Child Passenger Seat referral partner
Hanover Hospital	CPSS technicians; Host Site for Injury Prevention Health Fairs
Hanover YMCA	Host Site for Injury Prevention Health Fairs
Memorial Hospital	Child Death Review team member



<b>Community Partner</b>	<b>Injury Prevention Initiatives</b>
Municipal Police Departments: - Fairview Township - Hanover Borough - Newberry Township - Northeastern Reg. - Penn Township - Spring Garden Twp. - Springettsbury Twp. - West Manheim Twp. - York Township	Each listed department provides at least one injury prevention initiative listed below: Bicycle Safety; Buckle Up Program - Car Seat Inspection Station and CPSS technicians; Child Identification; DUI Enforcement, Gun Safety; Pedestrian Safety
Pennsylvania Department of Health	Child Death Review team member; Data Assistance and Resource; Fire Prevention
Red Cross	Fire Prevention; Host Liaison for Injury Prevention Health Fairs; Water Safety
Springettsbury EMS	Buckle Up Program – CPSS technicians
YMCA of York, York County	Early Learning Center Liaison; Pedestrian Safety
York County Coroners Office	Child Death Review team member; CPSS referral partner; Cribs for Kids referral partner
York County Head Start	Falls Prevention; Home Safety; Pedestrian Safety
York County Sheriffs Department	Bicycle Safety; Buckle Up Program – CPSS referral partner and technicians; DUI Enforcement
United Way of York County	Early Learning Center Liaison; Host Site for Injury Prevention Health Fairs

### 3) Relevant Unintentional Childhood Injury Legislation (state and local)

<b>Risk Area</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Falls</b>	Legislation on home safety recommendations / requirements is based on local municipal laws.
<b>Motor Vehicle Occupant</b>	<p><b>102.102. Physical criteria for use of child passenger restraint system.</b></p> <p>(a) <i>General criteria.</i> Children under 4 years of age shall be securely fastened in a safety seat belt system and a child passenger restraint system appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer. Children 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age shall be securely fastened in a safety seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.</p>

	<p>(b) <i>Exemption based on child's weight or height, or on vehicle characteristics.</i> Exemption from the general criteria in subsection (a) is as follows:</p> <p>(1) Children 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age who weigh less than 40 pounds may, in lieu of use of a booster seat, be securely fastened in a child passenger restraint system appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.</p> <p>(2) Children 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age riding in a passenger position in the vehicle which was not originally equipped with a shoulder safety seat belt shall be fastened in the safety seat belt system without the use of a child booster seat or may be fastened in a child passenger restraint system appropriate for their height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.</p> <p>(3) Children 4 years of age but younger than 8 years of age who weigh more than 80 pounds or who are of a height of 4 feet 9 inches or taller may be fastened in the safety seat belt system without the use of a child booster seat.</p> <p>(c) <i>Integrated child restraint or booster seat.</i> The requirements of this chapter may be satisfied by securing a child, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, in a child passenger restraint system or vehicle seat designed to accommodate children under 80 pounds, which is integrated into the design of the vehicle by the vehicle manufacturer.</p>
<p><b>Bicycle Safety</b></p>	<p><b>Section 3503. Responsibility of parent or guardian.</b> The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this title relating to the operation of pedalcycles.</p> <p><b>Section 3507. Lamps or other equipment on pedalcycles.</b> <b>(a) Lamps and reflectors.</b> -- Every pedalcycle when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped on the front with a lamp which emits a beam of white light intended to illuminate the pedalcycle operator's path and visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front, a red reflector facing to the rear which shall be visible at least 500 feet to the rear, and an amber reflector on each side. Operators of pedalcycles may supplement the required front lamp with a white flashing lamp, light-emitting diode or similar device to enhance their visibility to other traffic and with a lamp emitting a red flashing lamp, light emitting diode or similar device visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. A lamp or lamps worn by the operator of a pedalcycle shall comply with the requirements of this subsection if the lamp or lamps can be seen at the distances specified.</p>

	<p><b>Section 3510. Pedalcycle helmets for certain persons.</b>  <b>(a) General rule</b> -- A person under 12 years of age shall not operate a pedalcycle or ride as a passenger on a pedalcycle unless the person is wearing a pedalcycle helmet meeting the standards of the American Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials, the Snell Memorial Foundation's Standards for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling or any other nationally recognized standard for pedalcycle helmet approval. This subsection shall also apply to a person who rides:  (1) upon a pedalcycle while in a restraining seat attached to a pedalcycle; or  (2) in a trailer towed by a pedalcycle.</p>
<b>Pedestrian Safety</b>	<p><b>Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes</b> contains the laws which govern the operation of vehicles on Pennsylvania roads.</p> <p>Chapter 35: SPECIAL VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS  Subchapter C: Rights and Duties of Pedestrians</p> <p>Section 3541-3552</p>

**Pending State Legislation**

<b>Child Abuse</b>	<p><u>House Bill 262</u>: An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing, in child protective services, for definitions, for release of information in confidential reports, for investigating performance of county agency, for reports to the Governor and General Assembly, for services for prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse and for reports to Department of Public Welfare and coroner. Referred to Judiciary Committee 2/6/07</p>
<b>Child Death Review</b>	<p><u>Senate Bill 684</u>: Puts into law the current child death review process, defining its powers, responsibilities and duties, both at state and local levels. Referred to Aging and Youth 3/23/07</p>
<b>Fire/Burn</b>	<p><u>House Bill 1144</u>: This would allow eligible applicants up to \$1000 tax credit from PA Department of Revenue to install a sprinkler system in residential occupancies up to and including four stories in height. First Consideration 10/17/07; Recommitted to Appropriations 10/24/07</p> <p><u>House Bill 1612</u>: Safe Cigarette Act providing for testing standards for cigarette fire safety, for certification of compliance by manufacturers, for packing markings and for enforcement and penalties; establishing special funds and providing for sale of existing inventory; for manufacturers' sale to other states or foreign countries and for regulations and preemptions. Passed House 10/23/07</p>

<b>Firearms</b>	<p><u>House Bill 608</u>: An Act providing for child firearm safety lock mechanisms. Promotes safe storage and use of hand guns by customers. Seeks to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to or use of a hand gun, to avoid hindering industry from supplying law abiding citizens' firearms for all lawful purposes and providing the training courses to covered employees and any other school entity employees. Referred to Judiciary 3/6/07</p> <p><u>House Bill 20</u>: An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of access to firearms by minors; and imposing penalties. Would secure lock boxes and/or trigger locks for homes where children frequent. Referred to Judiciary 1/30/07</p> <p><u>House Bill 24</u>: An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for firearm tracing. Recovered firearms from unauthorized people under 21 years old would be traced by local law enforcement agencies for origin. Referred to Judiciary Committee 1/30/07</p>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	<p><u>House Bill 246</u>: An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, requiring that children 4-17 years old be required to be in appropriate child passenger restraint system.</p> <p><u>House Bill 163</u>: An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for junior driver's license, for learners' permits, for suspension of operating privilege and for restraint systems. Limits junior drivers to 1 passenger under 10 years old except siblings or relations who live in the same dwelling. First Consideration 9/17/07; Recommitted to Appropriations 10/15/07</p> <p><u>Senate Bill 41</u>: An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting children under 10 years old from riding in the front seat of passenger vehicles. Allows a child under 10 years old to ride in the front seat, if the back seat has 3 younger children than he/she. Referred to Transportation 2/7/07</p> <p><u>Senate Bill 360</u>: An Act amending title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for general requirements for safety belts on school buses. Referred to Transportation 3/12/07</p>
<b>Violence</b>	<p><u>House Bill 138</u>: Would amend the public school code to require mandatory instruction in prevention of violence in society in general and schools in particular in every grade K-12. Referred to Education 1/31/07</p> <p><u>Senate Bill 71</u>: An Act amending that act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.</p>

	30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for Office for Safe Schools; and requiring the establishment of policies relating to bullying. Passed the Senate 3/12/07; Referred back to Appropriations 4/23/07
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