

# Injury and Violence Prevention Unit (IVPU)

## *Injuries and violence are Preventable!*

Our mission is to strengthen Minnesota's communities to prevent injury and violence by:

- ◆ Collecting and interpreting data on injury and violence,
- ◆ Developing and evaluating prevention programs and policies, and
- ◆ Providing tools, technical assistance, and information to others.

## *Why this work is important*

- ◆ **Injuries** (unintentional and intentional) **are the number one killer** of children, youth, and young adults.
- ◆ **Injuries are not accidents.** They are predictable and preventable.
- ◆ **Injuries are expensive.** They are the leading cause of hospital treatment.

## *How we serve people in Minnesota*

- ◆ We implement the Minnesota Sexual Violence Prevention Program; it includes a statewide plan to stop sexual violence and exploitation, collaboration with service organizations, and hosting of the 1,800-member Sexual Violence Prevention Network.
- ◆ We collect and analyze data; write professional articles, reports, and news releases; and make presentations on an array of topics including:
  - alcohol and violence
  - child maltreatment
  - falls
  - firearm injuries
  - intimate partner violence
  - motor vehicle crashes
  - sexual violence
  - spinal cord injuries

- suicide and self-harm
- traumatic brain injuries and
- trauma systems
- ◆ We collaborate with organizations that conduct prevention and intervention programs, including:
  - Brain Injury Association of Minnesota: bicycle helmet promotion, service coordination for people who have sustained traumatic brain injuries
  - Minnesota Safety Council: data to support programs and policies to prevent unintentional injuries
  - Mayo TBI Model Systems Program: advisory committee membership, joint data analysis
  - Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault: cooperative planning, conferences, and grants to sexual assault programs
  - Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition: cooperative planning, particularly on sex trafficking of Native women and girls
  - Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women: collaboration on teen dating violence prevention and other domestic and sexual violence issues
  - Minnesota Hospital Association: development of codes and analysis techniques for injury
  - Other state agencies, including Human Services, Employment and Economic Development, Education, Public Safety, Transportation and Corrections

## *Major accomplishments*

The IVPU:

- ◆ Provides available and accurate data.
- ◆ Promotes programs that work.
- ◆ Cultivates partnerships and emphasizes the value and importance of people in prevention.



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Specifically, the Unit has:

- ◆ Developed long-range plans and initiated actions on disability health promotion, sexual violence prevention, suicide prevention, youth violence prevention, and other issues
- ◆ Obtained federal funding for these and other areas of action
- ◆ Helped establish and coordinate the state trauma system, particularly the data foundation
- ◆ Developed and enhanced the Minnesota Trauma Data Base, including the Minnesota Injury Data Access System (MIDAS).
- ◆ Developed the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Registry, which provides information and support services to assist persons who have experienced these conditions
- ◆ Helped create, and now collaborate with, the Resource Facilitation program, which improves outcomes for individuals with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries
- ◆ Obtained expertise from advisory committees on injury and violence issues: the Injury Community Planning Group, the Trauma Data Bank Advisory Committee, the Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee, and the Disability Health Advisory Committee
- ◆ Developed strategies for data security and protection

- ◆ Newsletters. Read past issues and subscribe to:

- *Sexual Violence Prevention Network E-News*
- *Injury and Violence Prevention News*

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### *For more information*

Staff of the Injury and Violence Prevention Unit (IVPU) includes epidemiologists, prevention specialists, programmers, and data analysts. Current staff members are listed on the Web site, [www.health.state.mn/injury](http://www.health.state.mn/injury).

The Web site also includes:

- ◆ MIDAS, an interactive program that allows visitors to create their own data tables
- ◆ Data and prevention resources on injury and violence topics
- ◆ State Plans: disability health, sexual violence prevention, intimate partner violence prevention, youth violence prevention, suicide prevention, and comprehensive injury prevention.

