The Impact of Preventable Injuries on State Budgets

NCSL Injury Prevention Meeting
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About STIPDA

STIPDA is a national non-profit organization of professionals committed to strengthening the ability of state, territorial and local health departments to reduce death and disability associated with injuries and violence.
Cost of Injuries

- One year’s worth of injuries is estimated to have a lifetime cost of $406 billion including medical expenses and lost productivity.
- Motor vehicle and fall injuries account for 22% ($89 billion) and 20% ($81 billion) of the total costs of injuries.
Costs of Falls Among Older Adults

In 2000, fall-related injuries in the U.S. resulted in the greatest total lifetime costs among adults aged 65 and older – more than $19 billion.

Costs are expected to reach $54.9 billion by 2020 nationally (in 2007 dollars).
Costs of Residential Fire Injuries

 Deaths from fire and burns are the 5th most common cause of unintentional injury death in the U.S.

 Fire and burn injuries cost $7.5 billion each year:

  - Fatal fire and burn injuries cost $3.1 billion
  - Hospitalizations cost $1.1 billion
  - Non-hospitalized fire and burn injuries cost $3.3 billion
Cost of Child Maltreatment & Neglect

- Estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect is $103.8 billion
- Long-term health implications include increased risk for chronic diseases, increased depression and suicide attempts, increased risky behaviors, etc.
Impact on State Budgets

- State employee health benefits & productivity
- Medicaid
- Health care for the uninsured
- Child welfare services
- Lost tax revenue from injured & their caregivers
- Costs associated with violence from law enforcement, judicial systems, incarceration
State Injury & Violence Prevention Programs (IVPP)

- Typically located in state health departments (94%)
- Provide focus and direction
- Coordinate and finds common ground among prevention partners
- Make best use of limited prevention resources
Funding Sources for State IVPPs

- Dedicated and ongoing federal or state funding does not exist as it does for other public health priorities.
- Among 33 states that provided a state health department budget, 85% of states injury and violence prevention programs had a budget that was less than 1% of the entire health department’s budget in 2007.
Piecing Together Funding

- Federal funding sources – CDC, NHTSA, SAMHSA, DOJ, BLS, HRSA, MCHB, NIOSH, etc
- State funding sources – DOT, EMS, Highway Safety, Trauma System, Health Department, etc
- Other funding sources: fines, fees, foundations, insurance companies, etc
State IVPPs

- Only 8 states report having a mandate for a state injury and violence prevention program.
- Only 61% of states had a full-time director in 2007 (down from 76% in 2005).
- Eight states did not have at least one staff person dedicated full-time to injury and violence prevention.
- 11 states reported there was no single identified injury and violence prevention program (activities were decentralized) in 2007.
Economic Impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes

In 2000, NHTSA estimated:
- $61 billion in lost workplace productivity
- $20.2 billion in lost household productivity
- $59 billion in property damage
- $32.6 billion in medical costs
- $25.6 billion in travel delay costs.

Overall, nearly 75 percent of the costs of roadway crashes are paid by those not directly involved – primarily through insurance premiums, taxes and travel delay. In 2000 these costs, borne by society rather than individual crash victims, totaled $170 billion.
Alaska’s Seat Belt Analysis (2003)

- Found that motor vehicle injuries were the most expensive injury category for Medicaid between 1995-1999.
- 44% of motor vehicle injuries were paid by the general public (Medicaid, etc); 69% were unrestrained at the time of the crash (total cost of $2.6 million).
Analysis of 2006 hospital discharge data found that a primary seat belt law for Massachusetts would provide cost-savings of $5.7 million dollars to the state, $55.8 million for insurance companies and $3.9 million for the federal government (Medicaid match).
Motorcycle Helmet Laws

- Helmets decrease the severity of injury, the likelihood of death, and the overall cost of medical care.
- Only 20 states have universal motorcycle helmet laws requiring riders and passengers to wear helmets.
Motorcycle Helmet Laws in California and Pennsylvania

In 1991, prior to enacting its helmet law, California's state medical insurance program paid $40 million for the treatment of motorcycle-related head injuries. That figure dropped to $24 million after enactment of a universal helmet law.

In 2008, PA found that total acute care hospital charges stemming from motorcycle-related head injuries increased 132 percent in the two years following repeal compared to 69 percent for non-head injuries.
Booster Seats

Cost-outcome analysis of booster seat use and laws requiring their use provide cost savings of $1854 over a 4-year period.

Study found:

- Moderate to severe injuries for children ages 4 to 7 using boosters with lap and shoulder belts are 59% lower than those using lap and shoulder belts alone.
- Purchase, maintenance and use of belt-positioning boosters offer a 9.4 to 1 return on investment, adding the costs of passing and implementing laws still provide an 8.6 to 1 return.
Utah’s Statewide Booster Seat Program

- Statewide comprehensive booster seat program from 2002-2005
- Distributed 2,000 seats
- Booster seat usage increased 10%, death rate decreased to 6% and UT estimates saving $3.3 million dollars
Opportunities

쉽게 할 수 있는 과제들을 고려해 보세요.

- Consider a state mandate for an injury and violence prevention program.
- Contact your state injury and violence prevention program director to gather additional information about the problem of injury in your state.
Opportunities, cont...

- Ensure adequate funding for injury and violence prevention programs through fines, fees, general fund, etc.
- Consider safety legislation (i.e., primary seat belt laws, graduated drivers licensing, child passenger safety, sobriety checkpoints, universal helmet laws, youth and teen dating violence, etc.)