

Updates on the 2002 CDC Injury Research Agenda from the...

Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Coalition

In the domestic United States, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or economic prominence, falls and related injuries remain a cause of death for people of all ages. In 2006, injuries accounted for more than 170,000 deaths. But injury deaths are only part of the picture; millions are non-fatally injured each year from accidental falls. At CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC's Injury Center), they have worked to secure a life of full potential for everyone in the U.S.A.. Yet they knew they needed to learn more about the causes, risk factors, and subsequent preventive measures for injuries.

In 2002, CDC Injury Research Agenda guided continuing research until 2007. The agenda was useful in directing research efforts at the Injury Center along with those of other public health partners. At the close of 2007, the Injury Center reviewed its research accomplishments and progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the original agenda. The Center worked with its research partners to identify any research gaps. The result is the revised agenda, which describes the Injury Center's research needs and priorities for 2009–2018. The agenda now includes areas about child maltreatment and traumatic brain injury. They have placed increased emphasis on evaluation research, cost studies, distribution of knowledge; and the adoption of valuable community-based programs.

The Injury Center is the only organization in the federal government responsible for addressing all phases of the injury research framework, from basic and descriptive research to intervention development and testing to implementation research, for all major causes of injury among all age groups. Highlights of the revised agenda are:

- Descriptions of the problem, causes of falls and injuries and injury response,
- Identification of protective factors, developing prevention interventions and strategies,
- Unintentional injury or violence prevention, whether maltreatment or suicidal behavior, and
- Ensuring widespread adoption of effective interventions and strategies.

Three specific criteria guided the Injury Center's selection of their research priorities: 1) institutional mission, 2) public health burden, and 3) research opportunity. In addition to these, the Injury Center includes in its research agenda several crosscutting and emerging priorities. They also have increased opportunities for independent and joint funding from multiple sponsors. For injury prevention and control research to continue to serve societal, community, and individual needs, CDC-funded researchers need to focus on priority areas, filling any research gap. You can read the entire report at http://www.cdc.gov/injury/ResearchAgenda/CDC_Injury_Research_Agenda-a.pdf.