



SAFE STATES

# VISION

## for a Nation Free of Injury and Violence

A vision of a nation free from injury and violence means all people – no matter who they are or where they reside – are safe where they live, work, travel, and play.

It means a nation that fully embodies the value of health equity where all people have safe and nurturing relationships, are resilient, connected, and have access to the resources necessary for them to thrive. Injuries and violence will be greatly reduced with long-term and sustained investments that give public health professionals the tools they need.

Reaching this goal will require a widespread, intentional effort at the federal, state and local levels. It means ensuring the nation has a robust, effective public health and injury prevention infrastructure.

States need staff, data, partners, strategies and evaluation capacity to respond to both ongoing and emerging new injury and violence threats. Without these requisite elements, even basic injury and violence prevention activities are hampered. The country should prioritize injury and violence prevention with sustained and coordinated programming in all states and territories.

According to leading injury and violence prevention experts, the most significant opportunities for achieving an injury-free future include creating a national framework with a comprehensive and coordinated approach and building strong public health infrastructure.



A nation free from injuries and violence means that we create a win-win situation, where we can save millions of lives and billions of dollars.

# CORE COMPONENTS

## of a Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has long acknowledged the importance of a strong and sustainable public health workforce, optimal staffing, and leadership for state and territorial health departments. Leaders must understand and know how to address complex challenges, create opportunities to advance the public's health at every opportunity, and make decisions outside of political considerations to ensure health equity is at the center of all efforts.

Defined by Safe States and embraced by the CDC for over two decades, the essential components for injury and violence prevention include the ability of states and territories to:

### 1. Build and sustain a solid, stable public health infrastructure.

A well-prepared and effective injury and violence prevention network of people and organizations allows state programs to operate as resources to communities and stakeholders such as fire departments, hospitals, community-based organizations, and local public health departments.

### 2. Collect, analyze and disseminate injury and violence data.

Multiple data sources are needed to develop an accurate picture of the current impact of injury and violence on communities, understand trends, and identify signs of potential emerging threats.

### 3. Select, implement, and evaluate effective program and policy strategies.

Understanding how programs and policies interact with environments to shift behavior and outcomes is essential for developing reliable evidence to guide prevention work.

### 4. Engage partners for collaboration.

No single entity can prevent injuries and violence on its own. Collaboration is necessary to amplify the reach and impact of the work to decrease rates of injury and violence and improve well-being for local populations.

### 5. Communicate information effectively to key stakeholders.

Injury and violence prevention issues are wide-ranging. Effectively communicating the scope of the problem, the value of prevention efforts across issues, and the impact of collective action is essential.

### 6. Provide training and technical assistance to partners and communities.

To effectively and efficiently fulfill a vision for an injury-free nation requires sustaining concerted, coordinated, and adequately resourced injury and violence prevention efforts that build on these essential components, as well as engage and support partners across communities.

Collectively, we must prioritize injury and violence prevention efforts with sustained and coordinated programming in ALL states and territories to support these essential and requisite elements.



Advancing Equity. Ending Sexual Violence.



## SAFE STATES