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**Technical questions:**

## **Oregon Public Health's Adrienne Greene named 2009 Safe Kids USA State Coordinator of the Year**

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Oregon Public Health employee Adrienne Greene has been named 2009 Safe Kids USA State Coordinator of the Year. Greene has been the manager of Safe Kids Oregon since 2001, and also manages the Children's Injury Prevention Program at the Public Health Division of Oregon's Department of Human Services.

"I'm very proud of Adrienne and the terrific work Safe Kids Oregon has done under her leadership," says Mel Kohn, MD, acting director and state health officer at the Oregon Public Health Division.

Although influenza has been an important focus of the public health system in recent months, other chronic public health problems have not gone away, Kohn says. "Unintentional injuries have been the leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 14 for many years. The work of Safe Kids is an important part of the reason that the unintentional injury death rate in Oregon children, ages 14 and under, has declined by more than 50 percent since 1995," he says.

"Adrienne Greene is truly a Safe Kids champion and very deserving of one of our most prestigious awards," says Alan Korn, executive director of the national Safe Kids USA organization in Washington D.C., which oversees

Safe Kids coalitions in every state.

Greene says she is honored to receive this national recognition, but the real champions are the hundreds of volunteers who participate in the 14 Safe Kids coalitions around Oregon. "Their work and commitment is really the engine that drives our success," says Greene.

Safe Kids Oregon is a network of 14 coalitions around the state that meet monthly. They implement public awareness campaigns, provide training, distribute safety items such as car seats, smoke detectors and bike helmets, and support policies and laws to keep children safe. The group focuses on preventing injuries from:

- Motor vehicle crashes
- Drowning
- Fire and burns
- Bicycling and other wheeled sports
- Falls
- Poisoning
- Suffocation
- ATV riding

The importance of this work has attracted many prominent Oregonians to volunteer for Safe Kids Oregon. Current members of the Safe Kids Oregon Advisory Board include former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts, current Governor Ted Kulongoski's Policy Advisor on Health Claudia Black, pediatrician Dr. Jim Lace and Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Traffic Safety Ruth Harshfield, among other community leaders.

"Adrienne has done a terrific job building Safe Kids Oregon," says Kohn. "Her work is a great example of the many ways that Oregon's public health system improves the health of Oregonians."

For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/safekids](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/safekids) or [www.safekidsoregon.org](http://www.safekidsoregon.org).