

Overview

The Nebraska Injury Prevention Program (NIPP) at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) is in its final year of a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (Core SVIPP) funding opportunity was awarded to 23 state health departments to help states implement and evaluate strategies that address the most pressing injury and violence issues, including:

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Motor Vehicle Crash Injury and Death
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Intimate Partner/Sexual Violence

Beyond increasing awareness and enhancing capacity for injury and violence prevention in the state, NIPP had to select three strategies to implement within the four topic areas noted above. Through those activities and collaboration with partners, the goal of the funding is to 1) decrease injury and violence related morbidity and mortality and 2) increase sustainability of injury prevention programs and practices. This report summarizes the key projects and outcomes for each of the four topic areas from July 2016 to December 2020.

Infrastructure

To continue building sustainability for injury prevention programs and practices, the Core SVIPP grant required states to focus on enhancing capacity, infrastructure, and collaborations. This was done through a variety of activities, including the development of a statewide plan for injury and violence prevention, developing and disseminating publications, sharing data, and evaluating efforts.

Accomplishments

- By July 2019, there were at least 24 partner requests regarding data and best practices on Core SVIPP priority areas. This nearly meets the target of having 25 partner requests by July 2021.
- The three NIPP staff members (Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Jason Kerkman and Jeanne Bietz) were involved at the state level and have been recognized at the national level throughout the five-year grant.
- All three served on the Safe States Executive Committee. Peg, the Injury Prevention Program Manager, is currently the President Elect.
- Jason, the Safe Kids Coordinator, received the Martha Collar Award for Outstanding State in 2019 from Safe Kids Worldwide.
- Jeanne, the Motor Vehicle Safety Coordinator, received the FCCLA Honorary Membership Award for teen driver safety. The award recognizes those whose professional responsibilities are not directly related to the organization but who have made outstanding contributions and provide continuing service to the state association.

Child Abuse & Neglect

There are four common types of child abuse and neglect: 1) physical abuse; 2) sexual abuse; 3) emotional abuse; and 4) neglect. To help prevent child abuse and neglect, the NIPP provides professional development to home visitation staff through a collaboration with the Maternal and Child Health Program at NDHHS. There was also a large focus on a Nebraska Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken

Baby Syndrome prevention hospital campaign. The intent was to get information about home safety, safe sleep, and shaken baby prevention materials distributed broadly to parents of infants across the state.

Key Partners

- Birthing Hospitals
- DHHS Maternal & Child Health
- Nebraska Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (N-MIECHV)

Accomplishments

- By July 2019, there were 34 hospitals participating in the Nebraska Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention hospital campaign. This surpassed the goal of reaching 30 hospitals by 2021.
- A goal by the end of the funding opportunity was to have 75% of parents fully aware of and able to describe the crying plan accurately. The average percent between 2018 and 2019 was 75%.

Motor Vehicle Crash Injury & Death

The CDC aims to prevent injuries and death from motor vehicle crashes by 1) monitoring the program to inform prevention; 2) increasing occupant restraint use; 3) keeping teens safe on the road; 4) reducing impaired driving; and 5) improving road safety. In Nebraska, work is focused on two key audiences:

- For child passengers, NIPP supports training of home visitation staff as child passenger safety technicians.
- For teens, NIPP utilizes Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS), which is a teen driven, peer-to-peer, school-based educational program focused on traffic safety.
- For improving road safety, NIPP coordinates the Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition.

Key Partners

- Drive Smart Nebraska Coalition
- Nebraska Highway Safety Office
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Junior High and High Schools
- Six Pence
- Nebraska Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (N-MIECHV)

Accomplishments

- Nebraska's child passenger safety law was updated in January 2019. Updates include: rear-facing until age 2 or until the child reaches the upper weight and height limit of the seat, in a booster seat until age 8, and backset until age 8.
- NIPP recruited home visitation staff across the state and directly supported three staff to attend the Child Passenger Safety Certification course.
- As a result of car seat checks by home visitation staff, by July 2019 there were 89 children whose family restraint practices were improved.

- TDS was implemented in 2013 with five schools. In the 2020-21 school year, there were a total of 33 TDS schools across the state. This surpassed the goal of having 29 schools by 2021.
- From year-to-year, approximately half of schools participating in TDS also complete the Nebraska Teen Driving Experiences Survey. In the 2019-20 school year, there were 2,017 high school respondents to the survey from 12 schools, and an additional 361 middle school respondents from 6 middle schools.
 - Six TDS schools have participated in the Nebraska Teen Driving Experiences Survey for six consecutive years. From 2015 to 2020, there have been statistically significant improvements in seven driving behaviors at these schools, including seat belt use, following speed limits, and limitation on the number of passengers for those with a Provisional Operator's Permit (POP). Overall, student driving behavior and knowledge has been positively impacted.
- In the 2020-21 school year, on average 2,300 teens were reached each month with teen driver safety information through TDS programming in schools.
- NIPP increased the number of educational materials for Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) available to promote the best available evidence. Current materials include GDL card, agreement, teen driver safety fact sheet and GDL best practice document.
- The Drive Smart Nebraska (DSN) Coalition continued to provide access to information, promotional media, and empower partners to be change-agents in their communities. The coalition consists of 54 public and private partners which are active in improving road safety, sharing resources, and educating the public. In partnership with the Nebraska Highway Safety Office, a DSN website was developed to provide free educational materials and social media posts for community and partner use: www.drivesmartne.org.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) can be caused by a blow, bump, or jolt to the head that causes a disruption in the normal function of the brain. Through the Concussion Coalition, NIPP works on Return to Learn and Return to Play as well as the implementation of those policies statewide to prevent TBI. There has also been a focus on publicizing concussion-related health care training modules and continuing education to physicians statewide.

Key Partners

- Brain Injury Alliance of NE
- Nebraska Concussion Coalition

Accomplishments

- By December 2018, an estimated 91.9% of schools had written concussion management policies for removal and return to play for athletes with a suspected concussion. This is up substantially from the 2013 data where 63.2% of schools had written concussion management policies.
- By December 2018, approximately 82.2% of schools had written return-to-learn policies that provide adjustments for the classroom work of a student returning to school after sustaining a concussion based on the Concussion Management Survey. This is up substantially from the 2013 data of 6.1% of schools.

- Nebraska surpassed the goal of having 200 providers complete the online concussion module training. By July 2019, 230 health care providers completed at least one of the six concussion modules.

Intimate Partner/Sexual Violence

Preventing intimate partner violence and sexual violence requires a comprehensive approach that addresses factors at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. The NIPP is helping support evaluation efforts for two programs: Safe Dates and Green Dot. Safe Dates helps prevent the initiation of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse in adolescent dating relationships. Green Dot is a bystander-based program meant to increase positive bystander behavior and change social norms. The Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Council (SVPAC) was also tasked with developing a state plan for sexual violence prevention, and a large focus was placed on working with agencies screening for domestic violence related TBI through the Brian Injury Alliance (BIA) screening program.

Key Partners

- Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Council
- Brain Injury Alliance of NE

Accomplishments

- A total of 255 brain injury screenings were conducted at domestic violence shelters from 2016 to 2019. More than three-in-five (61.2%) of women at these domestic violence shelters screened positive for a potential brain injury.

Contact

Injury Prevention Program

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Injury Prevention Program Manager
Peg.OgeaGinsburg@nebraska.gov
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Injury-Prevention.aspx>