



CORE COMPETENCIES FOR INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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INJURIES AND VIOLENCE ARE SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS. Every year, millions are faced with some type of injury, whether intentional or unintentional. In 2010, more than 180,000 injuries resulted in fatality and 31 million non-fatal injuries required in-hospital care. Efforts to reduce this burden require a well equipped workforce. To provide the field with adequate preparation for such issues, a list of core competencies has been developed by the SAVIR—Safe States Alliance Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development. The essential competencies for injury and violence prevention are listed below.

1. Ability to describe and explain injury and/or violence as a major social and health problem.
2. Ability to access, interpret, use and present injury and/or violence data.
3. Ability to design and implement injury and/or violence prevention activities.
4. Ability to evaluate injury and/or violence prevention activities.
5. Ability to build and manage an injury and/or violence prevention program.
6. Ability to disseminate information related to injury and/or violence prevention to the community, other professionals, key policy makers and leaders through diverse communication networks.
7. Ability to stimulate change related to injury and/or violence prevention through policy, enforcement, advocacy and education.
8. Ability to maintain and further develop competency as an injury and/or violence prevention professional.
9. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and best practices necessary to address at least one specific injury and/or violence topic (e.g. motor vehicle occupant injury, intimate partner violence, fire and burns, suicide, drowning, child injury, etc.) and be able to serve as a resource regarding that area.

APHA supports the use of these core competencies as a way to improve and assess professional capacity within the field of injury and violence prevention.