



## Injuries: A Major Public Health Problem in Oklahoma

### Problem

- Approximately 2400 Oklahomans die every year from an injury, including approximately:
  - More than 1600 unintentional (accidental) deaths,
  - Approximately 500 suicides, and
  - More than 200 homicides.
- In 2004, injuries accounted for 1 of every 15 deaths in Oklahoma; nonfatal injuries accounted for 1 of every 13 hospital days and 1 of every 14 hospital discharges. Also, for every \$10 Oklahomans spent on healthcare, \$1 was used for injuries expenses.
- Injuries are the leading cause of death and lifelong disability among persons 1-44 years of age in Oklahoma. *Injuries account for more premature deaths before 65 years of age than cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes combined.*
- Oklahoma's death rates due to motor vehicle crashes, drownings, fire/burns, and suicide are higher than the national average.
- More than 300 children 1-19 years of age die in Oklahoma every year from an injury; injuries account for 61% of all deaths to children 1-14 years of age and 86% of all deaths among adolescents 15-19 years of age.
- Alcohol is involved in 22% of all injury deaths among persons 14 years and older.
- Leading causes of injury death and associated risk factors:
  - Motor Vehicle Crashes
    - ✓ Statewide safety belt use was 84% in 2006.
    - ✓ Statewide car seat use was 87% in 2006.
  - Firearms
    - ✓ 50% of Oklahoma households possess 1 or more guns.
    - ✓ The average number of guns per household is 2.5.
- Many if not most, injury deaths are preventable.