

# News Release

## Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**For Immediate Release  
June 11, 2020**

### **Ohio Children to Receive More than 8,000 Free Bike Helmets through Put A Lid on It! Bike Helmet Safety Awareness Program**

COLUMBUS – Bicycle helmets will be going to children across Ohio this summer thanks to a continued partnership between the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP). This year, a \$12,000 grant from Honda of America Marysville is helping provide helmets to children throughout Ohio.

More than 8,000 bicycle helmets will be distributed this year as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ohio AAP's *Put a Lid on It! Bike Helmet Safety Awareness* campaign. With warmer weather comes more opportunities for time spent outside on bicycles and the opportunity for injury. Up to 75 percent of bike-related fatalities would be prevented with a helmet and wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent.

“Wearing a helmet not only reduces the risk of injury, it can prevent unnecessary trips to hospitals thereby reducing risks for COVID-19 exposure and unnecessary burdens on the health care system.” said Melissa Wervey Arnold, Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio AAP. “We are incredibly grateful for ODOT’s support of our *Put a Lid on It* campaign this year. With their continued support, we will be able to supply bike helmets to hundreds and continue protecting Ohio’s children.”

On Thursday, June 11th, Ohio AAP and ODOT were able to distribute bike helmets to more than 140 local organizations across the state. Training materials for biking education, including how to properly fit children with bike helmets were also provided.

A combination of efforts is necessary to effectively increase helmet usage rates among Ohio children including raising awareness of the benefits, encouraging model behavior among adults, distributing bike helmets to Ohio children and advocating for supportive public policies.

To learn more about Bike Helmet Safety Awareness, visit the *Put A Lid On It* page at the Ohio AAP’s website at [www.ohioaap.org/putalidonit](http://www.ohioaap.org/putalidonit). To learn more about the Ohio Safe Routes to School program visit: [www.bike.ohio.gov](http://www.bike.ohio.gov)

*The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) promotes the health, safety and well-being of children and adolescents so they may reach their full potential. The Ohio AAP works to accomplish this by addressing the needs of children, their families, and their communities, and by supporting Chapter members through advocacy, education, research, service, and improving the systems through which they deliver pediatric care.*

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**INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATING PEDIATRICIANS AVAILABLE**

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