



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

BALTIMORE, June 9, 2015 — Injuries are a leading cause of disability for people of all ages and they are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44. Fortunately, many injuries can be prevented when people practice safe behaviors.

During National Safety Month, MedChi is working with the community to help reduce the risk of injuries. This June, we encourage you to learn more about these important safety issues:

- **Prescription painkiller abuse:** Prescription painkiller overdoses are a growing problem in the United States, especially among women. About 18 women die every day from a prescription painkiller overdose — more than 4 times as many as back in 1999.
- **Transportation safety:** Doing other activities while driving — like texting or eating — distracts you and increases your chance of crashing. Almost 1 in 5 crashes (17%) that injured someone involved distracted driving.
- **Slips, trips, and falls:** One in 3 older adults falls each year. Many falls lead to broken bones and other health problems.

MedChi President, Tyler Cymet, D.O., states “you can spread the word about ways to reduce the risk of injuries by encouraging communities, workplaces, families, and individuals to identify and report safety hazards.”

For more information, visit www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.