

# Multi-Faceted Approach to Drowning Prevention

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#### Safe Kids Week 2006

- Annual program (first week of May) focused on an injury prevention message
- Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson
- Objectives for Safe Kids Week 2006
  - Increase awareness of the importance of drowning prevention
  - Educate parents and children about pool and spa safety
  - Influence legislation about pool and spa safety at the national, state, and local level



#### Safe Kids Week 2006

May 6-13, 2006





# **Drowning Stats**

- Drowning is #2 cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1-14<sup>1</sup>
  - 761 deaths in 2004<sup>1</sup>
  - 3,771 ER visits in 2006<sup>2</sup>
- Approx. 40% of drownings occur in swimming pools<sup>3</sup>
- Entrapment  $-1985 2004^4$ 
  - At least 33 children ages 0-14 died from entrapment in a pool or spa drain
  - Nearly 100 children were injured

<sup>1</sup>National Vital Statistics System, 2004 Mortality Data (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2007. <sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2006 Nonfatal Injury Data. http://www.ede.gov/ncipe/wisqars.

<sup>3</sup>National Vital Statistics System, *2003 Mortality Data* (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2006. <sup>4</sup>Whitfield, TW. Fatal and non-fatal entrapment statistics. Personal communication. Washington (DC): Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2006.



### Parent Survey

- Only 34% of parents aware that drowning is one of the top two causes of unintentional injury death among children
- 66% of parents have little to no awareness of entrapment
  - 29% not at all familiar
  - 35% somewhat familiar
- Supervision -- Only 64% of parents with a child in the water stay in visual contact at all times
  - Varies by age 93% of parents say necessary for 2-year old, 80% for 6-year old, 42% for 10-year old



Source: Quraishi AY, Morton S, Cody BE, Wilcox R. Pool and Spa Drowning: A National Study of Drain Entrapment and Pool Safety Measures. Washington (DC): Safe Kids Worldwide, May 2006.

### Parent Survey

- Many pool/spa-owning parents don't have the recommended safety barriers<sup>1</sup>
- Percentage of pool/spa-owning parents that <u>have</u> the following safety measures
  - Isolation fencing (4-sided)– 28%
  - Perimeter fencing (3-sided)– 50%
  - Self-closing, self-latching gates 35%
  - Anti-vortex drain covers 15%
  - Safety vacuum release system 12%
  - Multiple main drains 14%



Source: Quraishi AY, Morton S, Cody BE, Wilcox R. Pool and Spa Drowning: A National Study of Drain Entrapment and Pool Safety Measures. Washington (DC): Safe Kids Worldwide, May 2006.

# Multi-Faceted Campaign

- Press conference on May 2
  - Research results
  - Call for legislation
- Legislative activity
- Coalition and chapter activities
- National television advertising
- Newspaper coupon insert
- Retailer flyers
- In-store take-one pads with "water watcher" card
- Website



# **Educational Messages**

- Drowning is #2 cause of unintentional injuryrelated death among children ages 1-14
- Active supervision
  - Maintain visual contact at all times
  - No talking on phone, reading, grilling, etc.
- Environmental changes
  - Proper drain systems
  - Isolation fencing
  - Self-closing/self-latching gates
  - Door/window alarms



#### Media Outreach

- National Press Conference
  - Speeches by Former Secretary of State James Baker and Parent Advocate Nancy Baker
  - Introduction of pool and spa safety bill by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
  - Announcement of research results
- B-roll package, satellite radio media tour, and prewritten matte story
- Coverage included CBS Early Show, Good Morning America, and Larry King Live



### Federal Advocacy Efforts

- House Efforts with Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (H.R. 5850)
- Senate Efforts with Senator George Allen (S. 3718)
- Pool & Spa Safety Act: Legislation to provide a financial incentive for states to enact pool safety laws to address drowning and entrapment risks



# Federal Advocacy Highlights

- Participation of Representative Wasserman Schultz and the Baker family at press conference
- Testimony at Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee hearing
- Participation of Safe Kids Worldwide at congressional press event to announce the bills' introduction



### State & Local Advocacy

- U.S. Coalitions' Grassroots Efforts
  - Advocacy to address the installation of barriers/fences and/or the mitigation of entrapment risks for pools and spas
  - Tools: legislative support materials and one-on-one technical assistance
  - Legislative and enforcement grant opportunities through the support of Johnson & Johnson



#### **Coalition Activities**

- 300+ local Safe Kids coalitions and chapters participated
- \$500 coalition grant/\$400 chapter grant
- Provide information for both pool/spa owners and non-pool/spa owners
- Variety of activities
  - School programs (classes, poster/essay contests, etc.)
  - Educational materials in Denny's Restaurants
  - Pool operator training course
  - Direct mail and pool store materials to reach pool-owners
  - Brochures/posters in dr. offices
  - Swimming lesson/life jacket donations
  - Life jacket exchange program



# Advertising

- Partnership with Turner Networks and Time Warner through Johnson & Johnson
- 6 new television spots produced
- Focus on active supervision
- Spots aired on TNT, TBS, CNN, and Cartoon Network

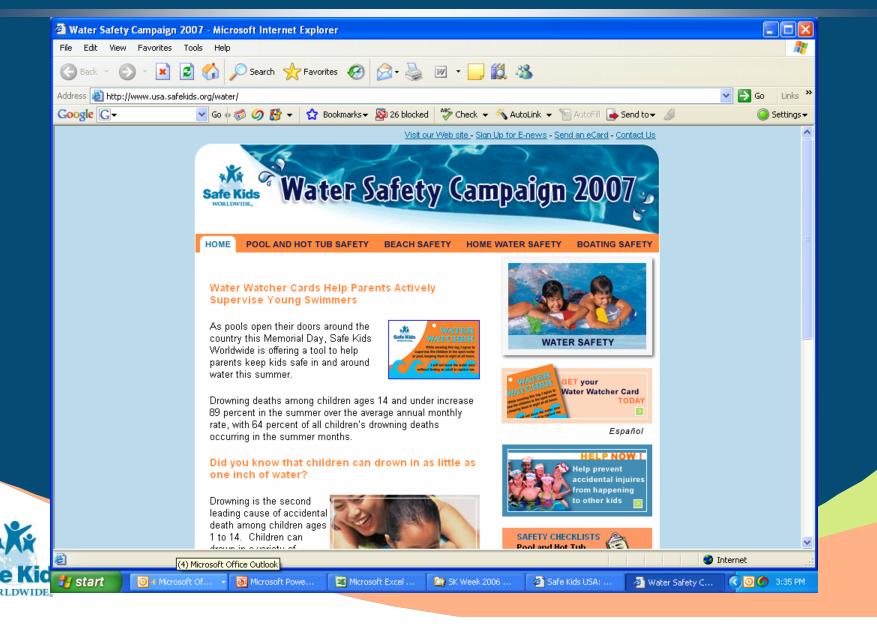


### Retail Materials





#### Website



#### **Results - Education**

#### More than 1 billion impressions

• Every American household received, on average, 10 safety messages through Safe Kids Week activities.

#### Here's how:

- 314 coalitions and chapters = 778 events = 370,405 attendees
- 822 million media impressions
- 142 million retail impressions
- 300 million household impressions from television spots
- 10 million+ on-line impressions (70,000 on SKW site)
- 500,000 600,000 water watcher cards distributed



# Results - Legislative

#### <u>2006</u>:

- Introduction of federal *Pool & Spa Safety Act* passed in the Senate, seven votes short of passage in the House
- 4 state bills introduced, with 2 passed (NY and CA)

Note: Currently 10 states have pool barrier laws and 5 states have anti-entrapment device laws



# Federal Advocacy Update

#### In 2007, new federal bills introduced

- Virginia Graeme Pool & Spa Safety Act
- H.R. 1721 sponsored by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
- S. 1771 sponsored by Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR)
- Online petition to support bill over 1,700 signatures as of October 2007
- H.R. 1721 passed House on October 9, 2007
- Pending vote on S. 1771 in full Senate



# Pre/Post Survey

- Surveys of parents taken in April and June
  - Bulk of activity in May
- Familiarity with risks of entrapment increased from 26% to 32% (extremely or very familiar)
- Awareness of Safe Kids increased from 23% to 28%
- Behavioral measures did not show changes
  - Somewhat expected due to low campaign awareness and short nature of program





#### **State Laws**

#### New York

• Requires new or remodeled pools to be equipped with a pool alarm, which is capable of detecting a child entering the water and sounds an audible alarm

#### California

- Requires remodeled pools and spas to have a safety feature installed, such as residential fencing, door alarms or pool covers
- Requires anti-entrapment drain covers to be installed on pools and spas whenever a building permit is issued for the modification of a single family home with a pool or spa
- California's previous law required the installation of one safety device on newly built pools

