

OHIO VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM

FACTS ABOUT INJURY IN OHIO

- Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for Ohioans ages 1 to 34 and the 5th leading cause of death overall. Suicide and homicide are the 2nd and 3rd leading causes of death respectively for ages 1 to 34.¹
- Injuries cause more deaths of Ohioans aged 1 to 34 than do heart disease, diabetes, stroke, congenital anomalies, HIV and cancer combined.¹
- In 2007, 6,790 Ohioans lost their lives to injury and violence; nearly 32,000 have died over the past five years.²

Injuries are a public health problem for Ohioans of all ages.

On average, 17 Ohioans lose their lives each day to unintentional and intentional injury.

WHAT DOES THE INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM DO?

The Violence & Injury Prevention Program (IPP) is developing a comprehensive injury prevention program for the State of Ohio.

The IPP strives:

- To coordinate surveillance systems that collect injury data.
- To assess the burden of injuries and violence, and communicate information for the purpose of action.
- To promote evidence-based injury prevention interventions for at-risk populations.
- To coordinate and collaborate with partners in building program infrastructure.
- To encourage the adoption of policies and programs that lead to the prevention of injuries.
- To provide technical support and training as needed, and

Ultimately, to make Ohio a safer place to live, work and play by reducing death and disability associated with intentional and unintentional injury.



CURRENT INJURY PREVENTION INITIATIVES

ODH's Injury Prevention Program initiatives include:

Programs:

- Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP)
 - Drug Poisoning
 - Falls among Older Adults
 - Child Injury
 - Injury Data
- Local Grant Priority Areas
 - Drug Poisoning
 - Falls among Older Adults
 - Child Injury
- Child Passenger Safety Program

Surveillance:

- Overall Injury Surveillance
- Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS)
- Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

The number of fatal drug overdoses (poisonings) in Ohio increased 350% from 1999 (327) to 2008 (1,473). In 2007, drug overdose became the leading cause of injury death in Ohio.²



FOCUS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

Ohio has experienced a rapid and alarming increase in unintentional drug/medication poisonings, particularly among middle-aged Ohioans. The IPP is working on the following strategies to address this issue:

- Prioritize drug/medication-related poisoning as an emerging public health threat and raise awareness of the problem through presentations, coalition building, social marketing campaigns and other outreach strategies.
- Form a poisoning action group (PAG) as part of the OIPP and recruit other stakeholders.
- Examine statewide data and make available through publications, presentations and website.
- Research existing local, regional and state programs and policies and assess the feasibility of adoption in Ohio.
- Conduct regional forums in high risk areas to present data and discuss solutions.
- Develop recommendations and strategies based on Ohio data and promising practices in other states.
- Increase awareness through local coalition building and public education activities.
- Allocate funding to increase capacity around this issue and conduct pilot prevention programs in the high risk areas of Scioto County and Montgomery County.

HOW PROGRAM DOES IT?

The goal of the program is to continue development of a comprehensive injury prevention program through the establishment and sustainment of a solid infrastructure for injury prevention that includes statewide injury surveillance to inform and evaluate public policy, as well as wide-ranging prevention and control programs. ODH's Injury Prevention Program initiatives include:

- **Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP)**
The OIPP is a group of professionals representing a broad range of agencies and organizations concerned with building Ohio's capacity to address the prevention of injury. The OIPP helps to improve statewide collaboration around injury and will assist ODH with establishing priorities and future directions regarding injury and violence prevention in Ohio. Current priority areas include child injury, prescription drug overdose, and falls among older adults.
- **Local Injury Prevention Grant Program**
Through the Center for Disease Control's Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG), the Ohio IPP provides a total of \$605,000 annually to local programs to reduce injury and injury-related deaths to Ohioans through the development of comprehensive, multi-faceted, population-based programs. Currently funded projects (2010-2013 cycle) are focusing on falls among older adults, unintentional injuries among child/youth and unintentional prescription drug overdose.
- **Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program**
With fine monies collected through enforcement of Ohio's child restraint law (ORC 4511.81), ODH's CPS Program provides child safety seats to eligible low income families in all Ohio counties. The seats are distributed by a network of local contacts who provide education about proper use and correct installation of child safety seats. The local programs also work in coordination with regional Occupant Protection Coordinators, funded by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, who serve as liaisons between ODH and the local program contacts and provide technical assistance and training. ODH currently distributes 45-60 seats per year to each county based on the availability of funds.

INJURY SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES



FOCUS ON CHILD AND YOUTH INJURY PREVENTION

Injury remains the leading cause of death for children and youth. On average each year in Ohio, 260 children under the age of 14 die from injury and violence. For adolescents aged 15-19, unintentional injury, suicide and homicide are the three leading causes of death respectively. Through the umbrella of the OIPP and in coordination with the Ohio Chapter of the AAP, the IPP is working to develop a Child Injury Action Group. This group will:

- Increase statewide collaboration around child injury prevention efforts.
- Plan a 2010 statewide symposium focusing on traumatic brain injury prevention among Ohio youth.
- Build state and local capacity for child injury prevention efforts.
- Research and assess the feasibility of implementing evidence-based IP policies and programs at the local and state level.
- Promote evidence-based child and youth injury prevention programs throughout Ohio.

- **Injury Surveillance** - The injury surveillance program assesses the burden of overall and specific types of injury in Ohio through the examination of multiple data sets including hospital discharge, death, trauma registry and EMS data. The program monitors and researches trends and emerging injury issues, produces annual reports and responds to requests for data.
- **Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS)** – In September 2009, the CDC awarded a grant to ODH for Ohio to participate in the National VDRS (NVDRS), enabling us to address a critical need in our state: the collection and analysis of high quality data on violent death. ODH will be obtaining and linking data from the following key data sources to better understand the circumstances surrounding and contributing to violent deaths in Ohio:
 - Vital Statistics data.
 - Coroner data from the 88 county coroners.
 - State and local law enforcement data.
 - Child Fatality Review data when applicable (younger than 18 years).

Collecting and maintaining these data in one database will allow for detailed analysis and will eventually provide a basis for the development and evaluation of violence prevention strategies at the state and local level. They will also help to promote the recognition of violence as a major public health issue. For the purposes of data collection, the NVDRS considers a “violent” death to include suicide, homicide, legal intervention, unintentional firearms, terrorism and deaths of undetermined intent.

In 2007, there were 2,007 violent deaths in Ohio. Almost one-third (32%) were homicides, while 63% of violent deaths were suicides.²

- **Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)** – With funding from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and GRF, the CFOI program provides the public, employers, and safety personnel with comprehensive data surrounding fatal occupational-related injuries in Ohio. Data are collected from several sources including death certificates, worker’s compensation reports, OSHA reports, traffic crash records, agricultural injury reports, and media clippings. The data are collated at the national level and used to establish occupational safety policies and programs. Ohio has between 165-200 work-related injury deaths each year.



Eighty-one percent of fatal falls are among Ohio residents 65 years and older, yet they account for only 13 percent of Ohio's overall population.

**Sources: 1. ODH Vital Statistics
2. U.S. Census Bureau**

FOCUS ON FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

In Ohio, fatal and non-fatal fall-related injury rates are increasing and this trend will persist as the population continues to age. Eighty-one percent of fatal falls are among Ohio residents 65 years and older, yet they account for only 13% of Ohio's overall population. Nationally, one in three older adults fall and these falls tend to be recurrent and associated with increasing severity of consequences (CDC). The IPP asserts that falls are not a normal part of aging. There are specific strategies that can help to prevent falls among older adults. The IPP has engaged in the following activities to address this issue:

- Conducted a symposium on fall-related injury with a tract devoted to falls among older adults in April 2008.
- Sponsored a *Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falling* course in July 2008 resulting in 20 new Master Trainers throughout Ohio.
- Produced a comprehensive report on the *Burden of Injury from Unintentional Falls in Ohio*, released in November 2008.
- Funding three local projects in Clermont, Delaware and Hamilton counties from 2010-2013 to address the issue through comprehensive, multi-faceted and evidence-based strategies.
- Most recently, developing a statewide Falls among Older Adults Coalition in 2010 to increase coordination of efforts and build state and local capacity for falls-related injury prevention efforts.

VIOLENCE AND INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM WEBSITE:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/hpr/iniprev/OVIPP.aspx>



Sources: ¹CDC WISQARS, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
²Ohio Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics