



April 2025 INAAP News & Updates

Letter from the INAAP President Evan Kreutzer, MD

Inaugural Joint Pediatrics Conference

I am thrilled to announce our first-ever joint pediatrics conference this September, uniting the exceptional teams from Ascension St. Vincent and IU Health Riley hospital systems. This event represents an important collaborative effort to advance children's healthcare across our state.



We are honored to welcome Mark Del Monte, the CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as our keynote speaker, alongside presentations from distinguished local and national experts. Their insights will be invaluable as we navigate the evolving landscape of pediatric medicine together.

This conference offers more than just professional development—it's an opportunity to forge meaningful connections, share innovations, and collectively address the challenges facing children's health. As we embark on this exciting new chapter, I invite you to join us in shaping the future of pediatric care. Registration is now open, and you can use the link lower down in this newsletter to secure your spot.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our youngest patients.

Upcoming Events

INAAP In-Person Member Meeting: tickborne diseases and other summer season hot topics

May 28, 2025, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Sun King Carmel

Register
Now

INAAP Summer Picnic and

August 10, 2025

RSVP

Pickleball

Mulberry Fields Park, Zionsville, IN

[Here](#)

2025 Celebration Dinner

September 19, 2025

[RSVP](#)

Sponsored by CereVe

Old Spaghetti Factory, Carmel, IN

[Here](#)

2025 Indiana Joint Pediatric
Conference

September 19-20, 2025

[Register](#)

[Here](#)

Welcome Our New INAAP Members!

Over the last two months, the following individuals joined the INAAP community. Please join us in recognizing:

Matthew Partain, MD | Carmel, IN

John Humphrey, MD | Indianapolis, IN

Jeremy Sherer, MD | Indianapolis, IN

Christopher Lehmann, MD | Munster, IN

Alec Kelley, MD | Fishers, IN

Allison Newsom, MD | Zionsville, IN

Seema Patel, MD | Indianapolis, IN

Cara Slagle, MD, MS | Westfield, IN

Oluwabusayo Adebusuyi, MD | Carmel, IN

Brooke Greene, MD | Carmel, IN

Samantha Loza, MD | Columbus, IN

Erris Rowan, DO | Indianapolis, IN

Johnna Wilson, DO | Newburgh, IN

Lauren Castaneda, MD, MA | Indianapolis, IN

Alyssa Swick, MD | Brownsburg, IN

Join Us For Indiana's First Joint Pediatric Education Conference!

Exciting news for Indiana's pediatric community! For the first time ever, **INAAP**, **Riley Children's Health**, and **Peyton Manning Children's Hospital** are coming together to host the **2025 Indiana Pediatric Education Conference: Joining Together for Indiana's Children**.

This groundbreaking event will bring together **pediatricians, subspecialists, residents, medical students, nurses, and allied health professionals** for two days of **engaging CME sessions, networking, and collaboration**. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the best, connect with colleagues across health systems, and be part of a **historic first** for pediatric education in Indiana! A full list of topics and speakers is available on the website: www.hoosierpediatrics.com

REGISTER NOW!

INDIANA'S FIRST **JOINT** PEDIATRIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2025

JOINING TOGETHER FOR INDIANA'S CHILDREN

The Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, and Riley Children's Health are joining together for an exciting new event that aims to foster collaboration, camaraderie, and the highest level of continuing education for pediatric clinicians.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARK DEL MONTE, JD
CEO OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

WWW.HOOSIERPEDIATRICS.COM | EARLY BIRD RATES UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025

[Register Here](#)

Store It Safe - A New Gun Safety and Suicide Prevention QI Opportunity!

Recent statistics from The Indiana Department of Health indicate that 1 Indiana youth dies by suicide every 34 hours, making suicide the 2nd leading cause of death in young people age 10-25.

In June of 2025, the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (IN AAP) in partnership with the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA), and the Indiana Department of Health is launching Store It Safe (SIS) Youth Suicide Prevention Quality Improvement Program, which empowers physicians and other healthcare professionals to identify and address the risks of suicide at encounters with patients age 12 and up. Training on using evidence-based screening tools and how to have lethal means restriction discussions with patients and families will be provided. A virtual reality platform will be used to help providers practice and learn lethal means restriction counseling techniques.

We are delighted to be partnering with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) to help administer the program. Since 2015, Ohio AAP's, Store It Safe (SIS) initiative has been working to educate Ohioans about important suicide prevention strategies, including safe storage of lethal means and provide resources, including lockboxes to healthcare providers to distribute to families.

From June 2025 – May 2026, participating practices will receive:

- 25 points of MOC IV credit
- \$1000 clinic stipend
- Updated resources for families and youth
- Safety lockboxes
- iPads for efficient and streamlined data entry

Please register at this link below or email storeitsafeindiana@inaap.org for questions/additional information about SIS.

Registration



Concerned About Adolescent Suicide and Depression in Your Practice?

The Store It Safe Quality Improvement Project will help simplify suicide prevention guidance and practices through a unique collaboration between the Ohio and Indiana AAP chapters.



Suicide is the **2ND** leading cause of death in people 10-34 years old in the US.



82% of firearm-related suicides among youth involved a firearm owned by a household member.



38% of adolescents who died by suicide had contact with a healthcare system within the 4 weeks before their death.



“The SIS project gave us the latest tools, encouragement and education regarding the importance of our role in TALKING with parents and teens about suicide and lethal means restriction, even if the patient and/or family seems low risk.”
-SIS participant

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY!

Store It Safe participants will receive education on:

- Lethal means restriction counseling (LMRC)
- Depression screening
- Suicidality screening

<https://sis.ohioaap.org/inaapsisreg/>

Launching June 2025!

- iPad for easy, efficient and streamlined data entry
- MOC IV credit
- \$1,000 in clinic stipends
- Free resources for families, including lock boxes



CONTACT
storeitsafeindiana@inaap.org

CEASE is Actively Recruiting!

The **CEASE (Clinical Effort Against Secondhand Smoke Exposure) program** has kicked off recruitment for 2025! We are seeking pediatric practices to join the evidence based program that helps healthcare providers address household tobacco use.



Tobacco use remains a major public health issue especially in children and infants who are at a stronger risk of second and thirdhand smoke exposure. Through CEASE, clinics receive training, resources, and ongoing support to help providers integrate effective tobacco cessation interventions into routine care. The program equips providers with the tools to **ask, counsel, and treat** families.

By implementing CEASE, clinics can enhance patient care, improve health outcomes, and create a smoke-free environment for children and families. Participation is **free**, and our team provides step-by-step guidance to ensure successful implementation. Now is the perfect time to get involved and make a lasting impact on the health of Hoosier families. If your clinic is interested in joining CEASE or learning more, we'd love to connect with you!

Contact us to become a CEASE site!

Let's work together for a smoke-free future for all Hoosier families!

Learn more about CEASE

Visit our Website

INAAP's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Program



The last few months have been confusing and chaotic, igniting feelings of panic and worry for many. As we continue to face future uncertainties, it is critical to identify and lean on those who provide stability, safety, and solace. This is especially important for children and adolescents who need help to process, understand, and navigate the world around them. Empowering Indiana families to prioritize mental health is more important than ever.

Indiana Mental Health Data

Per the Indiana Department of Health, **all of Indiana's 92 counties** experienced mental health shortages in 2023.

There were **500 people** for every **one mental health provider** in 2023 (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps).

Compared to neighboring states in the Midwest, the National Survey of Children's Health found that Indiana had the **highest rate of caregivers who reported difficulty obtaining necessary mental health care for their child at 59.7%**. This rate is higher than the national average of 56.1%.

The Indiana Department of Health lists **suicide as one of the top three causes of death** for children aged 10-19 years old. In 2022, **56 Hoosiers** between the ages of 10 and 19 died

by suicide.



Celebrating Success

The CARE Team has been honored to serve 987 families across 73 of Indiana's 92 counties.

Top Referral Counties:

Marion - 198

Clark - 185

Floyd - 130

Call to Action

Our Child and Adolescent Mental Health or "CARE" Program needs your help. The Indiana FSSA DMHA grant that funds our program will not renew after June 2025.



Please remember to contact your state senators/representatives while lawmakers are still in session. Tell them to support funding for pediatric behavioral health programs like the CARE Program.

[Find information for your elected officials here](#)

Connect with CARE

There are multiple ways to refer patients to the CARE Program!

Option 1: Client Intake Form

- Referring providers, parents, or legal guardians can complete the form below on behalf of a child or adolescent.
- Once submitted, a CARE Program Family Navigator will reach out to the family to schedule an intake session.

[Complete a Client Intake Form](#)

Option 2: Primary Care Provider Referral Form

- PCPs can use this form to refer patients when various barriers, such as access to technology or inertia prevent the family from completing the client intake form themselves.
- This referral form is designed to be brief and should take less than five minutes to complete.
- None of the fields on the form are required. Provide the information you can, and the CARE Program will do the rest!

[Submit a Primary Care Provider Referral Form](#)

Option 3: The CARE Line

- Anyone can connect to the program by calling the toll-free phone number:

888-495-7271

INAAP's Reach Out & Read Program



where great stories begin™

Hello Everyone!

We've got a lot of great updates to share as we head into spring. Thank you for everything you do to keep Reach Out and Read strong across the state.

Program Highlights

- **121 clinics** are currently implementing Reach Out and Read across Indiana.
- We're now serving **163,173 families annually**.
- Over the past six months, we've distributed an incredible **100,400 books!**

We're so grateful to each of you for submitting your progress reports. This season, we hit a **95% report submission rate!** These reports are essential for helping us secure funding. Our grant writer uses this data to seek grant opportunities in your communities and across the state.

Recent Funding Wins

- \$60,000 from National Reach Out and Read
- \$15,000 from the Wabash Valley Community Foundation
- \$14,780 from National for Emergency Book Shipments

The \$60,000 from National is helping us develop our first-ever strategic plan, which is expected to be completed by September 2025. This plan will guide our next phase of growth and align with the national goal and reach 50% of children under age five by 203 here in Indiana! Thank you to INAAP President Dr. Evan Kreutzer for representing us in this recent WISH-TV segment:

[Watch here](#)

If you're thinking about applying for a local grant, community sponsorship, or other funding opportunity to support your site, please reach out! We're happy to help with the application process, provide letters of support, or brainstorm ideas to strengthen your proposal.

Literacy-Rich Spaces and Summer Reading

With summer reading programs coming up, this is a great time to connect families with your local library. Libraries often have free events, reading challenges, and resources that support early literacy. Even small steps, like a basket of books in the waiting room or posters about local programs, can help create a more literacy-rich environment in your clinic.

What We're Reading

Here are a few recent research highlights that support the work you do every day.

Turning the Page: How Shared Reading and Pediatric Partnerships Can Strengthen Early Literacy and Child Well-Being

[Children's Hospital of Philadelphia \(CHOP\) PolicyLab / Mar 25, 2025](#)

Reach Out and Read is highlighted as a cornerstone of early literacy promotion in pediatric care, with CHOP and PolicyLab helping lead efforts to scale its impact statewide through the newly established Reach Out and Read Pennsylvania. New research supported by the Overdeck Family Foundation will examine how the model builds trust, strengthens family-provider relationships, and improves pediatric outcomes like well-visit attendance and vaccine adherence.

Early Childhood and Media: Guiding Healthy Screen Habits

[Columbia Children's Health / Mar 6, 2025](#)

Experts from Columbia University and the American Academy of Pediatrics discussed the latest research on how screen time affects children's development and mental health, introducing the AAP's new 7 C model for guiding media use. The panel provided practical strategies for pediatricians and parents, including tips for counseling families, selecting high-quality content, and balancing screen time at home.

Power of babble: Babies elicit simpler speech from adults

[Cornell Chronicle / Feb 6, 2025](#)

A [new Cornell study](#) analyzing parent-child interactions across 13 languages found that babies actively shape their own language-learning environment by eliciting simplified speech from caregivers when they babble. This "simplification effect" occurs across diverse cultures, suggesting that timely, responsive interactions—not just exposure to words—play a key role in early language development.

Intergenerational transmission of emotionally responsive parenting via parenting-related emotion and cognition.

[Journal of Family Psychology \(Impact Factor 2.3\) / Apr 2, 2025](#)

A new study has found that mothers who recalled emotionally responsive parenting in their own childhood showed greater sensitivity to their infants' distress. This link was explained by lower negative emotional reactions from the mother to her infant crying, which in turn reduced negative thoughts about the crying.

INAAP Career Center

Check out INAAP's Pediatric Career Center. Whether you are looking for a new opportunity or looking to hire top pediatric clinicians, this is the spot for you:

- Search and apply to top pediatric jobs at institutions that value your credentials.
- Upload your resume so employers can contact you. You remain anonymous until you choose to release your contact information.
- Create Job Alerts and receive an email each time a job matching your specified criteria becomes available.
- Access career resources, job searching tips, and tools.
- Post your job, or your institution's job, where the industry's most qualified pediatric professionals go to advance their careers.
- Email your job directly to INAAP job seekers via our exclusive Job Flash™ email.
- Search our Resume Bank using robust filters to narrow your candidate search.



Explore the benefits of our new career center by logging in or creating a new account today!

Visit INAAP's Career Center

INAAP's Payor Council is Here to Help!

Do you have a payment, prior authorization, or formulary issue that you just can't get resolved? Help is here! Submit your problem to INAAP and our payor council will work with our partners at the Indiana State Department of Health and the Family and Social Services Administration to see if we can find a solution.

Email concerns to Chris Weintraut at cw@inaap.org.



Need something new to listen to?

Whether you are on your way to work or have a few moments of downtime, this podcast is perfect for you! Get the latest AAP updates with this [podcast](#) that features interviews about new research and hot topics in the field of pediatrics.

PEDIATRICS On Call



A podcast on
children's health
from the AAP



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