

INJURY PREVENTION

illinois

A publication of the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention

Summer 2001

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., Director

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Editors

Mark Hilliard, M.P.H., CHES
Division Chief

Jennifer Martin, B.S.
Injury Prevention Specialist

Division Staff

R. Shirene Thomas, M.S.Ed.
Program Administrator

Lynda Dautenhahn, M.U.P.
Violence Prevention Program Planner

Darrell Patterson, M.S.
Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition Coordinator

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Injury and Violence Prevention
535 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
217-785-2060

TTY (hearing impaired use only)
800-547-0466

www.idph.state.il.us

Chief's Corner

by Mark Hilliard, M.P.H., CHES
Chief, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention

Welcome to the first edition of "Injury Prevention Illinois." This bi-annual newsletter is intended to keep you abreast of injury issues and prevention initiatives relevant to the state of Illinois. As we address the No. 1 killer of persons ages 1 through 44, we are excited and encouraged with respect to the growth and potential of injury prevention initiatives in the state.

The printing of this newsletter has been made possible by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Core State Injury Surveillance and Program Development Grant No. U17/CCU519414-01) and the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition (IIPC). A special thanks is extended to members of the IIPC for their contributions to this newsletter as well as to those IIPC members who are actively involved with the development of the state injury prevention plan. Without the efforts of such dedicated individuals, collaborative efforts of this magnitude would not be possible.

We hope this publication will prove to be a valuable resource for you and your organization. If you or anyone in your organization would be interested in joining our collaborative team, please contact our division. For more information, contact Mark Hilliard at 217-785-2060 or mhilliar@idph.state.il.us.

Focus of *Injury Prevention Illinois*

by Jennifer Martin, B.S.

The goal of *Injury Prevention Illinois* is to provide pertinent information to those in the injury prevention field and to those who simply want to learn more about the field. Meeting this goal will require reader input on what topics to cover in future issues. The following are sample ideas:

Unintentional Injury

Farm safety
Drowsy driving
Animal bites
Bicycle safety
Falls
Firework safety
Motor vehicle injuries
Pedestrian safety
Poisoning
Suffocation/Choking
Sports and recreation injuries

Intentional Injury

Intimate partner violence
Bullying
Elder abuse
Child maltreatment
Hate crime
Physical assaults and homicides
Sexual assault and rape
Suicide
Teen dating violence
Gangs
Sexual harrasment

If you have an area of expertise and would like to submit an article, please call Mark Hilliard or Jennifer Martin at 217-785-2060 or, send E-mail to mhilliar@idph.state.il.us or jmartin2@idph.state.il.us.

What's New in the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention?

by R. Shirene Thomas, M.S.Ed.



In the fall of 2000, the Illinois Department of Public Health's Violence and Injury Prevention Section became the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention. Located within the Office of Health Promotion, the

division addresses all forms of interpersonal violence, including child abuse, teen dating violence, youth and gang violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, violence in the workplace, suicide, hate crime and elder abuse. Other programs seek to decrease unintentional injury from motor vehicle crashes, bicycle and pedestrian incidents, falls, drownings, poisonings, fires/burns, shootings and workplace (including farm-related) injuries. Staff provide information, technical assistance and coordination as well as promote inter-agency collaboration. The division encompasses the Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition, the Safety Seat Loan and Education Project, Safe Illinois, Consumer Product Safety Recall Effectiveness Checks, the Children's Product Safety Project and the Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis Cure Research Trust Fund.

The division received another boost in the form of a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Illinois Injury Enhancement Initiative dollars will go toward improving the Department's injury prevention infrastructure and supporting the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition. A new injury prevention specialist, Jennifer Martin, was hired in December 2000 to coordinate a revision of the Illinois strategic plan for injury prevention, to produce this biannual newsletter, to plan a conference in 2002 and to take over convening the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition. ♡

IPHA Injury Control/EMS Section at Risk of Being Disbanded

by R. Shirene Thomas, M.S.Ed.

All sections of the Illinois Public Health Association must have a plan for bringing membership up to 35 individuals by the spring of 2001 or risk being dissolved in the spring of 2002. Currently there are less than 20 IPHA members who have designated (in writing) injury control/EMS as their primary section. IPHA membership

benefits include a full-time lobbyist; discounts on workshops and conferences; newsletters (including *The Viewpoint*); notification of employment opportunities; education and research; peer networking and expanded professional contacts; opportunity to run for office and serve on policy-making committees; consortium coordination for discounted pricing; opportunity to apply for graduate school scholarships; recognition at awards banquets; and much more!

Members of the injury control/EMS section of IPHA have been added to the IIPC mailing list and IIPC members have been encouraged to join the section. If you are a member of IPHA make sure they know you want to be listed as an advocate for injury prevention. Many members have never designated a section and others do not even know they are members of IPHA. For example, every IDPH employee, many employees of the Illinois Department of Human Services and most local health department employees are members of IPHA. For more information, contact IPHA at 217-522-5687. ♡

Emergency Medical Services Data Reporting System

by Evelyn Lyons, R.N., M.P.H.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Data Reporting System is a Web-based, menu driven electronic data system that was developed to facilitate public access to limited statewide and local injury and health related trending information. The following five statewide databases are contained within this system and each can be queried to provide descriptive statistics:

*Illinois Department of Public Health
death certificate database*


*Illinois Department of Public Health
prehospital care report database*

*Illinois Department of Public Health
Trauma Registry database*

*Illinois Hospital & HealthSystems Association
hospital discharge database*

The EMS Data Reporting System is accessible via the Illinois Department of Public Health Web site and can be directly accessed at <www.idph.state.il.us/emsrpt>. The system provides a user-friendly approach to obtaining basic information from each of these databases. A directory of databases is available as well as an introduction to each one. After reviewing the introduction to a data-

base, the user can link to a sample query screen that provides step-by-step instructions on how to conduct a query. From this screen, the user can then move to a database query screen. The query screen contains a number of data elements specific to that database. Each data element allows a more refined search; for example, the “age” data element can be queried for “All ages” contained within the database, or the query can be refined for a specific age group, e.g., age 15-20 years old. This system will continue to be updated as subsequent years of data become available. In addition, linkage of these databases is currently underway, which will enhance injury/illness data analysis, especially in the area of outcome analysis. As linked data reports are generated, they also will be added to the reporting system.

This system was developed by the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program, which is a collaborative effort of the Illinois Department of Public Health and Loyola University Medical Center. It was established to enhance statewide pediatric emergency care capabilities and to support childhood injury prevention initiatives throughout the state. Funding from both the U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) supports this data initiative. For more information on data linkage, contact Evelyn Lyons at 708-327-2556 or <elyons@luc.edu>. 

Evelyn Lyons is the director of research and program development for Emergency Medical Services for Children, Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Systems and Highway Safety. She is based at Loyola University Medical Center.

Scooter Safety

by Jennifer Martin, B.S.

Cabbage Patch Dolls™, Tickle Me Elmo™, Furby™,.... we all know people (maybe ourselves) who search every store to find the “in” gift for the child on their shopping list. This last holiday season, it was scooters.



Many parents, excited that today’s youth would be eager to have a foot-propelled scooter that was first popular during the 1950s, overlooked safety concerns, which has led to an increase in scooter related injuries. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported a 700 percent increase in scooter-related injuries requiring department treatment since May 2000. Children under 15 years of age represent 90 percent of those injuries. Most injuries resulted when riders fell from the scooter and most of the fractures and dislocations were to arms and hands. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in its December 15, 2000,


issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* that there have been two scooter-related fatalities: an adult fell and struck his head while showing his daughter how to ride the scooter and a 6-year-old boy rode into traffic and was struck by a car.

“Parents may have a false sense of security when it comes to their kids and scooters,” said Heather Paul, Ph.D., executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. “Because these scooters have handlebars, brakes and are low to the ground, adults might feel their children can easily control them. Without the appropriate gear, children can sustain severe injury, including head trauma.”

“Protective gear is key to decreasing scooter-related injuries,” noted Darrell Patterson, Illinois SAFE KIDS coordinator. “All riders should wear a helmet, wrist guards, and knee and elbow pads. They reduce broken bones as well as dislocated joints.”

CPSC and SAFE KIDS recommend these safety guidelines for scooter use:

- Wear a helmet that meets CPSC’s standard, along with knee and elbow pads.
- Be sure protective gear fits properly and does not interfere with the rider’s movement, vision or hearing.
- Before using the scooter, the rider or parent should check it thoroughly for hazards such as loose, broken or cracked parts; sharp edges on metal boards; slippery top surfaces; and wheels with nicks and cracks.
- Ride scooters on smooth, paved surfaces away from traffic. Avoid streets or surfaces with water, sand, gravel or dirt.
- Children ages 8 and under should not use scooters without close adult supervision.
- Do not ride the scooter at night.
- Never hitch a ride from a car, bus, truck, bicycle, etc., and limit usage of the scooter to one person at a time.
- Exercise caution when riding a scooter downhill. If a steep hill is encountered, step off the scooter and walk to the bottom of the hill.

Scooter safety information and a list of scooter recalls can be found on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site, <www.cpsc.gov>, and the National SAFE KIDS Web site, <www.safekids.org>. 

Safe Illinois Project

by Jill Francis, M.S.W., LCSW

Intimate partner violence (IPV), commonly referred to as domestic violence, is a common and serious problem experienced by one in four women in her lifetime (National Institute of Justice, 1998). Nearly 4 million women are physically abused by their husbands or partners each year in the United States (Bachman and Saltzman, 1995). Intimate partner violence crosses all boundaries of race, culture, economic status, gender and sexual orientation.

The Safe Illinois Project was founded on the premise that intimate partner violence is a public health issue and, as such, should be addressed by health care providers, employers and community groups. The involvement of health care providers and employers is particularly important, since these individuals have the opportunity to provide information and assistance to intimate partner violence victims and perpetrators on a daily basis.

Launched by the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority in 1998 as a pilot project, Safe Illinois strives to develop, promote and evaluate model protocols, prevention strategies and training for health care and workplace response to intimate partner violence. The project functions through a statewide collaboration of public and private partners, organized into a number of committees (Statewide Planning, Health Care, Research and Evaluation, and Local Planning). The principle collaborative partners include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority, United Parcel Service, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Local pilot sites include Belleville, Joliet and Rockford.

In the health care area, Safe Illinois' goals are to educate providers about IPV as a major health concern and to engage them in a process of prevention and intervention with their patients. The project's health care protocol offers concrete information for physicians and other health care providers about screening patients for intimate partner violence, providing referrals and documenting findings. Health care providers are encouraged to provide information about intimate partner violence to all patients. From November 1999 to May 2000, Safe Illinois sponsored two training sessions in each pilot site. Dr. Marian Sessetti, a physician and expert in the area of intimate partner violence, facilitated the training in all three sites. Currently, the Health Care Committee is developing a kit containing hands-on information and tools to assist providers in the pilot sites in addressing IPV with patients.


In the workplace, Safe Illinois staff encourage employers to provide managers and employees with the tools neces-

sary to create a safe and responsive work environment for IPV victims. The project's workplace protocol includes a model policy statement and recommended procedures for businesses to follow in responding to IPV victims and perpetrators in the workplace. In addition, the protocol includes activities that companies can use to educate employees about intimate partner violence issues and resources for help. United Parcel Service has partnered with Safe Illinois to implement this model at the UPS facilities in the three pilot communities. In August 2000, Safe Illinois began management training with UPS, and last October launched an employee awareness campaign, reaching nearly 2,000 employees.

Pilot sites have begun planning and implementing activities based on the needs and resources of each community. Following are a few highlights:

- In Belleville, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has developed an innovative employee training program to increase understanding of intimate partner violence, its possible impact on the employees' own lives and resources for help.
- In Rockford, plans are underway to replicate the work done at UPS and to provide IPV training for supervisors and employees at the largest nursing home in the area.
- The Joliet Local Planning Committee is currently working with St. Joseph's Hospital to implement training for emergency department and social work staff on IPV screening and referral practices.

One important aspect of the Safe Illinois Project is its evaluation component to determine the effectiveness of training and other activities and to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the project model as a whole. Important elements include pre- and post-tests for health care providers, employers and employees who participate in training sessions, and process recording of project development. The Research and Evaluation Committee is now preparing a preliminary report that will summarize and evaluate the activities of Safe Illinois to date. The report will present the results of key informant interviews conducted with collaboration members, and analysis of quantitative data gathered over the last two years. A final evaluation report will be prepared at the conclusion of the project in June 2002.

If you would like to learn more about intimate partner violence, please refer to the Family Violence Prevention Fund's Web site (www.fvvpf.org). Questions about the Safe Illinois Project may be addressed to Jill Francis at 312-814-5106 or <Francis@idph.state.il.us>. 

Jill Francis is the Safe Illinois Project coordinator. Safe Illinois is an Illinois Violence Prevention Authority partnership committed to preventing intimate partner violence.

State of Illinois Commemorative Birth Certificates



Here's a great opportunity to do something special for your child(ren) while at the same time supporting efforts to combat intentional injury in Illinois.


To recognize the rich heritage and individuality of her offspring, Illinois has introduced this personalized, legal birth certificate. When the commemorative document was designed, Illinois was prominent in the artist's mind. The handcrafted border incorporates the state flower — the violet — and the leaf

of our state tree — the white oak — into the Prairie-style stained glass motif of Frank Lloyd Wright, whose architecture graces the state.


To enhance the lasting value of the certificate, the birth information is entered in calligraphy on heirloom quality paper. It is a beautiful document that can be passed from generation to generation ... a keepsake to mark the beginning of a new life, to remember a special birth date, or to celebrate a notable occasion.

The price is \$40. The governor and the General Assembly have directed that the proceeds will be equally divided between the Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Fund and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Your contribution through this birth certificate could give a human being a more meaningful life. It is also a keepsake that you and your family will cherish for years to come. To order, go to

<<http://www.idph.state.il.us/vital/order.htm>>. 

National Health Observances

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services along with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has released the 2001 calendar of national health observations. To order a single copy of this publication, contact the National Health Information Center (NHIC) at 800-336-4797 or at its Web site <www.nhic.org>. 

Web Site Addresses

Alcohol Related Issues

www.traumafdn.org/alcohol.ariv - preventing alcohol related injury and violence

Child Occupancy Protection

www.kidsncars.org - child occupant protection

www.safekids.org - National SAFE KIDS Campaign Web site

Child Safety

www.mchc.org/ipc - poison prevention tips and activity sheets from the *Illinois Poison Center*

www.childsafety.org - child passenger safety web

Drowsy Driving

www.sleepfoundation.org - *National Sleep Foundation* addresses the topic of drowsy driving

Falls in the Elderly

www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/toolkit/toolkit.htm - a tool kit to prevent senior falls

Gun Violence

www.jointogether.org/gv/resources - gun violence prevention, a project of the Boston University School of Public Health

www.stophandgunviolence.com - *Stop Handgun Violence* was formed by a group of concerned business people

www.ncjrs.org/jjvict.htm - promising strategies to reduce gun violence (*Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse*)

Hate Crime

www.ed.gov/pubs/Harassment - protecting students from harassment and hate crime

Injury Prevention

fpr@u.washington.edu - translating injury prevention research into action

Intimate Partner Violence

www.policedv.com - *S.A.B.L.E.* (Spouse Abuse by Law Enforcement) home page

www.dvmillennium.org - intimate partner violence

Poisoning

www.mchc.org/ipc - poison prevention tips and activity sheets from the *Illinois Poison Center*

Product Safety

www.cpsc.gov - *Consumer Product Safety Commission*

Traffic Safety

www.nhtsa.dot.gov - *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

Violence

www.pavnet.org - *Partnership Against Violence Network* is a "virtual library" of information about violence and youth-at-risk.

www.mediawatch.com - violence in the media

www.sagepub.com - key resources on interpersonal violence from *Sage Publications*

Youth Violence


http://obssr.od.nih.gov/rfa_pas/violence_rfa/youth_violence.htm - research on the development of interventions for youth violence from the *National Institute of Health*

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee



The IDPH Division of Injury and Violence Prevention sits on the Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, which is convened by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The committee also includes representatives from traffic enforcement, highway safety, motor carrier regulation and highway infrastructure. Goals of the committee are to develop a strategic plan to identify and link the existing traffic related databases in Illinois in order to enhance highway safety, injury control and public health, and to promote collaboration among the owners and users of the state data. Objectives are to evaluate the effectiveness of system improvements, to improve compatibility with other state and national data tracking systems and to conduct a traffic records audit.

Functions of the committee include identifying and evaluating the quality of selected databases for completeness, timeliness, consistency, accuracy and accessibility; developing an interagency agreement among selected agencies; making the linked database available to all participating agencies and to the public; creating an ongoing linkage project in order to support highway safety and injury programs in Illinois; providing a forum for review and comment on traffic records issues within the state; reviewing traffic related data systems and voting on suggested changes to data systems before they are implemented; reviewing organizations in the state that are involved in the administration, collection and use of highway safety data; reviewing and evaluating new technologies to keep the highway safety data systems up-to-date; making policy recommendations; and developing a match system to track crash victims throughout the systems.

For more information on the Illinois Traffic Records coordinating committee contact Shannon Alderman, Deputy Director, Division of Traffic Safety, Illinois Department of Transportation, 217-524-6610. 

What is the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition?


by Jennifer Martin, B.S.

This newsletter is being brought to you through the support of the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition (IIPC) formerly the Injury Control Work Group. The coalition's mission is "to bring together public and private organizations in a joint effort to promote the coordination and integration of effective strategies to prevent intentional and unintentional injuries in Illinois."

The goals of the IIPC are to write and disseminate an injury prevention newsletter, to coordinate and improve data, to train clinicians to identify preventable injury, to update the Illinois Strategic Plan on Injury Prevention, to host an injury prevention conference, to provide collaborative opportunities for those working in intentional and unintentional injury, and to incorporate other disciplines into injury prevention.

IIPC injury priority areas are bicycle helmet usage and laws; child maltreatment; falls and hip fractures; firearm injuries; motor vehicle crashes, impaired driving, safety belts, child restraints, standard enforcement; physical assault and homicide; sexual assault and intimate partner abuse; pedestrian injuries; and suicide.

Some of IIPC's accomplishments are supporting the successful application of a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant, the Illinois Injury Enhancement Initiative; facilitating a two-day site visit by CDC on injury surveillance within Illinois; convening a statewide conference on childhood injury control issues; surveying local health departments and preparing a summary list of their injury control activities; creating an injury control newsletter for statewide distribution; piloting several studies to collect injury incidence data; holding an injury control planning meeting among Region V states; drafting and publishing the *Illinois Strategic Plan for Injury Prevention and Control* (1994); and establishing an Injury Control Reference Directory.


The IIPC meets quarterly. The remaining 2001 meetings will be held in Springfield on August 8, also available by V-Tel in Chicago, and November 19, available by V-Tel in Edwardsville, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Members represent a variety of agencies and individuals working in unintentional and intentional injury prevention throughout the state of Illinois. If you are interested in joining the coalition, please contact Jennifer Martin, injury prevention specialist, Illinois Department of Public Health, at 217 558-5081 or <jmartin2@idph.state.il.us>. 

Conferences

Safety, Sobriety and Justice Conference
Springfield
July 16 -18
217-524-6034 (Cynthia Spellbrink)

61st IPHA Annual Meeting and Conference
Collinsville
September 30 - October 3
www.ipha.com / 217-522-5687

Injury Facts

- 40,000 people die from firearms each year.
- Trauma is the leading cause of death in children. Head injury is the No. 1 cause of trauma. Only 16 states have laws that require bicycle helmets.
- 400 children under the age of 4 die from unintentional injuries every month in the U.S. Major causes of death to children are motor vehicle crashes, drownings, burns, falls and choking/poisoning. In homes, bathrooms and kitchens are the most dangerous places for children.
- Stress and depression are correlated with risk of injury.
- Suicide took the lives of 1,010 Illinoisans in 1997 (8.5 per 100,000 population).
- In 1997, white males accounted for 72 percent of all suicides. Together, white males and white females accounted for more than 90 percent of all suicides. 



Coming Attraction!

Injury Prevention Conference – Summer 2002 –

Sponsored by Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention in conjunction with Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition and Illinois Public Health Association.

Look for further information in upcoming newsletters.



Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition News

by Darrell Patterson, M.S.


The Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition officially became a part of the new Division of Injury and Violence Prevention during August 2000.

The Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition is part of a nationwide effort to reduce unintentional injury and death among children younger than 15 years of age. While the coalition has targeted six areas — traffic crashes (bicycle, pedestrian and motor vehicle), fire and burns, drownings, falls, poisonings and unintentional shootings — it provides technical assistance and consultation with all aspects of childhood injury prevention.

The Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition promotes four important objectives: to provide direction and support to local coalitions and chapters, to increase the number of coalitions and chapters statewide, to plan National SAFE KIDS Week activities and to conduct state meetings and other activities.

Coalition activities are directed at Illinois children from birth to 15 years of age, parents, health providers and other child safety advocates. Special emphasis is placed on populations at higher risk for some targeted areas of concern, including children from low-income families and those belonging to racial/ethnic minorities.

This year, the Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Plans are underway to promote this milestone during the Illinois State Fair, August 10 - 19, in Springfield.

Services are provided by the Illinois SAFE KIDS Coalition in conjunction with 23 local SAFE KIDS coalitions and chapters. For more information, contact Darrell Patterson at 217-524-2446 or <dpatters@idph.state.il.us>. 

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Please contact our office if you would like additional copies of the newsletter or are receiving too many.

Project Mouthguard

by Julie Ann Janssen, R.D.H., M.A., and Jennifer Martin, B.S.

Research studies have shown that approximately 200,000 injuries are prevented each year in high school and college football when protective faceguards and mouthguards are worn. Mouthguards help prevent injury to the face and mouth, especially the teeth, lips, cheek and tongue. They also protect against head and neck injuries by cushioning blows that might otherwise cause concussions or fractures of the jaw. Imagine if this protective gear were used by those involved in other sports and recreational activities also.

Is there a sport played in your community that does not require mouthguard use and should? Do you have a dentist or dental hygienist in town who would support a mouthguard program initiative? Are you interested in starting Project Mouthguard in your community? Then you might be interested in knowing there is assistance available through the Illinois Department of Public Health, to expand Project Mouthguard into new communities this year.

Project Mouthguard is a statewide sports dentistry program designed to increase the number of sports and athletic

activities requiring mouthguard use, to provide custom fitted mouthguards to athletes in Illinois and to raise awareness among Illinois youth regarding the benefits of wearing mouth protection during sports activities. *A Guide To Establishing Mouthguard Programs In The Community*, which was developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois at Chicago, provides details on how to establish a mouthguard program, on what materials are needed and on the evolution of the mouthguard program in Illinois.

An important key is to have the right people involved when starting a mouthguard program in your community. The success of your program will be more assured if you involve interested parties right from the beginning. Invite your local dental society, school principal or district superintendent, athletic director/coach, trainers, athletes, parents, school transportation, officials and local health department. As a group, they can decide on the entire mouthguard project and designate a plan for implementing it locally.

For more information, contact Jennifer Martin, Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention, at 217-558-4081 or jmartin2@idph.state.il.us.

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