

Health System Quality Assurance
Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System
Injury & Violence Prevention Program

Facts on Injuries in Washington State:

- Injuries are the leading cause of death for Washington citizens age 1-44.
- Injuries kill approximately 3,250 Washington residents and result in over 39,000 hospitalizations per year.
- Nearly 65% of deaths among children age 1-19 are due to injuries.
- Most injuries are preventable.

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for the people of Washington, ages 1-44, and remain a significant cause of death and disability throughout the life span. Injuries kill more Americans ages 1-44 than all other diseases combined. Injuries do not occur at random. Injuries occur in highly predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors among identifiable populations.

Based on data from the *Children's Safety Network Economics and Data Analysis Resource Center*, it costs an average of \$1,140,873 in medical and lost productivity for each injury death in Washington State in 2004 dollars (based on 1999-2002 incidence).

The Injury & Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) provides leadership through:

- providing data and special reports to identify priority issues statewide and making injury data widely available
- technical assistance to help local agencies and organizations identify and focus on priority issues, using effective, evidence-based strategies
- obtaining external funding to address specific injury issues at the local level
- leveraging local, state and federal resources for maximum results
- providing consultation and technical expertise to other agencies and coalitions
- supplying model programs and materials to local agencies
- involving constituents and partners
- identifying and responding to emerging injury issues
- actively participating in DOH and other agency initiatives

Funding

Funding sources include: state general fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Preventive Health Block Grant; Maternal and Child Health Block Grant; Washington State Traffic Safety Commission; and pass-through funding from Safe Kids Worldwide to local coalitions.

HSQA Injury & Violence Prevention Program – Current Activities

Unintentional Injury Prevention

Safe Kids

The Department of Health IVPP is the lead agency for the Safe Kids Washington. The coalition is a statewide network of injury prevention advocates that focus on reducing unintentional injuries in children from birth to 14 years of age. The state coalition works with 18 local coalitions to reduce unintentional injuries among children by educating adults and children, providing safety devices to families in need, conducting research and data collection, and passing and strengthening laws for empowering families and communities to protect children.



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www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury

Infant and Child Product Safety Campaign

In collaboration with community partners, DOH manages a statewide public education campaign intended to raise awareness about recalled children's products. The campaign seeks to raise awareness among parents, caregivers, and others about the risks associated with recalled products and to motivate people to check for recalled products in their homes and businesses.

Injury Prevention through the Statewide EMS & Trauma Care System.

Injury Prevention is the first component of the EMS/Trauma System. The Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System manages performance based contracts with the eight EMS/Trauma regions to provide injury prevention programs and activities at the regional and local levels. Those prevention efforts are based on, among other indicators, injury fatality, injury hospitalization and trauma registry data; gaps in prevention services; availability of evidence-based interventions; and strength of community readiness to implement a program. Impaired driving prevention and other traffic safety concerns are a major priority of EMS/Trauma prevention efforts.

Fire Injury Prevention Grant

The Washington State Fire Safe Families project is a collaborative effort of DOH and local fire districts throughout the state that focus on increasing fire injury prevention efforts. The program works to prevent residential fires in low-income family and senior homes. The local fire districts work within the community to install smoke alarms and provide general fire prevention education which consists of escape planning, care and maintenance of the alarm and instructions on how to exit a fire. As of August 2006, a total of 25 potential lives have been saved as a result of this program.

Preventing Falls Among Older Adults

Falls among older adults are the leading cause of injury hospitalization in Washington. In 2002, DOH received a 4-year, \$1,000,000 CDC grant to implement and evaluate a fall prevention program, which successfully reduced key risk factors for falls. Based on that study, DOH developed the Stay Active & Independent for Life Information Guide for Adults 65+, and an exercise program that emphasizes strength and balance exercises for seniors. The Stay Active & Independent for Life Information Guide is available on the program website. A comprehensive report on senior falls, written in 2002, is also available on the program website.

Intentional Injury Prevention

Youth Suicide Prevention

The Injury & Violence Prevention Program administers \$500,000/biennium for youth suicide prevention efforts statewide. Activities are carried out through a contract and are focused on youth-directed media campaigns, gatekeeper training, and community mobilization. Partnerships with local and state organizations continue to advance these efforts and build a statewide network for suicide prevention. The Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program is recognized nationally and internationally and is often used as a template by other states.

Sexual Assault Prevention

Through an interagency agreement with the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy in the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, the Injury & Violence Prevention Program supports local and statewide efforts in the area of sexual assault prevention. The primary goal of this program is to engage communities so that they address community norms that foster sexual violence and work toward preventing sexual assault. A great deal of work is done through the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and through local sexual assault programs and other community based organizations. Funding to support these efforts come from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Family Violence Prevention

Coordination of Department of Health's family violence prevention activities occurs through an internal workgroup with representatives from across DOH divisions and programs. The Injury & Violence Prevention Program is the lead convener of the group. Work by this group enhances the DOH response to family violence by enhancing programmatic efforts, identifying common needs and gaps, promoting the best practices in violence prevention, and fostering collaboration with external partners. One priority of this work group is to promote healthy relationships among youth through the Choose Respect initiative, www.chooserespect.org, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control.

Safe Storage of Firearms

The Injury Prevention Program strives to prevent injuries and deaths caused by loaded and unlocked firearms. To do this work, strategies to promote the safe storage of firearms are promoted by working with local health departments, Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, Children's Regional Hospital & Medical Center and other state partners. The key message of the campaign is to have gun owners lock all firearms in a lock box or safe after removing the ammunition. Ammunition should be stored in a separate location, also locked up. More information can be obtained by going to the website www.lokitup.org or by calling the toll-free information line: 1-877-LOKITUP (1-877-565-4887).

Injury Surveillance

The Injury & Violence Prevention Program has a 5-year grant from CDC to increase program capacity to analyze and report on high priority injury issues in Washington, with the goal of improving the value of injury data for public health purposes. A report on childhood injuries was published in September 2004 and a report on unintentional poisoning deaths is underway.

People interested in obtaining injury information, technical assistance or find out about local/regional programs are encouraged to visit the program's website at www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/injury.

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