



SAFE STATES

POLICY STATEMENT: GENERAL STATEMENTS ON INJURY & VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICIES

Mission and Purpose

Mission

The Safe States Alliance is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention..

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to outline Safe States Alliance's official position on issues that are of significance to state, territorial, and local injury and violence prevention programs and to the broader field of injury and violence prevention and control. The policy statements presented here have been developed through the Safe States Alliance's Policy Committee, and adopted through the consensus of the voting membership of the Safe States Alliance.

Safe States Alliance Statements of General Policy

General

The Safe States Alliance believes that all state and territorial health departments in the United States should have comprehensive injury surveillance and prevention programs consistent with the Safe States model. These programs should:

- Be adequately staffed and funded, commensurate with the magnitude of the burdens of injury and violence in each state;
- Have programs and expertise to address the leading causes of unintentional and violent injury deaths and disabilities in the state and nation; and
- Have a disaster and terrorism epidemiology and injury mitigation program.

Linkages

The Safe States Alliance believes that linkages with the broader public health, safety, and care communities are essential to reduce death and disability associated with injury and violence. Safe States Alliance supports direct linkages and collaboration with such groups, organizations and advocates included but not limited to those engaged in trauma and acute care, emergency medical services, chronic disease, environmental health and design (the built environment), maternal and child health, school health, traffic safety, law enforcement, and occupational health and safety.

Coordination of Federal Injury and Violence Prevention Efforts and Activity

Safe States Alliance believes that injury and violence prevention efforts and activities should be coordinated at the federal level.

Federal Legislation and Appropriations for Injury and Violence Prevention

A core purpose and priority of Safe States Alliance is to advocate for injury and violence prevention policies and legislation at the federal, state, and local levels. Safe States Alliance supports adequate funding for the

Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) to address the following priorities:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of state and local health agencies to prevent injuries by increasing the number of states receiving NCIPC support for Injury Prevention Core Capacity Grants and increasing the amounts of grant funds to states; and
Supporting extramural public health research to conduct and translate science into practice by increasing support for individual investigators and research centers.

Safe States Alliance recognizes that state, territory, and local health departments depend upon a variety of other funding sources outside of CDC to maintain viable injury prevention programs. Therefore Safe States Alliance also supports increasing funding for other federal agencies and the sustaining of grants and programs that support state, local, and territorial injury and violence prevention programs. Some of these grants and programs include: the CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant; the Health Resources and Services Administration's EMS for Children grants and Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grants; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 402 grants; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants, and the CDC, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) grants.

Safe States Alliance supports opportunities to include injury and violence prevention-related language into proposed legislation which is related to, but not necessarily focused on, injury or violence issues:

Medicaid Funds for Injury and Violence Prevention

The Safe States Alliance members also believe that Medicaid funds should be used flexibly within each state to support injury prevention programs targeting low income populations. Safe States Alliance recommends that Congress insert language in the annual Department of Health and Human Services appropriations budget to explicitly authorize use of these funds for injury prevention.

Funding for Injury and Violence Prevention at the State and Local Level

The Safe States Alliance supports and advocates for increased funding for injury and violence surveillance and prevention programs at the state and local levels.

In addition to those stated above, the Safe States Alliance has adopted policy and position statements to express the organization's stances on a variety of injury and violence related topics. A full list of Safe States Alliance policy and position statements may be found on Safe States Alliance's website at www.safestates.org.