

WHAT IS INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION?

A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PREVENTING INJURIES BEFORE THEY OCCUR



WHAT IS INJURIES & VIOLENCE?

Injuries and violence happen across the community in a variety of settings, impact people of all ages and backgrounds, and are influenced by systems, social conditions, and environmental factors.

Injuries and Violence are classified into two categories:

- **Unintentional injuries** occur without the intent to cause harm (e.g., falls, motor vehicle crashes, drownings, poisonings, burns).
- **Intentional injuries** result from the deliberate use of force against oneself or others (e.g., suicide, homicide, assault, child maltreatment, and intimate partner violence).

Some injuries, such as firearm injuries, poisonings, suffocation, and fires, may be intentional or unintentional depending on the circumstances.

WHAT IS IVP?

Injury and violence prevention (IVP) is the public health practice of preventing injuries and violence before they occur, while reducing their impact when they do happen. IVP uses data, research, partnerships, and evidence-based strategies to identify risks, strengthen protective factors, and create safer people, places, and systems.

IVP recognizes that injuries are **predictable and preventable**—not simply "accidents."

HOW CAN INJURIES AND VIOLENCE BE PREVENTED?

IVP applies a public health approach by:

- Collecting and using data to understand injury patterns and risk factors
- Implementing evidence-based programs, policies, and environmental strategies
- Strengthening protective factors and reducing risks across the lifespan
- Partnering across sectors to create safer communities
- Evaluating interventions to improve outcomes and maximize impact

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Injuries and violence are a leading cause of preventable death and disability and have lasting impacts on individuals, families, communities, and the healthcare system.

LEADING CAUSE OF
DEATH FOR AGES

1-44
IN THE U.S.

>243K

LIVES LOST EACH YEAR
IN THE U.S.

COSTING THE U.S.
APPROXIMATELY

\$4.2T
ANNUALLY

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.