



HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION WORK WITH A STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

Implement, evaluate and disseminate strategies that address the most pressing injury and violence issues

WHAT IS A STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

State health departments (SHDs) are government agencies responsible for a state's public health activities, oversight, and policy. While most SHDs are standalone agencies, some are divisions of an umbrella agency that may provide services such as Medicaid, child protection, and environmental safety¹. State health departments perform a variety of **core functions**, including, but not limited to:

- Collaboration with local health agencies to provide clinical services
- Technical assistance and training to various partners
- Financial and programmatic administration of federal initiatives
- Increasing access to healthcare services
- Data collection, surveillance, and epidemiology
- Laboratory and facility regulation and licensing

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds 23 SHD injury and violence prevention (IVP) programs through the [Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program](#) to achieve these core functions and to help states implement, evaluate and disseminate strategies that address the most pressing injury and violence issues including: child abuse and neglect, traumatic brain injury, motor vehicle crash injury and death, and intimate partner/sexual violence.

The Injury Center also provides funding for specific IVP issues affecting communities, such as the [Prevention for States](#) funding that supports 29 states to combat the ongoing prescription drug overdose epidemic. More information about programs that the Injury Center supports at SHDs can be found [here](#).



HOW WOULD WE PARTNER?

To lead injury prevention in their communities, SHDs implement programs, perform data collection, conduct surveillance, inform policy, and undertake other activities to support both direct service and primary prevention.

CDC describes some of the **significant roles** that SHDs play in injury and violence prevention,² which can be leveraged in partnerships with Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) and other collaborators:

- Analyzing data to identify trends and opportunities for intervention
- Researching, identifying, assessing, and prioritizing policy options that can impact injury and violence prevention
- Identifying and connecting with stakeholders to gather feedback
- Evaluating the impact of policies

SHD PROGRAM STRUCTURE

SHDs are natural partners for ICRCs and other injury research entities, as each is uniquely situated at the forefront of practice and research, respectively. Their partnership provides an **opportunity to bridge the research-practice gap** using methods and interventions that account for the individual state's needs and priorities, bypassing a "one-size-fits-all" approach in favor of **specific, evidence-based programs and policies**. SHDs may also have access to resources—data, financial, or otherwise—that ICRCs and research partners may not, and vice versa, enabling further reach when the organizations collaborate.

SHDs report significant partnerships with other organizations, including healthcare services and membership groups; local health jurisdictions; educational institutions at all levels; and law enforcement, among others. Information sharing, project collaboration, and funding opportunities form the cornerstone of these partnerships.

Injury prevention programs within SHDs are funded through a variety of mechanisms, and each state has its own unique funding structure. Nearly two-thirds of funding for SHD injury programs come from federal sources, and the remainder comes from state-based funding sources. Examples of federal funding sources include the [Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program](#), the [National Violent Death Reporting System](#), and the [Rape Prevention and Education Program](#).

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WHO DO I CONTACT?

Most states have an **Injury Prevention Director**, responsible for overseeing the SHD's activities related to injury and violence prevention. The Injury Prevention Director can provide potential partners with an overview of the work its program is doing and identify potential areas of collaboration between organizations.

Each SHD has its own unique way of staffing injury and violence prevention, and work can be spread out across multiple divisions or agencies. If "injury" is not in a division title, look for key words such as: rape prevention and education, intentional injury, violence, unintentional poisoning, suicide, and other specific injury topics.

A list of SHD injury and violence prevention programs by state can be found [here](#).

