



Welcome to the November 2015 edition of Community Connect

## Community Highlights

### Madison-Dane County, WI Re-accredited

Madison-Dane County, WI was re-accredited a Safe Community on Thursday, October 15, 2015 during their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Be Safe Awards celebration. Madison-Dane County was first accredited in 1999 and since then, has institutionalized safety promotion in their community.

Several years ago, Safe Communities Madison-Dane County learned that drug overdoses were a growing problem for their residents, the Safe Communities coalition sought community input to develop a comprehensive approach to address prescription drug overdoses. They have also become actively engaged with the National Safety Council as a part of a larger prescription drug overdose prevention initiative, helping us develop a moving video and case study. Give them a shout out on their [Facebook page](#) or check out their website for [more information](#).



### Welcome Jessamine County, KY!

Jessamine County, KY hosted their site visit September 21-22, 2015. During the site visit, reviewers were particularly impressed by the [Bluegrass Emergency Response Team \(BERT\)](#) which was formed with federal funding but have continued to collaborate even after funding ended; additionally, they sat in on a Motor

Vehicle and Preparedness workgroup meeting which included students in from different high schools tasked with building a driving campaign.

Their accreditation has been approved! Please join us in welcoming [Jessamine County, Kentucky](#) to the Safe Communities America Network. Say congrats on their [Facebook](#) page!



### News-worthy New Castle

New Castle's Safe Communities Coalition was featured in local papers for their partnership with [First Student](#) to roll out their Safety Dog campaign. The Safety Dog Bus Tour met with

867 students, kindergarten through second grade, and included

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National Volunteer Fire Council Offers Free Classes

For a limited time, the National Volunteer Fire Council is offering [16 health and safety classes at no cost](#).

Fire service members and industry professionals teach the courses, which include resources, quizzes and certificates of completion.

New Resource from Safe States Alliance

representatives from the New Castle police and fire departments. Students got to experience safety lessons about bus safety in a hands-on, interactive setting.

Partnerships with employers like First Student highlight the fantastic role local employers can play in supporting community injury prevention programs and collaborating with local organizations.

What's been happening in your community? [We're listening](#) and we would love to highlight you!

## News

### Highlights from the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

APHA hosted its 143<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Chicago October 31 – November 4. This year's closing message was Generation Public Health with a call to all public health professionals to build the "Healthiest Nation in One Generation". Over 13,000 people attended the meeting, [18 new policy statements were adopted](#), and sessions covered a variety of topics including prescription drug overdoses, community development to support health, and how violence, particularly gun violence, can be addressed by public health. If you were unable to attend, [watch the Opening Session](#) for some incredibly inspirational messages from national leaders.



### New Resources on Opioid Misuse and Safe Drug Disposal Programs

**SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL**  
A Guide for Communities  
Seeking Solutions



Partnership  
for Drug-Free Kids

COPS

The Department of Health and Human Services launched a website focused on increasing education about opioid misuse and providing resources for communities. The new website, [HHS.gov/Opioids](https://www.hhs.gov/opioids), offers tools and information for patients, families, and friends; health professionals; law enforcement; and other stakeholders about prescription drug abuse and heroin use prevention, treatment & recovery, and overdose response.

In addition, the Partnership for Drug Free Kids developed a community guide for [Safe Drug Disposal](#) which provides information on what safe drug disposal is, who should be involved and how these programs can be promoted in the community. The guide also identifies key issues for program developers to consider and resources to help create safe drug disposal programs in the community.

### New recommendation: school bus safety belts for all

Safe States Alliance has expanded their online [Training Center](#) which offers trainings and other learning opportunities for injury and violence prevention, public health, and other prevention professionals. Over 70 online trainings are currently available, which more being added all the time. Continuing education credits are available.

**Have an idea or looking for technical assistance?** [Contact Safe Communities America staff](#) today to discuss ways the National Safety Council can further support your injury prevention programs.



**PANPACIFIC**  
Safe Communities Network

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](https://ppscn.org).



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“The position of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is that seat belts save lives. That is true whether in a passenger car or in a big yellow bus,” Mark Rosekind, NHTSA administrator, said in a [speech](#) Nov. 8 to the National Association for Pupil Transportation. This represents a change in position for the administration, and one that is supported by the National Safety Council as well.



NHTSA will launch a series of studies into school bus safety, including examining jurisdictions that require safety belts. The agency will also reach out to safety advocates and other entities to coordinate efforts to make safety belts available to all riders. Six states currently require safety belts on school buses.

### New App to Access Injury Data Anytime, Anywhere

Want to share the most up-to-date injury statistics with your coalition, or access injury data on-the-go? Try using the CDC [WISQARS Mobile app](#). The app is available for iPhones and iPads.



The CDC designed WISQARS Mobile to spotlight four preventable public health problems – motor vehicle-related injuries, drug poisonings, traumatic brain injuries and violence against children and youth. Take a look, as these are issues that many Safe Communities are concerned about or specifically working on through initiatives.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Do you know a safety champion?

National Safety Council is accepting nominations for the 2016 Green Cross for Safety\* awards through January 15, 2016. The Council is recognizing safety at work, on the roads and everywhere in between. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories.



- **Safety Excellence:** This award recognizes a corporation, coalition or organization that, through unrelenting pursuit of safety, created a life-saving and injury-preventing safety solution. Results must demonstrate benefit to the greater good.
- **Safety Innovation:** An individual, corporation, coalition or organization that has achieved evidence-based success by taking an innovative approach to solving a long-held safety challenge is recognized for creating a fresh solution.
- **Safety Advocate:** The recipient of this award is an individual who has made a significant personal impact on a safety issue to raise awareness and prevent further injuries and deaths.



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

### Contact Us

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Nominate a safety or injury prevention champion for a Green Cross for Safety® Award at [GreenCross.nsc.org](http://GreenCross.nsc.org).

## Meetings & Conferences

### **Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)**

“Building Capital: Investing in the Future of Health Education”

March 30- April 1, 2016

Charlotte, NC

[Register now](#)

### **34th Annual Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities**

“Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow”

April 3–5, 2016

Long Beach, CA

[Register Now](#)

### **National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference**

”Cultivating a Culture of Health Equity”

July 19-21, 2016

Phoenix, AZ

[Submit an abstract now](#)

*A special thanks to our national partners*



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