Injury in the United States

- Injuries are the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 44 (CDC, 2005).
- These injuries cost an estimated $406 billion per year (Corso, P. et. al, 2006).
- Resource prioritization is a fundamental aspect of legislative decision making.
  - Estimating the economic burden of injury is critical to determine the appropriate level of investment for specific injury prevention activities.
Medical Costs of Injury (2007)

- The Health Cost Utilization Project (AHRQ) found injury and poisoning to be:
  - The 2nd most expensive condition type.
  - The 6th most common reason for hospital stay.
    - 4.9 percent annual growth between 1997-2000.
    - $12,400: average cost of hospital stay. (total $37.2 billion.)

Childhood Injury

- On average, more than 12,000 children between the ages of zero and 19 die each year in the U.S. from unintentional injuries (CDC, 2008).
- 20 million children and adolescents require injury-related medical attention each year.
  - Injuries among children aged 5 to 19 cost $34.6 billion a year (CDC, 2008).
- Child maltreatment costs the U.S. almost $104 billion each year (Children's Safety Network).
Legislative Response

- 21 states and D.C. have statewide bicycle helmet laws. 15 additional states have local laws requiring helmet usage.
- All states have child restraint laws. In 2009, 9 states passed bills strengthening current child passenger laws (most added new booster seat provisions, while others increased penalties for violating current law.)
- Child maltreatment—home visitation programs, parent education programs, shaken baby syndrome and sexual abuse prevention programs.

Motor Vehicle Related Injury Costs

Total: $145,973,000

- Medical Services: $32,622,000
- Emergency Services: $1,453,000
- Market Productivity: $60,991,000
- Household Productivity: $20,151,000
- Insurance Administration: $15,167,000
- Workplace Costs: $4,472,000
- Legal Costs: $11,118,000

Estimated Per Capita Costs Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes


Legislative Response

- **Seat belt laws:**
  - 31 states, DC and some territories have primary seat belt laws. 18 states have secondary laws.

- **Nighttime restrictions for Unsupervised teen drivers:**
  - Forty-seven states have restrictions.
    - 10 p.m. or earlier: 9 states.
    - 11 p.m.: 13 states.
    - Midnight or 1 a.m.: 25 states.

- **Texting while driving:**
  - Twenty-eight states and DC prohibit all drivers from texting while driving.

- **Impaired Driving:**
  - Nine states require ignition interlock devices for all convicted drunk drivers.
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

- Approximately 1.7 million people suffer a traumatic brain injury annually.
  - 52,000 deaths
  - 275,000 hospitalizations
  - 473,947 ED visits by children aged 0 to 14
  - Unknown number of people receiving other medical care or care
- $60 billion estimated direct and indirect costs of TBI (CDC, 2010).

Legislative Response

- **Adult Treatment:** Adopting protocols for treatment and rehabilitation. Brain Trauma Foundation (BTF) in-hospital guidelines for adults with severe TBI could result in:
  - 50 percent decrease in death.
  - Direct medical cost saving of about $11,000 per person.
- **Youth Treatment:** In 2009, Washington State legislature passed the Zackery Lystedt law, which requires:
  - Young athletes playing or practicing on public property to be removed from the game if they are suspected of sustaining a head injury. Athletes must be evaluated and cleared by a health care provider before returning to play.
  - CT, ID, ME, NM, OK, RI, VI, passed laws related to youth athletes.
Sexual Violence

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is the most common type of sexual violence and accounts for 83 percent of all rape cases.
- One in six women in the United States has been a victim of a completed or attempted rape at some time in her life (National Institute of Justice, 2000).
- IPV costs exceeded $8.3 billion in direct medical and mental health care:
  - $460 million annually for rape, $6.2 billion for physical assault, $461 million for stalking, and $1.2 billion for stalking (CDC, 2003).

Legislative Response

- In at least 10 states, policymakers are making efforts to prevent teen dating violence by urging or requiring school boards to develop curriculum on teen dating violence.
- Prevention of sexual violence among the general population has gained little legislative attention.
- Options for policymakers:
  - In states that do not collect data on sexual violence, work with health officials to gather surveillance data.
  - Analyze and evaluate existing state and local policies to identify effective sexual violence prevention strategies.
Falls

- The leading cause of non-fatal injury among children aged 0 to 19.
  - Falls resulted in the greatest total lifetime costs among children aged 5 to 14 years old, totaling more than $10 billion (CDC, 2008).
- The leading cause of fatal injury among adults age 65 and older.
  - 2.6 million non-fatal fall injuries = $19 billion
  - 10,000 deaths from falls = $179 million medical costs (CDC, 2008).

Legislative Response

- State legislatures are increasingly playing a role in fall prevention, especially for the elderly. Examples:
  - MA Senate Bill 2240 establishes a fall prevention task force or special commission.
  - NY Senate Bill 6804 of 2008 and WA House Bill of 1694 of 2009 appropriate funds to government agencies providing fall prevention programs.
  - WA SB 6180 appropriated funds for a senior falls prevention pilot program.
Prescription Drug Overdose and Abuse

- More than 20,000 persons die from Rx drug overdose each year.
  - In nearly two-thirds of these deaths, the decedents did not have a prescription for the drugs.
  - Opioid was the most common source of drug overdose deaths.
- A conservative estimate of the costs to society of prescription opioid abuse in the US was about 8.6 billion in 2005.

Legislative Response

- Thirty-eight states have passed legislation to enable Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.
- Making unauthorized possession of a prescription pad illegal.
- At least 13 states have laws prohibiting doctor shopping.
- Resolutions to educate consumers about proper drug disposal and collection efforts. Ex. Ill's Proper Drug Disposal Day and ND's Collection Day.
- Pain clinic laws
- And more.
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References