Catching Up to the 21st Century: Developing an Online Student Injury Reporting System

Utah Department of Health
Outline

- Student injuries in Utah
- Why report?
- Paper reporting process
- Transition to online reporting process
- The future of Utah’s Student Injury Reporting System or SIR
Our fearless second grader, Jimmy, was running across the lawn to go play with his friends on the playground equipment. Jimmy’s shoelaces were untied, causing him to trip and slide across the grass, bumping his arm on a pop up sprinkler.

Jimmy’s wrist and arm are hurting a bit from trying to catch himself. He gets ice from the office and tells the secretary what happened.
Why report?

- Each year around 6,000 students are injured:
  - miss ½ day or more and/or
  - see a medical professional
- 5,000 missed school days
- That’s enough kids to fill 143 Utah elementary classrooms and 121 Utah high school classrooms!
Why report?

• Most common injuries are:
  – Possible fracture/break
  – Cut/laceration
  – Sprain/strain/tear

• We can prevent these injuries, but only if we know what factors were involved
1982 (pre-SIR)
Collaboration - 1983

- School Districts
- SIR
- USOE
- UDOH
- Risk Managers
Access to Data

- **UDOH/VIPP**
  - (see all, edit all)

- **District Risk Management**
  - (view their district only)

- School
  - (create and edit their school)

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Is Jimmy OK?

By lunch Jimmy’s arm really hurts. Mom is called and takes Jimmy to the doctor. He has a slight fracture in a bone above his wrist, receives a splint, and needs to avoid contact sports for 4-6 weeks.

He returns to school the next day.

What have we gathered from this event?
What does SIR collect?

43 data points or variables including:

- Basic demographics
- Description of the events
- Location where injury happened
- Type of Injury
- Area of Injury
- Period
- Activity
- Equipment
- Actions Taken
- Days Absent
Paper Reports (carbon)

1. Secretary fills out an injury report
   - Files the top copy
   - Mail to District

2. District receives report
   - Files the middle copy
   - Mail to UDOH

3. UDOH receives report
   - Entered into database
   - Makes data reports
Problems

- Reporting process
  - Tracking a change to the report
- Length of time for report to move through process
- District Risk Managers need report for possible insurance claims
- Costs
- Legibility (or complete lack of.....)
Online Database

- 9 months of planning and creation
- Transitioned from Retrieve to MySQL
- Alpha test
  - at UDOH with 2 school districts
- Beta test
  - at Jordan School District with 20 secretaries
- Emailed all Principals their access code
- Database went live on September 1, 2011
No More Paper Forms!

Student injury reports are now faster, easier, and paperless! Schools can complete their student injury reports and submit them on this webpage. See the information below to learn how to get your school set up for online reporting.

Getting Started

To register your school with the Student Injury Database, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) needs to receive an email from the Principal of your school, which includes the Principal's name, email, name of the District, name of the school, address, and phone number. Please send this information to:

StudentInjury@utah.gov

Or mail to:
### Child Information

**Child Information and Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student’s ID#</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student’s Firstname</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student’s Lastname</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Firstname</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Lastname</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student’s Date of Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Name</td>
<td>Canyons District No: 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Name</td>
<td>Copperview School No: 112 - Elementary Sch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date that the Injury occurred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time that the Injury occurred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

### Injury Area and Severity

### Factors / Period / Surface / Location / Activity

### Actions Taken

### Equipment
- Warrant medical attention and treatment (i.e. school nurse, M.D., E.R., etc)
- Require reporting according to School District policy.

- **Child Information**

- **Description**

- **Injury Area and Severity**

- **Factors / Period / Surface / Location / Activity**

  - **Factor**
    - Animal bite (dog bite etc)
    - Compression/Pinch
    - Contact with fire, hot liquid or hot object
    - Fall
    - Tripped/Slipped
    - Seizure disorder
    - Unknown
    - Other (Use if no other option)
  - **Period**
  - **Surface**
  - **Location**
  - **Activity**
    - Collision with object or person
    - Contact with equipment (shop, P.E., Sharp object)
    - Drug, alcohol or other substance
    - Foreign body/Object
    - Overexertion/Twisted
    - Hit with thrown object
    - Weapon (gun, knife, etc)

- **Actions Taken**

- **Equipment**

  - [Save Report and Exit]
  - [Submit Report]
Advantages

• User must have their own access to report in the database
• Database forces complete reports
• Allows sending a report back for revisions including comments as to what corrections need to be made
• Date and time stamps on each report
Jimmy is better!

Jimmy’s arm healed nicely and he returned to all his boisterous second grade fun at recess.

The Risk Management office evaluated the sprinklers and found they were not dropping back down fully after being run. The problem has been fixed.

Jimmy’s mom taught him how to double knot his shoe laces.

Playground Aides have been asked to watch for loose shoelaces and help students so they do not trip as much at recess.
Reporting Participation

- The SIR is voluntary according to the original agreement
- District Risk Management can make the process required

Online method has 93% of public schools utilizing it so far.
They like it!

- Process is faster
- Edits or corrections are easier
- Communication via email
- Learning to submit complete reports
SIR numbers so far

• 16,000+ reports collected in 2011-2013 school year
• 1,486 registered users
Impact of SIR

- Schools have fixed dangerous playground areas
- 5th grade research project
- Helping to evaluate Utah’s concussion law
The future of SIR

• Canned reports
  – School
  – District
• Districts have admin functions
• District year-end reports
Utah Department of Health
Violence and Injury Prevention Program
Phone: 801-538-6864
Email: vipp@utah.gov
Website: http://health.utah.gov/vipp