



HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION WORK WITH AN INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER?

Research. Training. Outreach.

WHAT IS AN INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER?

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds a national network of Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) based in academic or medical research institutions that work to prevent injuries and violence. These institutions partner with state health departments and other community partners to conduct injury and violence prevention research and put their findings into action. ICRCs engage in three primary, interrelated activities:

1. **Research.** As academic or medical institutions, ICRCs are at the forefront of scientific inquiry, providing access to multidisciplinary experts on the causes, outcomes, and prevention of violence and injuries.
2. **Training.** ICRCs provide the next generation of researchers and public health practitioners with excellent training and education. This creates a rich pool of qualified professionals and researchers, helping to ensure that injury and violence prevention research and implementation continue to thrive.
3. **Outreach.** As respected, objective organizations, ICRCs often serve a leadership role in bringing together multiple stakeholders from different disciplines and perspectives. Their overarching function is helping state health departments and various other stakeholders to translate research findings into effective policies and practices.

The ICRC program was instituted in 1987 with the establishment of four centers; currently, in 2017, the Injury Center funds ten ICRCs. ICRCs focus on a variety of injury and violence prevention topics; many have special expertise and experience in specific injury content areas (e.g., suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury, and motor vehicle crashes). For information on past and currently CDC-funded ICRCs, please [click here](#). Additional ICRCs beyond those funded by CDC exist at many academic and healthcare organizations throughout the nation, and are equally valuable resources. Information on those centers can be found [here](#).





HOW WOULD WE PARTNER?

ICRCs are valuable partners for providing an evidence-based perspective to initiatives carried out by state and local partners. **Benefits of partnering with ICRCs** include access to:

- Subject matter experts on a variety of injury topics
- Proficiency in research design, data collection, and statistical analysis
- Assistance with logic modeling and evaluation
- Up-to-date research to inform policy efforts
- Students who can support project activities

Many ICRCs report working in close partnership with state health agencies to further injury and violence prevention research and practice. However, state health departments are not the only organizations working with ICRCs. Local health departments, nonprofits, hospitals and health systems, and a variety of other local and community partners benefit from and support the work of the ICRCs.

Beyond extensive expertise to specific injury and violence prevention topics, ICRC staff and faculty can provide leadership and skill in cross-cutting areas, particularly evaluation. Many of the funding sources that SHDs and other practice-based partners utilize require evaluation to monitor if their program is effective. By partnering with an ICRC, SHDs can strengthen their evaluation planning and implementation. Evaluations or other such partnerships provide natural opportunities to share funding and partner across agencies.

ICRC PROGRAM STRUCTURE

ICRCs are almost entirely **grant-funded** – through Injury Center funding, as well as additional federal grants. These grants frequently focus on advancing the knowledge base in a given field, and researchers are encouraged to share their findings through presentations at national conferences or publication in peer-reviewed journals. Peer-reviewed journals are considered the gold-standard for academic publications, as they rely on other experts in a field to assess the work for scientific quality and integrity prior to an article being accepted for publication.

There are additional requirements for federal and other grants that lend themselves to partnership with the practice community. For example, many research grants include “**translation**” components, moving the work from pure research to a “real world” setting. There is a role for the practice community in this type of research. Practice-based partners often bring cultural context and a deep knowledge of their respective communities, which can be invaluable to researchers in understanding and building trust amongst the groups with whom they would like to work. In turn, the research partners can bring the latest knowledge in the field to the community to maximize the chance of success in a given initiative. In addition, ICRCs and other research organizations may also have access to resources—data, financial, or otherwise—that SHDs may not, and vice versa, enabling further reach when the organizations collaborate.

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WHO DO I CONTACT?

Many ICRCs have a **Deputy Director or Outreach Coordinator**, responsible for developing and maintaining partnerships with external organizations. The Deputy Director or Outreach Coordinator can share more about their ICRC and the work its staff is undertaking, and is a valuable asset for connecting you with the staff who would be best for partnership. Also, if you have a specific project or training need that would benefit from academic/researcher expertise or student support and effort, reach out to a local or regional ICRC to discuss possibilities. Finally, consider joining an ICRC’s listserv or social media page to learn about important center news and happenings.

Most ICRCs have both **in-house (or core) staff and faculty**, as well as **external faculty affiliates** who sit outside the walls (and even institution) of the ICRC itself. This expands the reach and network of the ICRC, and opens up additional doors for partnership. Initiating contact with a researcher who specializes in an area of interest to you is a fruitful way to engage not only that researcher, but their broader network of colleagues. Related, ICRCs work with partners across the country and around the world.