

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Injury

Injuries can be unintentional or deliberate. Most are predictable and preventable. Examples include motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, burns, poisonings, homicides, suicides and sexual assaults.

"If a disease were killing our children in the proportion that injuries are, people would be outraged and demand that this killer be stopped."

— C. Everett Koop, M.D.

Today:

- Injury is the number 1 killer of Americans age 1 to 44 and the third leading cause of death for all Americans.
- Americans suffer 50 million injuries each year.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and hospital admissions for Americans age 65 and older—5 times more than any other age group.
- Injury is the most expensive medical problem in the U.S., exceeding treatment costs for heart conditions and cancer.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV) FINKELSTEIN, E.A. ET AL. THE INCIDENCE AND ECONOMIC BURDEN OF INJURIES IN THE UNITED STATES. 2006. AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY. MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY. 2006.

The Cost:

- Injuries in a single year will ultimately cost the U.S. \$406 billion—\$80.2 billion in medical costs and \$326 billion in lost productivity.* \$80.2 billion represents 6% of total health expenditures for that year.**
- Due to work-related injuries, employers spent \$87.4 billion on workers' compensation in 2004 for benefits, administrative costs and insurance premiums.***

SOURCE: *FINKELSTEIN, E.A. ET AL. THE INCIDENCE AND ECONOMIC BURDEN OF INJURIES IN THE UNITED STATES. 2006. **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID (WWW.CMS.GOV) ***NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL INSURANCE. WORKERS' COMPENSATION: BENEFITS, COVERAGE, AND COSTS. 2004.

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- In more than 30 years, home usage of smoke alarms has risen from less than 10% to at least 95%, while the number of home fire deaths was nearly cut in half.*
- A recent study has shown that injured patients treated at trauma centers are much more likely to survive than those treated at non-trauma centers.**
- Young adults who participated in the Safe Dates program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention committed 60% less violence against their partner as compared to those not in the program.***

SOURCE: *NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY. PERFORMANCE OF HOME SMOKE ALARMS. JULY 2004. **MACKENZIE, E.J. ET AL. NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. 2006; 354:366-78. ***CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- If 85% of children wore helmets every time they rode their bicycles for one year, the U.S. could save up to \$174 million in lifetime medical costs.*
- An economic impact study at a major American corporation showed that employees who participated in a program to improve their health and productivity made fewer, less expensive workers' compensation claims, resulting in a 5 to 1 return on investment over 2 years.**

SOURCE: *NATIONAL SAFE KIDS CAMPAIGN (WWW.SAFEKIDS.ORG) **MUSICH, S. ET AL. JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE. 2001; 43:534-541.

survivor

NAME: DAN MCGLATHERY
AGE: 22
CONDITION: AUTOMOBILE CRASH



Dan McGlathery of Wheaton, Illinois, wasn't a big believer in seatbelts. He thought seatbelts were uncomfortable and he felt safe in his big truck. A chance encounter with police at a seatbelt checkpoint changed his mind. Although he was irritated that the authorities cracked down on what he considered a "minor" violation, the resulting fine did convince him to change his behavior. Dan began buckling up every time he drove.

Dan soon learned the true value of his seatbelt when he lost control of his truck, which violently rolled 180 degrees onto its roof. Dan found himself hanging upside down in the passenger compartment. Despite the severity of the crash, he suffered no major injuries.

Weeks later, Dan walked into the Wheaton police department and asked to speak with the officer who issued his citation. When the officer appeared, Dan offered his hand and said, "Thank you for saving my life." Without his seatbelt, he could have been thrown from the vehicle and may not have survived.

Research shows that seatbelt laws, which allow for checkpoints like the one Dan encountered, have increased seatbelt usage to the highest rate ever. Seatbelts save the U.S. \$50 billion annually in medical costs and productivity losses. Dan hopes researchers will continue to find better ways to protect him and other drivers. "There are steps you can take to prevent injury, and you need to take them every day, every time since you never know when something might happen."

facts about: } Injury

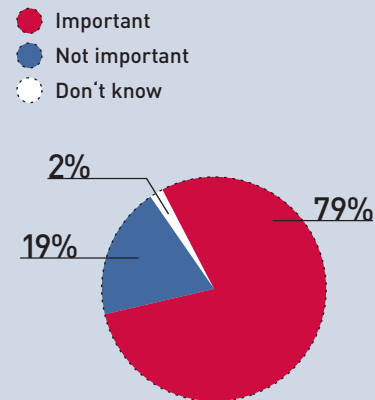
Hope for the Future:

- Researchers are developing new technologies to prevent motor vehicle crashes entirely, such as electronic stability control that senses when a driver may lose control and automatically stabilizes the vehicle. ESC could save more than 10,000 lives a year.
- Strategies to prevent falls, particularly among the growing population of older Americans, are being developed, such as exercise programs to increase strength and balance.
- CDC-funded researchers are working with communities to prevent youth violence—developing response plans, training health care professionals and evaluating successful interventions.

SOURCE: NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (WWW.NHTSA.DOT.GOV) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Most Americans Think Investing in New Ways to Prevent Injury is Important

How important do you think it is for the U.S. to invest in new ways to prevent injury?

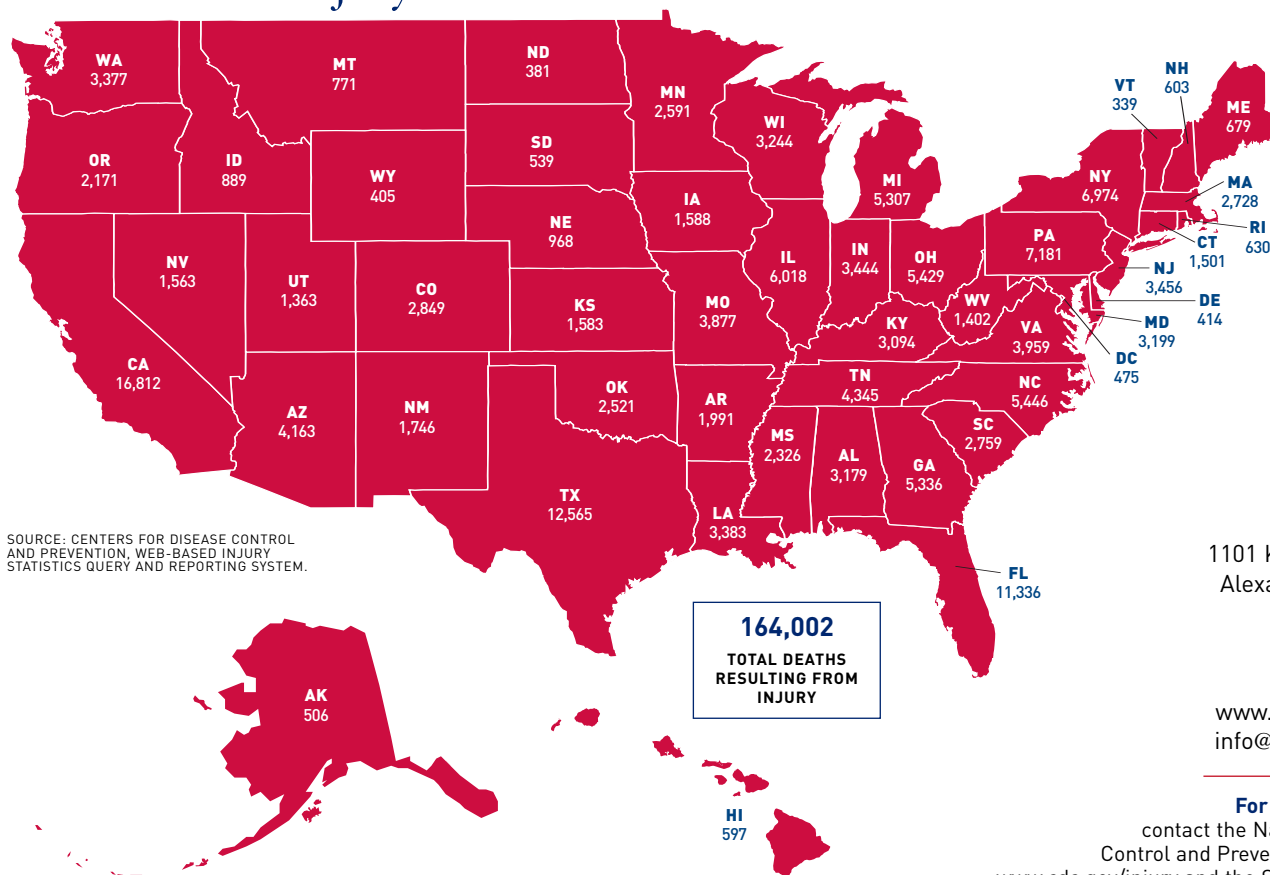


SOURCE: NATIONAL INJURY SURVEY, 2005 CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA AND SAFEUSA

The Bottom Line:

Injury is a leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. Discovering new ways to prevent both unintentional and violent injuries is essential to making our nation a healthier, safer place to live.

Deaths from Injury 2003



SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, WEB-BASED INJURY STATISTICS QUERY AND REPORTING SYSTEM.

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