THE CDC INJURY CENTER SUPPORTS VITAL INJURY PREVENTION RESEARCH

Injury Control Research Centers saves lives. Most events resulting in injury and/or death from injury could be prevented if evidence-based public health strategies, practices, and policies were used in every state throughout the nation. CDC’s Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) at universities and medical centers throughout the U.S. study ways to prevent injuries and violence.

Injuries are a serious public health problem
- Injuries are the leading cause of death for ages 1-44 in the U.S.
- More than 500 people die each day and 180,000 die each year from injuries in the U.S.
- Injuries and violence cost the U.S. $406 billion annually in medical costs and lost productivity.

The CDC is the only federal agency that supports centers of injury and violence research.
- Eleven ICRCs are funded to conduct research in prevention, acute care, and rehabilitation.
- Research conducted by ICRCs contributes to policy changes at state and national levels, including: child safety, smoke alarms, seat belt use, alcohol screening and brief intervention, sports injuries, falls, helmet use, and violence prevention.
- ICRCs collaborate with state health departments and other partners to implement evidence-based prevention strategies to advance science, affect policy, and enhance prevention programs designed to benefit communities.
- ICRCs serve as key sources for training by providing formal academic degree programs, providing continuing education for researchers and practitioners, and conducting outreach to the injury and violence prevention community.
- ICRCs collaborate with and provide education and training to agencies, businesses, and community groups or agencies throughout the Center’s geographic region.

CDC-funded ICRC research efforts have been widely successful.
- The ICRC at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health conducted a nationwide review of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems. The results of this study demonstrated that the most restrictive GDL programs were associated with a 38 percent reduction of fatal crashes and a 40 percent reduction of injury crashes among 16 year olds. These results have been successfully used by scientists and advocates in several states to educate lawmakers about the importance of strengthening state GDL systems.
- The ICRC at Nationwide Children’s University used an internet-based high school sports-related injury surveillance system to track injuries in 9 high school sports in 100 U.S. high schools. This data was utilized in discussions across the country related to return to play laws for high school athletes.

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators supports an increase of $5.7 million for the CDC Injury Center to strengthen injury and violence prevention research by:
- Increasing the number of funded ICRCs and increasing the impact of research grants.
- Enhancing workforce development opportunities by funding dissertation research grants and grants for pilot projects.
- Using the best data available to ensure that issues with the highest burdens are being addressed.
- Strengthening the focus on translational research, to effectively move proven interventions into practice, as well as policy research and evaluation.

By supporting injury and violence prevention research, we can help all people live to their full potential.

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