

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Core Competencies for Injury and Violence Prevention

Developed by the SAVIR[§]-Safe States Alliance^ʔ Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development

Why develop injury prevention competencies?

The field of injury prevention includes a wide variety of professionals focusing on unintentional, intentional and unknown mechanisms of injury. By creating a common understanding of the essential skills and knowledge necessary to excel as injury prevention professionals, we are able to identify areas for future training and strengthen the field as a whole. Ultimately, with increased training, published standards and the consistent implementation of best practices, we can reduce the burden of injury.

Who's the audience?

Each year, an estimated 8,000 professionals in health departments, other state agencies, local organizations, and community coalitions could benefit from training in the essentials of injury and violence prevention. The field is diverse, ranging from full-time injury and violence prevention program directors within state, local or tribal health departments to local injury prevention coalition coordinators to fire, police and emergency medical personnel and a host of other professionals.

What do injury prevention professionals need to know?

This is a fundamental question that has been discussed by practitioners and researchers for decades. The draft core competencies below are a first attempt at answering that question. When finalized, the general competencies (and their specific measurable objectives) will serve as a foundation for a myriad of workforce development efforts from individual skill assessment to continuing education curriculum development.

How have the core competencies been developed?

In 2001, the Safe States Alliance and the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR) formed the Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and began collaborating on a process for identifying the essential knowledge and skills that injury prevention professionals should possess to be competent in the field. Committee members and project staff reviewed information from the needs assessments and other documents listed below. The Core Competency Working Group created a working draft and made recommendations to the full committee regarding the nine competencies and their learning objectives. The full committee then reached consensus on an initial draft version and the process for reviewing the document.

What did the review process entail?

In order to ensure that the Core Competencies accurately reflect the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed as an injury and/or violence prevention professional, a panel of approximately 50 experts were appointed to review the competencies. These individuals were nominated from a variety of organizations and were selected based on established guidelines. Feedback from the review panel was received in October 2003. [Click here for the list of the reviewers.](#)

[§] Formerly the National Association of Injury Control Research Centers (NAICRC)

^ʔ Formerly the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (STIPDA)

The Core Competency Working Group assessed the feedback and recommended a revised set of competencies to the full Joint Committee for Infrastructure development. The Joint Committee opened the document to public comment in September of 2004. The competencies were revised for a final time based on the comments received from practitioners across the country. In May of 2005, the competencies were officially released at the National Injury Prevention and Control Conference.

Needs assessments reviewed:

- Education Development Center, Training Needs Assessment, 1989
- UNC-Injury Prevention Research Center, Pre-VINCENT Training Needs Assessment, 1996
- Safe States Alliance Core Capacity Survey, 2000
- Canadian Collaborating Centres for Injury Prevention and Control, Education Needs Assessment, 2000
- SAVIR - Safe States Alliance Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development, Training Survey of Health Departments, 2001
- SAVIR - Safe States Alliance Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development, Survey of Safe USA participants, 2001

Relevant competency and objective materials reviewed:

- Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice
- Core Competencies for Injury Prevention, Indian Health Service
- State and Technical Assessment Team Review Guide, Safe States Alliance
- Course Objectives, Johns Hopkins Summer Institute, Principles and Practice of Injury Prevention
- Canadian Injury Prevention and Control Curriculum, Canadian Collaborative Centres for Injury Prevention and Control (in draft)
- WHO TEACH-VIP – international injury prevention curriculum (in draft)
- Competency-to Curriculum Tool Kit: Developing Curricula for Public Health Workers, Columbia University School of Nursing Center for Health Policy and Association of Preventive Medicine