Enhancing Injury Prevention

Current Status:
Around 50 million Americans — 18 percent of the population — are medically treated for injuries each year and one person dies from an injury every three minutes. Every year, more than 29 million people are treated in emergency rooms for injuries. And, every year, injuries generate $406 billion in lifetime costs for medical care and lost productivity.

Despite these numbers, injury prevention only receives 4.95 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget. Funding for injury prevention for states from CDC averages only 28 cents per American — a 24 percent drop from FY 2006 to FY 2011.

Why Enhancing Injury Prevention Matters:
- Injuries have the second highest medical costs of all preventable health issues.
- While individuals must take responsibility for taking steps to stay safe and protect themselves and their families from injuries, research has shown that public education, laws and policies can play a major role in helping keep Americans healthy and safe.

Recommendations:
- **Increase investment for injury prevention research:** Limited resources mean there is a limited ability to collect, analyze and evaluate surveillance data on injury problems; study risk and protective factors; develop and evaluate innovative solutions; and widely disseminate effective programs and policies — all necessary factors in reducing a wide range of injuries. Improved data collection through widespread and standardized use of external cause-of-injury coding is essential to being able to analyze injuries in the United States and the effectiveness of strategies to prevent them.

- **Strengthen partnerships between public health and other sectors:** Health experts must collaborate with other fields to identify and implement effective injury prevention strategies.

  - **Examples of Injury Prevention Partnerships:** Motor vehicle policies and programs should involve working with transportation officials, experts and members of industry; violence reduction efforts should involve community organizations, social services, education, law enforcement, judicial system and other areas.