



# Primary Care Section News

April 2011

## In This Issue

- National Public Health Week
- PCS is on Facebook

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April 4-10 has been designated *National Public Health Week* by the American Public Health Association (APHA).

This year's theme is

**“Safety is NO Accident: Live Injury-Free.”**

Each year in the United States, there are approximately 600,000 documented **sports-related eye injuries**. Of these, roughly 72 percent occur in individuals younger than 25 years, and 43 percent in those younger than 15 years.

In support of this important awareness week, all individuals, particularly children, are encouraged to wear proper eye protection when participating in sports.

**As primary care optometrists, we have all seen sports-related ocular trauma that may have been prevented if the patient was wearing protective eye wear. We can help to limit the number of these sports-related eye injuries in our communities by promoting the use of protective eye wear among our patients during National Public Health Week and throughout the year.**

Further, the Primary Care Section of the AAO stands with the APHA in its call for public health measures to positively impact this growing concern. Among those efforts detailed in the APHA's policy statement – “Promoting the Use of Protective Eyewear for Children in Sports” – are recommendations to enact state legislation across the country that would require eye protection for children playing sports; to encourage health educators and facilitators of sports programs to teach the value of quality fitted sports protective eyewear; to conduct studies on the cost-effectiveness of sports protective eyewear; and the employment of risk management strategies by insurance companies promoting the use of protective eyewear.

Upwards of 90 percent of sports eye injuries can be prevented through the proper use of protective eyewear,” said Renée Mika, OD, Chair of the Vision Care Section at APHA. Injuries can range from temporary to permanent vision loss. This is indeed a public health concern that must be addressed.”

For more information: <http://www.nphw.org/nphw11/first1.htm>

Janis E. Winters OD Communication Chair



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For more information:

To see what events are already planned in your area:

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw11/calendar.cfm?fuseaction=statemap>

APHA's policy statement – "Promoting the Use of Protective Eyewear for Children in Sports"

<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1331>

What do 780 like?

Your Primary Care Section on Facebook!

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