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We are proud to share the 2013 Safe States Alliance Annual Report, which highlights how we served our members and the field of injury and violence prevention over the last year. Members join associations for many reasons – to network, gain access to the latest information and advances in the field, for new job opportunities, and more. What’s obvious about Safe States is the commitment, passion, and energy our members have for the work we do to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention. Safe States and its members have made several accomplishments over the last year including:

- Celebrating our 20th anniversary;
- Hosting a joint annual meeting with the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR), with nearly 422 attendees;
- Conducting 16 webinars reaching 1,414 IVP professionals, researchers, and students;
- Releasing important new reports including the 2011 State of the States Report;
- Updating standards and indicators for State Health Department Injury and Violence Prevention Programs;
- Expanding our social media efforts, including LinkedIn and Twitter;
- Convening and supporting the Injury and Violence Prevention Network, a national coalition of more than 50 organizations, for networking, coordination, and collaboration on policy and advocacy efforts; and
- Strengthening our advocacy efforts through more than 60 visits by staff and members to Congressional members and White House administration officials.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the efforts of our members. We thank our Executive Committee, members, staff, partners, and friends for all they do to advance our shared mission of a safer, healthier America.
Impact of Injuries

More than 180,000 people in the United States die each year from unintentional and violence-related injuries. Injuries are the leading cause of death in people under the age of 45.\(^1\)

Fortunately, most people who sustain injuries survive. However, the impact is significant. In 2012, almost 32 million non-fatal injuries occurred.\(^1\) Injury was the primary diagnosis for almost 30 million emergency department visits in 2010, representing nearly a quarter of all visits.\(^2\)

Injury and violence cost the United States $406 billion each year, including:
- $80.2 billion in medical costs (6% of total health expenditures); and
- $326 billion in lost productivity.\(^3\)

Despite these alarming statistics, the outlook is not bleak. When a public health approach is applied to the problems of injury and violence, in most cases these events can be prevented.

New threats to public safety, limited resources, and increased restructuring have created challenges in recent years for injury and violence prevention programs. However, these programs continue to both save lives and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans.

With adequate support, injury and violence prevention programs can implement evidence-based prevention strategies into practice that can save lives and reduce the economic burden of injuries throughout the country.

“If we’re going to lower the number of injuries in America, we need to redouble efforts. We need to adopt, implement, and enforce evidence-based approaches, and increase public awareness of ways we can all keep ourselves and our families safe.” - Jeffrey Levi, Trust for America’s Health

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“When we succeed, we change expectations about what is possible.”
- Building Safer States (2013)
STAT

In 2013, Safe States conducted their first-ever repeat STAT (State Technical Assessment Team) visit to Arizona. Launched in 1999, the goal of the STAT program is to enhance the organizational capacity of state health department injury and violence prevention (IVP) programs. This is accomplished by having peers and experts conduct an on-site, point-in-time assessment, of a state IVP program to provide recommendations for improvement. The 2013 STAT team included injury and violence professionals from state and local IVP programs, as well as representatives from national agencies. Thirty five (35) states have received a STAT visit since 1999, for an overall total of 36 visits.

The STAT assessment focuses on five core components, representing what is currently known and understood about creating and sustaining effective state health department injury and violence prevention programs. The core components are:

- Infrastructure;
- Data: Collection, analysis and dissemination;
- Interventions: Design, implementation and evaluation;
- Public policy; and
- Technical: Assistance and training.

Arizona received a report on its injury and violence prevention program that included a point-in-time assessment of each area, as well as recommendations for how to improve in each one.

There will be changes to STAT Standards & Indicators and the STAT process in 2014, and we look forward to sharing those with our members.

Innovative Initiatives

This national award honors an innovative and creative program with the potential to substantially decrease injuries and violence throughout a state or local community.

In 2013, the prestigious “Innovative Initiative of the Year” Award was presented to Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention, Cactus, and Carson J Spencer Foundation, for their efforts to reduce suicides among males in the state of Colorado through their award winning program, Man Therapy. Man Therapy shows men that talking about problems and getting help is masculine. The campaign uses a humorous approach with a fictional therapist named Dr. Rich Mahogany, a man’s man who shows that honest talk about life’s problems is helpful. If men are in crisis or need to talk to a professional immediately, they can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The website is promoted through posters, drink coasters, billboards, bus shelter posters, PSAs, web banners, a YouTube channel, and a Facebook page. State funds are being used to fund community agencies to disseminate project materials, host town hall meetings, and provide men with suicide prevention and intervention training.

The 2013 finalists included:

- **Teen Car Control Clinic**, submitted by Gundersen Healthcare, in LaCrosse, WI

- **Catching up to the 21st Century: Developing an Online Student Injury Reporting System**, submitted by the Utah Department of Health, in Salt Lake City, UT

- **Safe N’ Sound**, submitted by the Carolinas Medical Center – Department of Emergency Medicine – Injury Center, in Charlotte, NC
Core VIPP Evaluation

The Safe States Alliance, in partnership with the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR), has a five-year cooperative agreement with CDC to evaluate its Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program (Core VIPP). Core VIPP funds 20 state injury and violence prevention (IVP) programs to build and maintain their capacity to disseminate, implement, and evaluate evidence-based/best practice programs and policies. Safe States/SAVIR is conducting outcome evaluations of four Core VIPP programs: the Basic Integration Component (BIC), and three (3) of the four (4) Expanded Component programs: Regional Network Leader (RNLs), Surveillance Quality Improvement (SQI), and Motor Vehicle Child Injury Prevention Policy (MVP). The primary purpose of the evaluation is to assess the merit, value, and worth of Core VIPP and any process improvements that can be made to the program during the current project period.

During Year 2 of this five-year cooperative agreement, the Safe States/SAVIR Evaluation Team worked with CDC to develop and publish a major report titled, Core VIPP BIC Evaluation Report: Program Year 1. This report summarizes evaluation findings from the first year of the BIC program using data from states’ annual progress reports, an annual survey designed to measure states’ organizational capacity for BIC, and key informant interviews with state program staff. In the upcoming year, the Evaluation Team will produce reports that summarize evaluation findings for the three Expanded Component programs being evaluated by Safe States/SAVIR, as well as an updated status report of states’ organizational capacity for BIC.

ISWs

ISW, Injury Surveillance Workgroups, are an ongoing, collaborative effort between a variety of organizations, including the Safe States Alliance, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Injury Center, and National Center for Health Statistics. Since 1998, the Safe States Alliance has brought together distinct Injury Surveillance Workgroups (ISWs). ISWs have examined important injury surveillance issues and challenges facing state IVP programs, and have developed consensus-based recommendations to address these issues. Safe States Alliance serves as the lead organization and convenes the ISW, which is supported through a cooperative agreement with CDC Injury Center.

In 2013, the Safe States Alliance conducted two evaluations of the Injury Surveillance Workgroup (ISW) initiative. The first was a process evaluation of the seventh ISW which developed consensus recommendations on state and national poisoning surveillance. Data from this evaluation will be used to help Safe States better support future ISWs and consensus processes. The second evaluation conducted in 2013 was an outcome evaluation of the ISW initiative as a whole. The purpose of the outcome evaluation was to better understand: (1) how well the process associated with disseminating ISW reports to target audiences was working; (2) whether target audiences were using the ISW reports and how more use can be better stimulated; and (3) the effects of ISW reports on the quality and comprehensiveness of injury surveillance data. The evaluation used data from three sources: (1) the ISW Report Online Survey of State Injury Epidemiologists; (2) a document review of state injury data reports; and (3) semi-structured telephone interviews with state injury epidemiologists. The results of the evaluation will be used to improve the dissemination and utility of future ISW reports.

NVDRS

In 2002, CDC received funding to create National Violent Death Reporting System, informally known as NVDRS. It is a state-based surveillance system collecting facts from different sources about the same incident. The information (from death certificates, police reports, and coroner or medical examiner reports) is pooled into a usable, anonymous database. As NVDRS data become available, state and local violence prevention practitioners use it to guide their prevention programs, policies, and practices.

The Safe States Alliance supports the NVDRS program through planning and convening NVDRS Reverse Site Visits for grantees and unfunded states, facilitating the NVDRS Special Interest Group (SIG), and in 2013 developed a storytelling project entitled NVDRS: Stories from the Frontlines of Violent Death Surveillance. This report provides a unique way to communicate how the NVDRS works and how it benefits the states participating in it. The communications surrounding the report will launch in early FY2014.
Education & Events

Web-Based Trainings

Throughout the year, Safe States offered webinars to enhance members’ proficiencies in all Core Competencies for Injury and Violence Prevention as described by the National Training Initiative (NTI). During FY 2013, we offered 16 webinars to include such topics as policy evaluation, youth violence prevention, NVDRS, suicide prevention, injury communications, prescription drug overdose, and evaluation. Eight (8) of our webinars were partnering with the CDC Injury Center; two of our webinars were partnering with ASTHO & NACCHO, three of our webinars were facilitated by Safe States Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and three of our webinars were offered directly by the Safe States Alliance.

“When I am asked about injury and violence prevention, the Safe States Alliance website is always listed at the top of my recommended resources. Safe States Alliance is the leader in injury and violence prevention education, including their online self-study trainings, their informative webinars, the in-person workshops at their annual meetings, and their newly released Building Safer States document.”

- Michael Bauer, New York State Department of Health

2013 National Meeting with SAVIR

From June 3-7, 2013, injury and violence prevention experts from across the country convened in Baltimore, MD, to attend the National Meeting of the Safe States Alliance and SAVIR.

The theme of this year’s meeting was “Safe Today, Safer Tomorrow,” and it featured workshops, concurrent sessions, poster presentations, and plenary addresses. The meeting sessions focused on how injury and violence prevention professionals from a variety of fields work tirelessly to make communities safer across the nation today and for the future. During this Annual Meeting we celebrated the accomplishments of the past, while also looking forward to the achievements of the future.

Meeting highlights included: an opening plenary, welcome and keynote address: “Safe Today, Safer Tomorrow” with two guest speakers; a dynamic panel session on “A Public Health Approach to Preventing Community Violence: The Safe Streets Baltimore Program” with five guest speakers and a moderator; another powerful session: “Achieving a Safer Tomorrow: Perspectives on Injury and Violence Prevention Research and Practice” with five guest speakers and a moderator; followed by an exciting conference social event aboard the Spirit of Baltimore that celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Safe States Alliance.

“Injury work has always needed to be a topical and flexible. Seeing a diverse collection of people tackle emerging and classic injury topics really displays the great work we’re doing and need to do.”

-Dan Dao, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
By the end of the 2013 fiscal year, the Safe States had a total of 507 members. While the majority of Safe States members were from state health departments, members also came from a variety of other organizations including local health departments, hospitals, universities, and other non-profit organizations.

“One of the benefits of our membership has been the resources and information shared on the Exchange. It has been a great way to learn from other states.”

Binnie LeHew MSW
Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention Iowa Department of Public Health

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIGs are forums for Safe States Alliance members sharing similar interests or specialties in the field of injury and violence prevention. They provide members with an opportunity to exchange ideas and stay informed about current developments in the field. SIGs are semi-autonomous networks created and maintained by members. 2013 SIGs:

- Disaster Epidemiology
- Safe States Alliance State Designated Representatives
- Local Injury Prevention
- Smart Growth
- National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
- Partner and Sexual Violence Prevention – New in 2013!

Safe States Exchange

The Safe States Exchange is an online community designed to facilitate networking, relationship-building, and information exchange between Safe States members. In 2013, over 200 Safe States members used the Exchange to share information and network with their fellow members.

The Safe States Knowledge Center is searchable online library of resources, information, and tools created, submitted, and utilized by Safe States members and partners nationwide. Many documents and resources were accessed or added in 2013 to the wealth of information already available on the Exchange.
Innovative Initiative Award
The only award selected exclusively by the Safe States membership, the Innovative Initiative of the Year Award is presented to a Safe States member who has implemented a unique and creative program, activity, or project that has the potential to substantially decrease injuries and violence in the communities that they serve.

2013 Award Winner: Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention, Cactus, and Carson J Spencer Foundation for ManTherapy (mantherapy.org)

Ellen R. Schmidt Award
In honor of the vision and outstanding contributions of Safe States Alliance’s first President, this award recognizes a member who has made a significant contribution to the field of injury and violence prevention in one of two ways: (1) by developing and/or implementing an outstanding statewide injury and violence prevention program, or (2) by providing outstanding service to the Safe States Alliance.

2013 Award Winner: Summer Institute on Principles and Practice of Injury Prevention and the work of Sue Baker, co-founder of the Institute, Dr. Andrea Gielen, Director of the Center for Injury Research & Policy, and Dr. Carolyn Cumpsty Fowler, Academic Director of the Summer Institute.

Partner of the Year Award
This award acknowledges the contributions of an organization or sponsor for furthering the mission of the Safe States Alliance. Such contributions would include, but not be limited to, providing financial support for Safe States Alliance activities or by providing states with injury prevention funding or equipment (e.g., bicycle helmets, child safety seats, etc.), or through significant partnership and collaboration throughout the past year.

2013 Award Winner: Trust for America’s Health

Rising Star Award
It is of vital importance to recognize new professionals making strides in the discipline of injury and violence prevention. The Rising Star Award recognizes individuals who have been working in the field for less than five years.

2013 Award Winner: Dan Dao, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

President’s Award
This award is presented to a member who has been instrumental in assisting the Safe States President in achieving the organizational priorities of Safe States.

2013 Award Winner: Amber N. Williams, Safe States Executive Director
2013 Policy Agenda

The Safe States Alliance developed and released updates to the policy agenda, identifying key advocacy priorities, as well as issues to monitor and support the efforts of partner organizations. Throughout the past year, Safe States has prepared issue briefs and fact sheets; submitted testimony to Congressional committees; and created advocacy alert messages for Safe States members to encourage grassroots outreach. Safe States utilized the topics highlighted in the policy agenda as the guidelines for advocacy activities. Additionally, Safe States sent 10 advocacy alerts in 2013 to share opportunities for member and partner outreach on policy priority areas.

Hill Day

Safe States held a Hill Day on March 19, 2013, in Washington, D.C., representing nine states. Seven (7) state members along with three Safe States staff members conducted visits to share information about the work of injury and violence prevention programs as well as Safe States policy priorities.

Representatives of Safe States had visits with 35 Congressional offices, which is more than double the number of meetings conducted in 2012.

Injury and Violence Prevention Network

Safe States Alliance facilitates a national group of injury and violence prevention organizations with frequent communications about important policy issues and updates. This coalition, known as the Injury and Violence Prevention Network (IVPN), includes more than 50 organizations nationwide.

The IVPN convenes on a monthly basis to coordinate and collaborate on joint policy and advocacy strategies. Together, members of the IVPN:

- Convened a meeting with the CDC Injury Center and national stakeholders in Washington, D.C., on April 25, 2013;
- Co-sponsored a Hill briefing on Violence Prevention Throughout the Lifespan;
- Conducted joint meetings with Congressional appropriations committee staff and administration officials; and
- Safe States prepared and shared new communication tools to support education and advocacy efforts.

“The future of our practice is dependent upon savvy navigation of policy opportunities from the Federal level to the local level. Safe States’ national efforts have provided a platform for raising injury prevention as a public health problem. The Alliance has empowered members to use their voice to tell our stories to achieve funding commensurate with the burden to our society.”

- Carol Thornton, Policy Chair, President-Elect
Safe States is committed to responsible financial management. The Executive Committee and staff work together to ensure all financial matters are addressed with care, and financial decisions are handled with integrity and made in the best interests of the organization.

There were no changes to accounting policies adopted by the Executive Committee, which have focused on:

- Safeguarding Safe States’ assets;
- Ensuring accurate record-keeping and maintenance of Safe States’ financial activities;
- Providing a framework of operating standards and behavioral expectations; and
- Ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local legal and reporting requirements.

For 2013, revenues amounted to $1,239,746, and net assets at year-end totaled $306,517.

Safe States received an unqualified opinion from its independent auditors, Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC, indicating that the organization’s financial statements comply with accepted accounting procedures. Safe States continues to focus on expanding its reserves, while also balancing a commitment to membership services and funding requirements.
Safe States Leadership

Executive Committee

Lori Haskett, President
Carol Thornton, President-Elect
Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Vice-President
Holly Hedegaard, Secretary
Linda Scarpetta, Treasurer
Michael Bauer, Member-at-Large
Anara Guard, Member-at-Large
Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Member-at-Large
Ellen Schmidt, Member-at-Large
Stewart Williams, Member-at-Large

Committee Chairs

Membership Engagement Committee:
Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Chair
Bobbie Perkins, Vice-Chair

Finance/Audit Committee
John Lundell, Chair
Lori Haskett, Vice-Chair

Policy Committee
Carol Thornton, Chair
Cameron McNamee, Vice-Chair

Leadership Development
Binnie LeHew, Chair
Tomi St Mars, Vice-Chair

Staff

Amber N. Williams
Executive Director

Jamila Porter
Director

Ashley Pruett
Director

Michelle Wynn
Operations Director

Stephanie Maltz
Government Relations Consultant

Amirah Patterson
Program and Evaluation Specialist

Amy Woodward
Membership Support & Meeting Specialist

Not Pictured:
Shenee Reid Bryan
Evaluation Specialist

Celebrating 20 Years, 11
Looking Forward

In 2014, the Safe States Alliance looks forward to:

- Continuing to strengthen our role as a national **advocate**, convener, and voice for injury and violence prevention;

- Releasing important new reports, including the 2013 *State of the States* report and *Building Safer States Core Components of State Injury & Violence Prevention Programs, 2013 Edition*;

- Increasing the **engagement** of **members** through opportunities to exchange resources, experiences, and ideas through Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and the **Safe States Exchange**;

- Developing a workforce development strategic plan for the future with our partners, including the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research;

- Providing year-round **trainings** and professional development opportunities, both in-person and through online webinars;

- Continuing the multi-year **evaluation** of the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program;

- Hosting a dynamic and collaborative **annual meeting**; and

- Continuing to enhance **membership** services to enhance our efforts to advance injury and violence prevention **practice**.

As the world continues to change and create new challenges for injury and violence prevention practice, Safe States is the place to discover, connect, grow, and become empowered in our shared vision of a safer and healthier America.