



## The Price of Injury

The Burden of Injury and the Legislative Actions to Prevent Injury



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## 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 **2<sup>nd</sup>** most expensive condition type.
  - The **6<sup>th</sup>** 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).

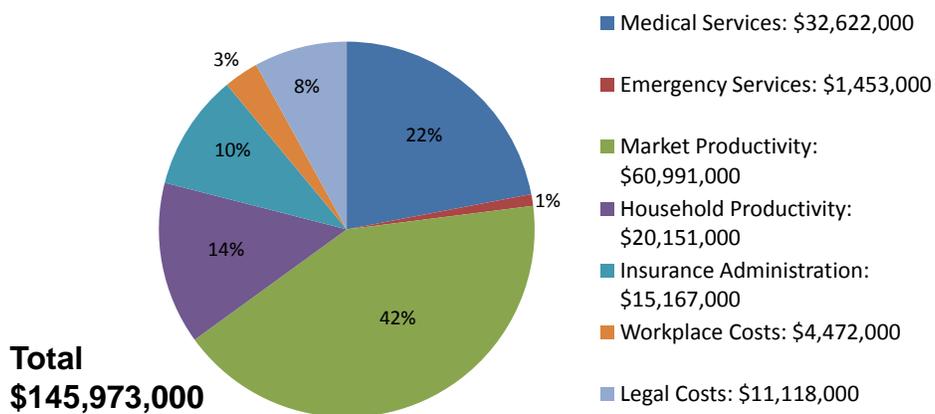


## Legislative Response

- 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.



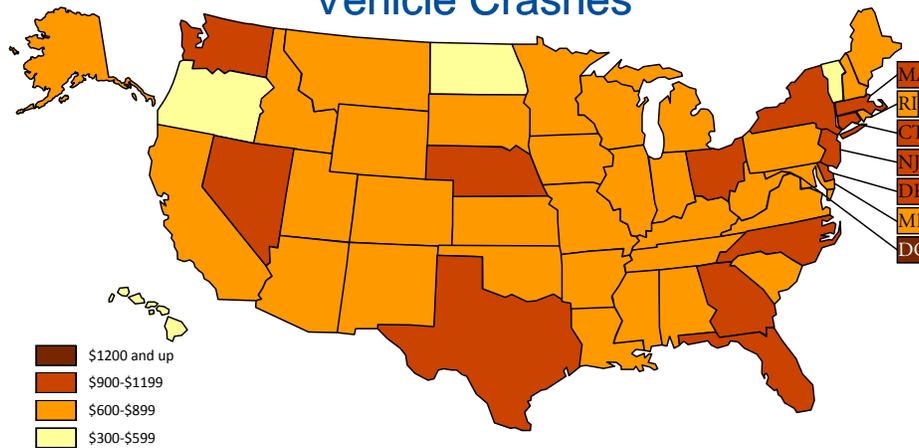
## Motor Vehicle Related Injury Costs



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2008.



## Estimated Per Capita Costs Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2008.



## 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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