



Injury Free
Coalition
for Kids®

January 2026 Newsletter

New Injury Free Board President 2025-2027

Michael Levas, MD, MS
Professor of Pediatrics,
Emergency Medicine, Children's
Wisconsin/Medical College of
Wisconsin

Opportunities to become part of the Board are open:
President Elect

General Board Member position for a PI and PC
position

Contact info@injuryfree.org and let me know if you
would like to self nominate or nominate a fellow
Injury Free member.



Barbara Barlow, MD
(Founder) - EC

Michael Levas, MD
(President) – EC

President Elect

Kathy Monroe, MD
(Immediate Past
President) – EC

DiLenny Roca, MPH,
MS (Finance Officer) –
EC

Walter Rice (Ad Hoc)

Marlene Melzer-Lange,
MD (Past President,
Chair Membership
Committee) - PI

Maneesha Agarwal,
MD (Atlanta) - PI

Charles Jennissen, MD
(Iowa) -**2025** - PI

Jessica Naiditch, MD
(Austin) - PI

Steven Rogers, MD
(Connecticut) – PI

Judy Schaechter, MD
(Ad Hoc)- **2025**

Open to Replace PI

Open to Replace PC

Dex Tuttle, Med
(Minneapolis) – **2025**
PC

Adrienne Gallardo, MA
(Portland) – 2022 PC

Lorrie Lynn, MA (San
Diego)



Injury Free coalition
for Kids®



Forging New Frontiers:
**Injury Prevention
in Evolving
Environments**

December 5-7, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

 **30th**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE



30 Years of *Forging New Frontiers*

165 registered / about 155 in attendance

90 presenters

45 abstract presentations

27 hours of content

21 poster presentations

15 workshops

6 supporters and exhibitors

Gold Supporter



Bronze Supporter



Conference Exhibitors



Special Thanks for Ongoing Support

Bloomberg
Philanthropies



3 Abstract/Presentation Awards:

Best Original Research

- Ashley Blanchard, Association of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Common Co-Occurring Conditions with Suffocation

Best Program Description

- Kendall Snellgrove, From Triage to Treatment: Enhancing Mental Health Screening Compliance in Pediatric Trauma Patients

Best Program Evaluation

- Shreya Gautam, Improving Firearm Injury Prevention Anticipatory Guidance in the Pediatrician's Office – A Quality Improvement Initiative



2025 Inaugural E. Lenita Johnson Award

**Gia Ramsey, MBA, ADN, LPN, CPSTI,
Maimonides Medical Center**

**Julia Glauboch, RN, CPST, Staten Island
University Hospital**

**Scaling Pediatric Injury Prevention
Education in NYC: A Collaborative
Hospital Based Model Using Safe
Sitter®**

PI and PC Award Recipients

- PI of the Year:**

- Dr. Steve C Rogers, MD, MS,
Connecticut Children's Hospital,
Hartford, CT

- PC of the Year**

- Mary Beth Vassy, MPH, CPSTI,
Medical University of South Carolina,
Charleston, SC



2 keynotes

- **Brent Kaziny, MD, MA**, Medical Director of Emergency Management, Texas Children's Hospital, From **Go Bags to Grand Plans: Protecting Children Through All Levels of Disaster Preparedness**
- **Judy Schaechter, MD, MBA**, Director, Division of Violence Prevention CDC, **Pioneer Award Keynote: A Perspective from Someone in the Caravan**
- **Special Panel Discussion**

From Reels to Safety: Pediatric Injury Prevention in the Digital Space

- **Maneesha Agarwal, MD**, Children's Health Care of Atlanta/Injury Control Research Center at Emory University (IPRCE)
- **Tracy Mehan, MA**, Injury Control Research Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital (Nationwide CIRP)
- **Darria Gillespie, MD, MBA**, University of Tennessee/ Founder No-Panic Parenting
- **Nkeiruka Orajiaka, MD, MPH**, University of Texas/Children's Medical Center of Dallas



- **FOLLOW UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND INJURY PREVENTION: PART 2**
- Was your interest piqued during our panel on Saturday morning featuring '@drdarria, '@dr_norajiaka, and '@tracy_mehan? Below are some tips on how to support injury prevention social media:
 - Follow your top 15 favorite accounts on pediatric injury, and FAVORITE them (otherwise the algorithm won't show them regularly to you). Be sure to include '@injuryfreekids on your list!
 - Engage with content:
 - **Comment** on posts (liking doesn't do much anymore)
 - **Share** posts in your stories - adding commentary and tagging the creator helps them push the content out even more
 - **Repost** their post in your feed
 - **Join the Injury Free rapid response team:** this group will receive monthly invites to record a script for a video montage like the one below. You can participate when able. This group will also receive notification if there's an injury prevention post that could use some support (e.g. a safe sleep post getting attacked in the comments). **To join, email maneesha.agarwal@emory.edu**
 - https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRCo25aDkbc/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIO DBiNWFIZA==

- **FOLLOW UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND INJURY PREVENTION: PART 2**

- **Join the Injury Free social media committee:** this group leads the social media content and direction for Injury Free. We are always looking for new members to help contribute to our initiatives. This is a great opportunity for PC's (one of the original co-chairs was a PC) and trainees! Members have made specific impacts as detailed below. **To join, email maneesha.agarwal@emory.edu**
 - Jamie Holland - leads Instagram reels focused on specific topics (example:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6EVZ8-Ly_k/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==)
 - Amelia Bray-Aschenbrenner - leads the annual Instagram live for National Injury Prevention Day (2025):
https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRNQ3pMkUQ9/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==)
 - Heather Felton - leads the video montage effort (example: above)

SoMe Subcommittee looking for New Members

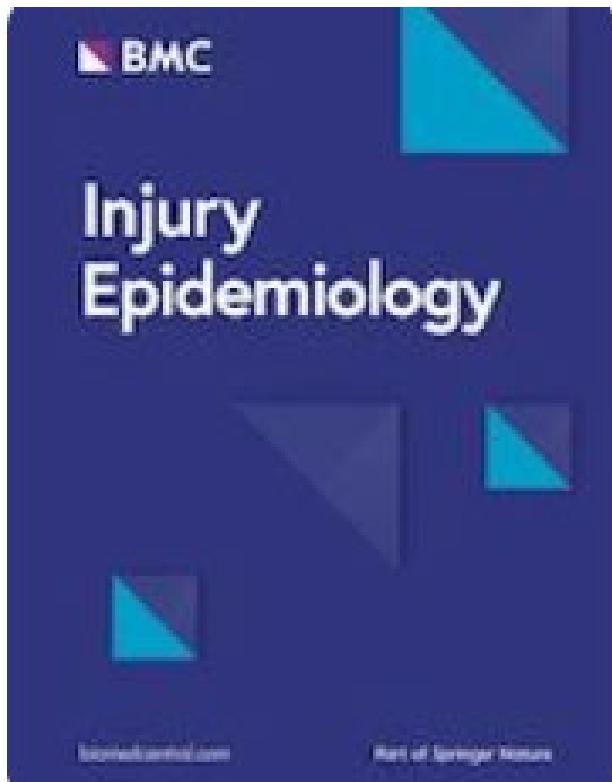
- Guide IFC on our SoMe strategy
- Develop content including the series on board members, sites, research articles, and injury prevention messaging
- Support other injury prevention teams with their content (e.g. participating in T4CIP initiatives)
- Equip IFC members with the latest SoMe skills
- Lead SoMe strategy to highlight National Injury Prevention Day and the Injury Free conference.
- Meet **4th Thursday of every month 1-2pm EST.**
- Social Media Skills are not required
- Busiest in the months leading up to National Injury Prevention Day and the national conference, then take the rest of December and January off
- If you're interested or have questions, please reach out to SoMe co-chairs: Dr. Maneesha Agarwal (maneesha.agarwal@emory.edu) or Dr. Kristyn Melchiors (KMelchiors@uams.edu).



IFC Social Media



- #MeetUsMonday – Many sites have not submitted
- #PubFridays
- Instagram: @InjuryFreeKids
- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/InjuryFreeCoalitionForKids>
- LinkedIn: Injury Free Coalition for Kids or DiLenny Roca



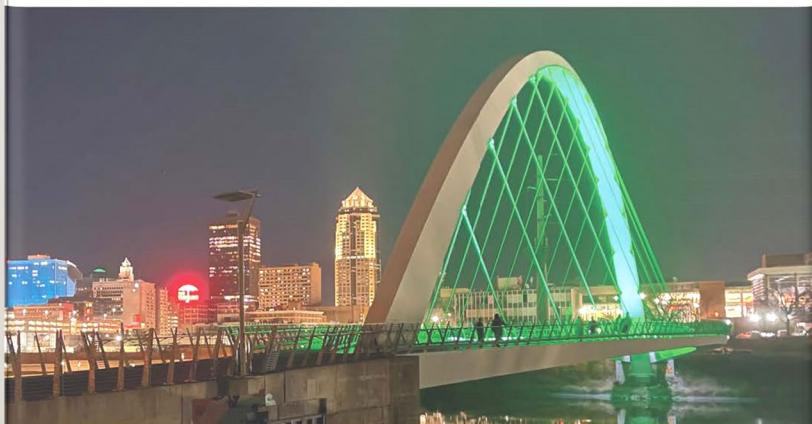
- Proceedings of the 29th Annual Injury Free Coalition for Kids® Conference: Forging New Frontiers: Engineering for Equity -
<https://injepijournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/supplements/volume-12-supplement-1>





National Injury Prevention Day

November 18, 2025



Shine a **green light** for safety
and help all communities **#BeInjuryFree**

nationalinjurypreventionday.org



CHECK OUT ALL NIPD ACTIVITIES:
<https://nationalinjurypreventionday.org/>

*Kick off Webinar
November 12th at
1 PM EST*

Shine a Green light

NIPD Website

*Community-based
injury prevention
education*

*Proclamation
Requests*

#BeInjuryFree

TCAA Media Contest

In-Reach trainings

	2025	2024	% change
Total Entries	421	419	2%
City	142	123	15%
State	40	40	0%
Shine A Green Light	175	155	13%
Community Prog	179	141	27%
Proclamation	45	40	13%
Internal Staff Training	78	28	179%
Social Media	57	19	200%
Other Media	41	10	310%
Rsrch, Policy, Prog	7	10	-30%
Thank You	42	16	163%
Total Activities	624	419	49%

NIPD WEBINARS



Kickoff Webinar

November 12, 2025

Unifying Voices: Turning Awareness into Action

[Watch Recording >](#)



Instagram Live

November 18, 2025

Join the Conversation with NIPD Partners

[Watch Recording >](#)



Fireside Chat

November 20, 2025

Post-NIPD Conversation & Reflection

[Watch Recording >](#)

[**NIPD KICK-OFF WEBINAR**](#)

[**NIPD INSTAGRAM LIVE CONVERSATION**](#)

[**FIRESIDE CHAT for YEAR of ACTION**](#)

Leading up to National Injury Prevention Day 2026

QUARTER 1

Connection

Timeline: December 2025 – February 2026

Goal: Strengthen connections and celebrate what's working.

Connection has always been a strength of the injury prevention field but right now, it's more important than ever. As funding shrinks and programs shift, some professionals may feel isolated or unsure where to turn for support, resources, or collaboration. Taking time to reconnect helps us share what's working, amplify each other's voices, and remind ourselves that we're part of something bigger. Building and sustaining relationships across organizations, sectors, and communities strengthens the field and keeps injury prevention visible, supported, and resilient.

Suggested Activities

General: Sign the Year of Action for Injury Prevention Pledge

Advocacy: Sign up for Advocacy Action Alerts through the Keep America Safe Coalition

Start Planning for NIPD 2026: Put National Injury Prevention Day 2026 (Nov 18th) on your calendar now and block time to start planning

Social Media & Communications: Update your LinkedIn profile, join injury prevention groups, engage with others in the field

Personal Connections: Reach out to 3 other people or organizations who participated in NIPD

More ideas and detailed activities are included in the complete toolkit.

QUARTER 2

Discovery & Sharing

Timeline: March 2026 – May 2026

Goal: Discover and share the people, programs, and resources that are making a difference so we can lift up each other, strengthen the field, and grow the visibility of injury prevention together.

In Quarter 1, we focused on connection by reaching out, finding our people, and starting conversations. In Quarter 2, we build on that while we shift to discovery and sharing. There's powerful work happening across the injury prevention field—innovative programs, valuable tools, and passionate people—but we don't always know where to find them or how to amplify their efforts.

Suggested Activities

Resource Discovery & Curation: Gather 3–5 key resources and organize them in a shared folder with your team

Social Media & Communication: Highlight new tools, share quotes from webinars, feature partner resources

Outreach & Advocacy: Share insights with community partners or policymakers, reach out to lawmakers

Planning for NIPD 2026: Create or update a folder of NIPD assets you may want to use again

More ideas and detailed activities are included in the complete toolkit.

QUARTER 3

Invite & Expand

Timeline: June 2026 – August 2026

Goal: Bring new people into the conversation and help amplify the work of others across the injury prevention field.

By this point in the year, you've been building connections and sharing resources within your existing network. In Quarter 3, we turn outward: it's time to invite new people into the work, especially those outside of traditional injury prevention roles, and to intentionally amplify others in the field.

Suggested Activities

Connection & Outreach: Invite partners from outside traditional injury prevention spaces to collaborate

Storytelling & Visibility: Spotlight someone in the field, share reflections, reshare stories from others

Policy & Advocacy: Invite lawmakers to visit your site, prep explanations of your funding impact

Planning for NIPD 2026: Identify and invite new partners, host brainstorming sessions, start reaching out for green lighting requests

More ideas and detailed activities are included in the complete toolkit.

QUARTER 4

Elevate & Activate

Timeline: September 2026 – November 2026

Goal: Show up, speak out, and help make National Injury Prevention Day visible and powerful.

Throughout the year, you've been building relationships, sharing resources, and expanding awareness of injury prevention. Now, it's time to put that work into action and help make National Injury Prevention Day (NIPD) on November 18 a moment of collective visibility and impact.

Suggested Activities

Communications & Visibility: Share teaser posts, schedule social media posts, update profile banners, create videos

Partner Coordination: Finalize your NIPD plan with partners, check in with collaborators

Internal Readiness: Organize toolkits and graphics, draft your story, meet with your team

More ideas and detailed activities are included in the complete toolkit.



Funding Opportunities from Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

Request for Proposals (RFP): *Expanding Gun Violence Prevention Research with EveryShot*. This RFP will fund **three seed research grants (up to \$20,000 each, 12 months in duration)** that use [EveryShot](#), Areas of interest:

- Policy analysis
- Dataset validation
- Gun violence news coverage & text analysis
- Other innovative applications

Eligible applicants include academic institutions, research organizations, think tanks, and nonprofits that are established 501(c)(3) organizations with demonstrated research capacity. Early-career researchers are encouraged to apply.

Key dates:

- RFP released: January 15, 2026
- Optional Q&A webinar: February 2, 2026 (*more details on this to come!*)
- **Applications due: February 28, 2026 (11:59 PM ET)**

Full RFP details and application instructions are available [here](#), and applications can be submitted [using this form](#). Instructions and details for your reference are attached. For Question email: research@everytown.org.

OnCall4Kids: [OnCall4Kids Website](#)

Over the past year, OnCall4Kids has expanded its reach and impact by building strong partnerships with law enforcement leaders across the country. By bringing together healthcare professionals and law enforcement, we aim to reduce gun violence and promote safer communities. OnCall4Kids are proud to partner with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) on a secure storage social media campaign. They have also expanded their advocacy education programming and now have OnCall4Kids affiliated injury prevention experts offer lectures at conferences and academic institutions nationwide.

There are **two upcoming OnCall4Kids events!**

Educational Webinar on 1/27/26 from 11:30am-12:30pm CST (Virtual):

A webinar featuring the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Police chiefs will discuss:

Law enforcement first response to gun violence

Background on different types of firearms and secure storage devices

How healthcare professionals and law enforcement can work together to create meaningful change

RSVP here: [Registration for IACP/OC4K Webinar](#)

OnCall4Kids:

Day of Legislative Advocacy 5/12/26 (In person attendance in Washington, DC)

Healthcare professionals are invited to join OnCall4Kids in Washington, DC for the 6th day of legislative advocacy.

Please plan to reserve 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for meetings. A diverse group of participants, including students, therapists, medical assistants, nurses, advanced practice clinicians, and physicians are invited. To help offset travel costs, we are offering \$200 stipends for the first two healthcare workers per state who RSVP to attend the DC fly-in. Reimbursement will be provided after travel is completed and will require a plane ticket or hotel receipt. Reimbursement will be issued in the form of a gift card.

RSVP Here: [RSVP for 5/12/16 Day of Legislative Advocacy in DC](#)

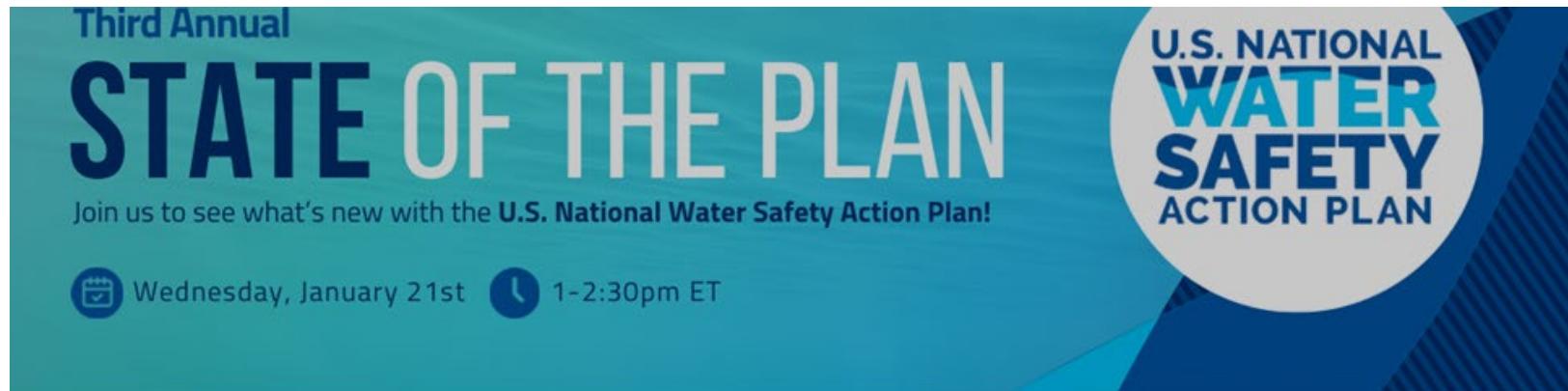
Get Involved: If you can't make our event but still want to get involved, please sign up to become a State Volunteer or State Captain. [OnCall4Kids Volunteer Form](#)

Arrange an Advocacy Talk at Your Institution: OnCall4Kids will provide the experts to discuss gun violence as a public health crisis and how healthcare workers can use our collective expertise to promote changes. [OnCall4Kids Advocacy Lecture](#)

Learn More About OnCall4Kids: [OnCall4Kids Website](#)

State of the Plan Webinar, US National Water Safety Action Plan

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



Third Annual State of the Plan

Join us on January 21 from 1-2:30 PM ET for the Third Annual State of the Plan Webinar. We'll share key accomplishments from 2025, unveil exciting plans for 2026, and discuss ways you can stay involved in advancing water safety nationwide.

What to Expect:

- Highlights from 2025
- Upcoming initiatives for the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan
- Opportunities to engage in 2026

2026 Annual Conference

*Anchoring the Community
of Injury Science* 



- Date: April 13-15, 2026
- Location: Omni Providence Hotel, Providence, Rhode Island
- <https://savir.joynconference.com/v2/>
- Earlybird registration ends 1/30/2026



SUBCOMMITTEES

Safe Sleep:	Mary Beth Vassy(Charleston, South Carolina) vassy@musc.edu
New Coordinators:	Michael Chappelle (Providence, RI) mchappell@brownhealth.org
Car Passenger Safety (CPS):	Adrienne Gallardo, (Portland, OR) gallarda@ohsu.edu
Adult/Peds Hospitals:	Asia Simpson (Worcester, MA) Asia.Simpson@umassmemorial.org
Social Media:	Chairs: Dr. Maneesha Agarwal (Atlanta) and Dr. Kristen Jeffries (Little Rock) injuryfree-socialmedia@injuryfree.org
Firearms Research/Gun Violence Prevention	injuryfree-firearmprev@injuryfree.org
NIPD	Chairs: Open
Micromobility Subcommittee	Chair: Rebecca Melvin (Jacksonville, FL) rebecca.melvin@ufhealth.org