



The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to trauma prevention and mitigation through education and advocacy.

For more information visit:
www.atspa.org

SHEDDING LIGHT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

As April rolls in, it brings with it not just the promise of spring blooms and warmer weather, but also a crucial observance: Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Established to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it. This is a vital opportunity to break the silence surrounding sexual violence.

Education lies at the heart of prevention. Sexual Assault Awareness Month endeavors to educate communities on the complexities of sexual violence, consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. By equipping individuals with knowledge and tools, communities can work together to dismantle harmful attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate sexual assault.

One of the greatest challenges in combating sexual assault is confronting societal norms and attitudes that trivialize or condone such behavior. Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides a platform to challenge these norms, calling for a culture shift where respect, consent, and equality are non-negotiable.

Ultimately, Sexual Assault Awareness Month serves as a call to action for individuals, communities, and institutions alike. Whether it's advocating for policy changes, supporting survivors, or engaging in difficult conversations, everyone has a role to play in ending sexual violence.

As we observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month, let it serve as a reminder that the fight against sexual violence is far from over. It requires sustained commitment, empathy, and solidarity. By coming together as a global community, we can create a world where every individual is free from the threat of sexual assault, and where survivors are met with compassion, support, and justice.



Out of Harm's Way

The Trauma Prevention Publication

APRIL 2024 | Issue 121

TOP NEWS TOPICS

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Preventing Dog Bites
- 2024 ATSPA Annual Conference Agenda
- National Trauma Awareness Month
- Latest News & Research

We Have a New Facebook Page!

Due to being hacked, the ATSPA has a new Facebook page. The old page is still up as we sort through a few issues, but we will not be updating posts there. Follow our new account [AmTraumaPA!](https://www.facebook.com/AmTraumaPA/)

PREVENTING DOG BITES AND ATTACKS: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

Dogs have long held the title of “man’s best friend,” providing companionship, love, and loyalty to millions of households worldwide. However, it’s essential to acknowledge that even the most well-trained and beloved dogs have the potential to bite or attack under certain circumstances. Preventing dog bites and attacks requires a combination of responsible pet ownership, education, and awareness. In this guide, we’ll explore practical steps individuals can take to minimize the risk of dog-related incidents and promote safer interactions between humans and canines.

Dog bites and attacks can stem from various factors, including fear, aggression, protection of territory or resources, pain, illness, or lack of socialization. Recognizing the underlying causes can help individuals identify potential triggers and take appropriate preventive measures.

Responsible Pet Ownership

The foundation of preventing dog bites begins with responsible pet ownership. This includes:

- **Proper Training and Socialization:** Early training and socialization are crucial for fostering positive behavior in dogs. Expose them to different environments, people, and animals from a young age to help them develop confidence and appropriate social skills.
- **Supervision:** Never leave dogs unsupervised around unfamiliar individuals, especially children. Supervision ensures prompt intervention in case of any signs of discomfort or aggression.
- **Regular Exercise and Mental Stimulation:** Adequate exercise and mental stimulation are essential for a dog’s well-being and can help alleviate boredom or excess energy that may lead to behavioral issues.
- **Healthcare:** Regular veterinary check-ups, vaccinations, and parasite control are vital for maintaining a dog’s physical and mental health. Address any signs of illness or discomfort promptly to prevent potential aggression due to pain or discomfort.
- **Secure Enclosures:** Ensure that your property has secure fencing to prevent dogs from escaping and potentially causing harm to themselves or others. Keep dogs on a leash when in public areas to maintain control and prevent unexpected interactions.

Educating the Public

Education plays a critical role in preventing dog bites and attacks. It’s essential to educate both dog owners and the general public on:

- **Canine Body Language:** Understanding a dog’s body language can help individuals recognize signs of stress, fear, or aggression, allowing them to adjust their behavior accordingly and avoid potential conflicts.
- **Safe Interactions:** Teach children and adults how to approach and interact with dogs safely. Encourage them to ask for permission before petting a dog and to avoid actions that may startle or provoke the animal.
- **Warning Signs:** Educate individuals about common warning signs exhibited by dogs, such as growling, baring teeth, stiff body posture, or avoidance behaviors. Encourage them to respect these signals and give the dog space.
- **Reporting Procedures:** Establish clear reporting procedures for dog-related incidents within communities to ensure prompt intervention and follow-up actions when necessary.

Promoting Responsible Behavior

Preventing dog bites and attacks requires collective effort and a commitment to responsible behavior from both dog owners and the general public. This includes:

- **Training and Certification:** Encourage dog owners to enroll their pets in obedience classes and pursue certification programs, such as the Canine Good Citizen program, to promote responsible behavior and socialization.
- **Spaying and Neutering:** Consider spaying or neutering dogs to reduce the likelihood of aggression and unwanted mating behaviors.
- **Avoiding Risky Situations:** Recognize situations that may increase the risk of dog-related incidents, such as approaching unfamiliar dogs without permission, teasing or harassing dogs, or interrupting dogs while they’re eating or sleeping.
- **Seeking Professional Help:** If a dog displays concerning behavior or aggression, seek guidance from a professional dog trainer or behaviorist to address the underlying issues and prevent escalation.

Preventing dog bites and attacks requires a multifaceted approach that prioritizes responsible pet ownership, education, and community engagement. By promoting positive interactions between humans and dogs, raising awareness of potential risks, and fostering a culture of empathy and understanding, we can create safer environments for both people and their canine companions. Together, let’s work towards a future where dog bites and attacks are rare occurrences, and all dogs are valued members of our communities.

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now OPEN!! [Click here to register.](#)

We hope that you will share this opportunity with trauma nurses, doctors, social workers, EMS Personnel, PT/OT, and others interested in trauma prevention and treatment.



Prepare



Prevent



Provide

APRIL 2024 OBSERVANCES

Monthly Observances:

Distracted Driving
Sexual Assault Awareness
National Youth Sports Safety

Weekly or Daily Observances:

April 6: National Walking Day
April 2-8: National Window Safety Week
April 9-15: National Dog Bite Prevention Week
April 17-21: National Work Zone Awareness Week
April 25-29: National Playground Safety Week

Agenda at a Glance

Tuesday, April 23

9:00 am	Conference Registration Opens
9:00 am – 3:45 pm	Exhibits Open
9:00 – 10:00 am	Continental Breakfast
10:00 – 11:10 am	Opening Remarks and Session #1 (Templeton Lecture) Gun Violence in America: How Healthcare Workers can Drive Social Change!
11:15 am – 12:05 pm	Session #2 The Evolution of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Care and Optimizing TBI Care Equity
12:05 – 12:30 pm	Awards Presentation
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Networking Luncheon
1:30 – 2:20 pm	Session #3 From Katrina to Maui: Lessons Learned in Nineteen Years of Urban Search and Rescue
2:25 – 3:15 pm	Session #4 – Templeton Poster Showcase Lightning Round
3:15 – 3:35 pm	Beverage Break
3:35 – 3:40 pm	Poster Award Presentation
3:40 – 4:30 pm	Session #5 Life Derailed: A Patient Perspective on Polytrauma and Recovery
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Networking Reception
6:00 – 8:00 pm	50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration

Wednesday, April 24

7:30 am	Conference Registration Opens
7:30 am – 1:00 pm	Exhibits Open
7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 – 9:40 am	Session #6 (Hersperger-Pryor Lecture) What Saves Lives at a Mass Shooting Event: Lessons Learned from the Tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue
9:40 – 10:00 am	Beverage Break
10:00 – 10:50 am	Session #7 Addressing Inequities through the Injury Equity Framework
10:55 – 11:45 am	Session #8 Keeping Heads Above Water: Investigating Methods to Promote Water Safety in every Community
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Networking Luncheon
12:45 – 1:35 pm	Session #9 Transfusion in Trauma: The Military and Civilian Experience
1:40 – 2:30 pm	Session #10 Disaster Preparedness: Lessons from the Chocolate Factory
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Raffle Drawing & Closing Remarks

Register NOW!
**2024 ATSPA Annual
Conference**
April 23 & 24
**Lancaster Marriott at Penn
Square**

Our website also contains information for:

[Agenda](#)
[Hotel Information](#)
[Registration](#)

For more information, visit our [website](#).

Register NOW!
ATSPA 50th Anniversary Celebration!
April 23, 2024
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

This business attire event will include a reception and dinner.

Please join us in celebrating “50 Years of Saving Lives!”

For more information on the 50th Anniversary, visit our [website](#).

NATIONAL TRAUMA AWARENESS MONTH

Once again, the American Trauma Society (ATS) and The Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) have come together in the development of the annual National Trauma Awareness Month (NTAM) campaign. With a documented rise in motor vehicle crashes and fatalities throughout the nation, the theme “Roadway Safety Is No Accident” is both timely and appropriate for trauma centers to promote.

In 1988, the ATS and Congress established May as National Trauma Awareness Month. 36 years later, ATS continues to provide themed injury prevention programs and education for all ages. NTAM themes have highlighted the risks of falls, distracted driving, violence prevention, firearm violence prevention, sports injuries and many other important injury prevention topics.

INFORMATIONS SPECIFIC TO 2024.

Latest IVP News and Research

Research

- [Scrushy, M., Lunardi, N., & Sakran, J. V. \(2024\). Trauma demographics and injury prevention. Surgical Clinics of North America, 104\(2\), 243–254. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.suc.2023.11.013>](#)

- [Jonathan Shipley BS a, et al. “Domestic Firearm Violence against Women \(2018–2021\).” Surgery Open Science, Elsevier, 2024, \[www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589845024000101\]\(http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589845024000101\)](#).

- [Davis, Latif. “A Case Study of Gun Violence in Philadelphia: An Afrocentric Analysis of Cultural Factors.” ProQuest, Temple University, 2023, \[www.proquest.com/openview/b10b02c01eec649e13c6201f5ebbf33/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y\]\(http://www.proquest.com/openview/b10b02c01eec649e13c6201f5ebbf33/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y\)](#).

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