



## Welcome to the May 2015 edition of Community Connect

In order to minimize the number of emails we send and ensure that newsletters are of relevant and important information, we are changing distribution of Community Connect from bi-monthly to quarterly. If we need to communicate something more quickly, we will send out a specific email. We hope you like this arrangement. Remember to contact [scainfo@nsc.org](mailto:scainfo@nsc.org) if you have something to share.

### Community Highlights

#### Water Safety this Summer

What if only about half of adults on the road had actually passed their driver's license exam? It's a scary thought. Yet, according to a [survey](#) conducted by the American Red Cross, only 54% of adults who say they can swim are able to perform five critical water-safety skills that could save their lives.

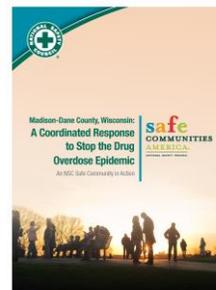


Still, droves of adults head to the beach or out on the open water with the assumption that drowning can't happen to them - unless they're doing something "stupid"- this dangerous misconception continues to make drowning a serious and often overlooked issue in the US and worldwide, as the third leading cause of injury death.

A [new WHO report](#) says that drowning remains a "neglected public health issue." [Learn more](#) about what you can do to end the vicious cycle of the drowning death epidemic.

#### Madison-Dane County Drug Poisoning Prevention Initiative

In January, we highlighted drug poisoning prevention initiatives in Madison Dane County. In March 2015, the National Safety Council developed a [case study](#) on Madison-Dane County's approach to the drug overdose epidemic. A video will be available soon. Keep up the important work [Madison-Dane County Safe Communities!](#)



#### New Lenox featured in FEMA communication

New Lenox Safe Communities was featured in FEMA's March 2015 CERT E-Brief which discussed how the team's activities have contributed to their accreditation as a Safe Community. Read how [New Lenox CERT Helps Village of New Lenox Become a "Safe Community."](#) Great work New Lenox!

To share a success story from your community, email us at [scainfo@nsc.org](mailto:scainfo@nsc.org).

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#### What Americans Believe About Opioid Prescription Painkiller Use

Nearly 70% of opioid painkiller users do not know sharing painkillers is a felony. [Read the results](#) of a public opinion poll from the National Safety Council.

#### Teen dating violence prevention online course

[Dating Matters](#) is an online course available to educators, school personnel,

## News

### Welcome the new PPSCN Board

The Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network approved its very first board members in April. There are twelve members on the board and three will represent the United States.

- Carrie Nie, Safe Communities America
- Steve Sparrow, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center
- Lloyd Jordison, Madison, KY Safe Communities

[View the entire list of PPSCN board members.](#)

### Safe Communities America Annual Report

In March, Safe Communities America released our 2014 Annual Report. In the report, we highlight:

- Updates on international activities
- Progress on the Kentucky project
- Analysis from the 2014 Annual Coalition Reports
- Stories from the Safe Communities America Network



[View the 2014 Annual Report](#) and share with your partners.

### Evaluating the Efficacy of Your Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Coalition



The CHIP is a helpful tool to assist communities in prioritizing issues and choosing strategies to effectively address those issues. [Read the NACCHO interview](#) with local health department staff from Maricopa County (AZ) Department of Public Health, on how their [CHIP](#) coalition, a group of diverse, local stakeholders, is creating an action plan to address public health priority areas. Many of these strategies apply to Safe Communities.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Receive free resources during National Safety Month this June

National Safety Month is observed annually in June and focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities. This year, we will focus on several issues occurring in our Safe Communities including prescription painkiller abuse, transportation safety, ergonomics, emergency preparedness and slips, trips and falls. To learn more and receive materials right to your inbox, visit [nsc.org/nsm](http://nsc.org/nsm).



Consider giving a [personal gift in honor of someone special](#) this National Safety Month.

### Funding Opportunity: Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant Program

The Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant Program (ROOR) will fund efforts

youth leaders, and others working to improve the health of teens.

### Social network analysis tool

The [PARTNER tool](#) is a social network analysis tool designed for to measure and monitor how well members of a coalition collaborate.



Safe Communities America is a founding member of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network (PPSCN). Learn more about the 119 PPSCN communities by visiting [ppscn.org](http://ppscn.org).



The National Safety Council is an International Safe Community Support Center to the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institutet.

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to reduce the incidences of morbidity and mortality related to opioid overdoses in rural communities. Eligible applicants include community partnerships comprising of local emergency responders as well as other local non-profit and for-profit entities involved in the prevention and treatment of opioid overdose. Awards up to \$100,000 in funding will be available to as many as 18 rural partnerships for one year. [Apply now](#).

**Deadline: June 8, 2015**

## Meetings & Conferences

### **Safe Communities America Annual Networking Conference**

August 10-11, 2015

Chicago, IL

Email [scainfo@nsc.org](mailto:scainfo@nsc.org) to register.

### **American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo**

Oct. 31 - Nov. 4, 2015

Chicago, IL

[Register now](#)

*A special thanks to our national partners*



*...and to The Dow Chemical Company and ExxonMobil for local community coalition support.*