

INJURYFREE

*Oklahoma
2010-2015*

Strategic Plan for Injury and Violence Prevention



Injury Prevention Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health

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Foreword

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service (IPS) was created in 1987 with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since that time, the IPS has used surveillance data to identify risk factors and to develop, implement, and evaluate prevention programs in Oklahoma communities.

Oklahoma's injury fatality rates due to motor vehicle crashes, drowning, fire/burns, suicide and homicide are higher than the national average. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among Oklahoma children and adults 1 to 44 years of age. Approximately 2,800 Oklahomans die every year from an injury, including nearly 2,000 unintentional injury-related deaths. Injuries account for more premature deaths before 65 years of age than cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes combined. For every injury death in Oklahoma there were nearly nine hospitalizations. For every nine dollars of inpatient healthcare charges, one dollar was for injuries.

The IPS has partnered with several agencies and community organizations statewide to strengthen efforts to reduce injuries and injury deaths among Oklahomans. Educational materials, such as data reports and fact sheets, multiple distribution programs, and various studies and publications have helped Oklahoma move forward in reaching this goal. For example, statewide traffic safety programs have increased seat belt use from 68% in 2001 to 84% in 2009, and child safety seat use has increased from 66% in 2001 to 86% in 2009. Since 2001, over 27,000 child safety seats have been distributed through county health departments across Oklahoma. In an effort to reduce fire-related injury and death, approximately 30,000 smoke alarms have been distributed in high-risk rural communities through the IPS smoke alarm program since 2001.

Many of the injuries affecting our state are preventable. It is the collaboration among community coalitions, health departments, health care professionals, first responders, community leaders, and community members that continues to strengthen and expand injury prevention and safety promotion efforts in the state of Oklahoma.

This document serves as compendium to *Injury-Free Oklahoma* published in 2004. *Injury-Free Oklahoma 2010-2015* contains new chapters on public health preparedness and policy, updated goals, objectives, and strategies to serve as an additional resource to continue prevention efforts toward an injury-free Oklahoma.