



Newsletter

JUNE 2009

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Preventing Injury with Safe Communities America

As a member of the Partnership for a Safer Maryland, you represent one (or more!) pieces of a huge puzzle:

how can we work together to save lives and reduce injuries across the state?



In 1989, the World Health Organization (WHO) asserted that "all human beings have an equal right to health and safety."¹

In an effort to encourage the development of sustainable, data-driven initiatives that would target sources of injury on a local level, the WHO created the Safe Communities initiative.

In the United States, this initiative is called Safe Communities America and is administered by the National Safety Council. This approach represents a new way community programs are established and managed.

A Safe Community is one that comes together to promote safe and healthy behaviors that protect people from hurt and harm in all aspects of their lives. All partners participate as equals in developing solutions, sharing successes, assuming risks, and building a community structure and process to continue improvement of community life through the reduction of injuries and costs.

Interested in learning more? Come out the 2009 Injury Prevention Summit!

1) *Manifesto for Safe Communities: Safety— A Universal Concern and Responsibility for All*; Stockholm, Sept 1989. (<http://www.phs.ki.se/csp/pdf/Manifesto.pdf>)

Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

2009 INJURY PREVENTION SUMMIT

June 11th, 2009; 11am-2pm

Tentative Location: Clarksville, MD

Keynote: Debora Biggs

Ozarks Safety Council; Springfield, MO

Visit the Partnership Website for more information:

www.healthymaryland.org/safermaryland



What? Why? How?

Is the Safe Communities initiative for you?

What are the characteristics of a Safe Community?

A safe community comes together to promote safe and healthy behaviors that protect people from hurt and harm in all aspects of their lives.

- It is a designated geographical area (a municipality, a campus, a workplace, a virtual community).
- All sectors of the community work together in a coordinated and collaborative way.
- It promotes safety and health and manages risk to increase the safety of its members.
- The leading role is played by the community itself in determining what areas of safety and health are in greatest need of prevention, intervention, and control.

Why become designated as a Safe Community?

- Reduce the numbers and cost of injuries
- Promote health and safety
- Build community pride
- Encourage people and families to move to their community
- Empower local residents to feel they can make a difference
- Improve the quality of life for residents and the surrounding community
- Save lives!

Want to learn more? Here's how.

If you have a vision for your community that matches these qualities, come to the 2009 Injury Prevention Summit to learn about the application process!

If you miss it or are unable to attend, check out the following websites:

National Safety Council: www.safecommunitiesamerica.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov