



***Strategies For Building Safe Communities***

# Injury Prevention Works

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We would also like to acknowledge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for funding injury prevention initiatives in Oklahoma.

*Shelli Stephens-Stidham*  
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## Dedication

In February 2004, Sue Mallonee, R.N., M.P.H., was named Director of Scientific Affairs at the Oklahoma State Department of Health following 16 ½ years with the Injury Prevention Service. The Injury Prevention Service was created in 1987, and Sue was selected to lead the program.

Under her leadership, the Injury Prevention Service developed into a comprehensive injury prevention program and emerged as a leader in the field, gaining national and international recognition across the country.

It has been our privilege to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with her and share her vision. It is with pleasure that we dedicate this publication to Sue as an opportunity to acknowledge her contributions to injury prevention.

Shelli Stephens-Stidham

Pam Archer



*“What pleasure — to march in a parade which shall always be remembered as you.”*

Reprinted from A Parade Named Leadership by Mary Anne Macy Bryce Lewis Radmacher 1999

## Foreword

The faces of public health have been changing dramatically in the past 100 years. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the life expectancy for the average person was 46 years; today life expectancy has increased to 78 years. Improvements in sanitation, development of antibiotics and immunizations, and other public health measures made it possible to drastically reduce deaths and disability due to infectious disease. Unfortunately, not all children and young adults can be expected to live well into their 70s. These people will die from an injury.

Injury is the single leading killer and disabler of Americans and Oklahomans between the ages of 1 and 44 years. Every year, nonfatal injuries cause one in three of us to seek medical attention and render us unable to perform normal activities.

"Accidents" are no longer a part of our terminology, because we know injuries are not random, uncontrollable acts of fate. Instead, they are understandable, predictable, and preventable. Oklahoma has established itself as a leader in the country in implementing and testing specific, community-based injury prevention measures. It is truly a promising and exciting challenge for all of us in public health as we strive to make an impact in reducing the burden of the injury problem.

Many local organizations and individuals can play a role in community-based injury prevention programs. *Injury Prevention Works: Strategies For Building Safe Communities* was developed to assist communities and local health practitioners in meeting the challenge of the injury problem in Oklahoma. It is our hope that it will be a useful tool, and that every community will join us in responding to the need to reduce this problem.

*Shelli Stephens-Stidham*  
Injury Prevention Service



Safety and security don't just happen; they are  
the result of collective consensus and public investment.

*Nelson Mandela*

