

announcement as posted on the CDC web site.

AR-1 Human Subjects Certification
AR-2 Requirements for inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research

AR-3 Animal Subjects Requirement
AR-9 Paperwork Reduction Requirements

AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirement

AR-11 Healthy People 2010

AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions

AR-13 Prohibition on Use of CDC funds for Certain Gun Control Activities

AR-21 Small, Minority, and Women-owned Business

AR-22 Research Integrity

Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

J. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC home page Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov>. Click on "Funding," then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements".

For general questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For business management assistance, contact: Nancy Pillar, Grants Management Specialist, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2920 Brandywine Road, Room 3000, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: (770) 488-2721, E-mail address: nfp6@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Tom Voglesonger, Program Manager, Office of the Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 4770 Buford Highway, NE., Mail Stop K-02, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, Telephone: (770) 488-4823, E-mail address: TVoglesonger@cdc.gov.

Dated: February 1, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

Director, Procurement and Grants Office,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03028]

Grants for Traumatic Injury Biomechanics Research; Notice of Availability of Funds

Application Deadline: April 8, 2003.

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 301 (a) [42 U.S.C. 241(a)] of the Public Health Service Act, and section 391 (a) [42 U.S.C. 280b (a)] of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.136.

B. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for Grants for Traumatic Injury Biomechanics Research. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas of Injury and Violence Prevention.

The purposes of the program are to:

1. Solicit research applications that address the priorities reflected under the heading, "Programmatic Requirements."

2. Build the scientific base for the prevention and control of injuries, disabilities, and deaths.

3. Encourage professionals from a wide spectrum of disciplines of engineering, epidemiology, medicine, biostatistics, public health, law and criminal justice, behavioral, and social sciences to perform research in order to prevent and control injuries more effectively.

4. Encourage investigators to propose research that involves intervention development and testing as well as research on methods; to encourage individuals, organizations, or communities to adopt and maintain effective intervention strategies.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following performance goal for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC): Develop new or improved approaches for preventing and controlling death and disability due to injuries.

C. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by public and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations and by governments and their agencies; that is, universities,

colleges, technical schools, research institutions, hospitals, other public and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, State and local governments or their bona fide agents, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Indian tribes, or Indian tribal organizations, and small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

Note: Title 2 of the United States Code section 1611 states that an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to receive Federal funds constituting an award, grant or loan.

Applications that are incomplete or non responsive to the following requirements will be returned to the applicant without further consideration:

1. A principal investigator, who has conducted research, published the findings in peer-reviewed journals, and have specific authority and responsibility to carry out the proposed project.

2. Demonstrated experience on the applicant's project team in conducting, evaluating, and publishing injury control research in peer-reviewed journals.

3. Effective and well-defined working relationships within the performing organization and with outside entities which will ensure implementation of the proposed activities.

4. The ability to carry out injury control research projects as defined under Attachment 2 (1.a-c). The attachment is posted with this program announcement on the CDC Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/ncipchm.htm>.

5. The overall match between the applicant's proposed theme and research objectives and the program interests as described under the heading, "Program Requirements."

D. Funds

Availability of Funds

Approximately \$600,000 is available in FY 2003 to fund approximately two-three awards. It is expected that the awards will begin on or about September 1, 2003, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to three years. Funding estimates may change.

The maximum funding level for each project will not exceed \$300,000 per year (including both direct and indirect costs) or \$900,000 for a three-year project period. Applications that exceed the funding caps noted above will be excluded from the competition and returned to the applicant. The availability of Federal funding may vary and is subject to change.

Consideration will also be given to current grantees who submit a competitive supplement requesting one year of funding to enhance or expand existing projects, or to conduct one-year pilot studies. These awards will not exceed \$150,000, including both direct and indirect costs. Supplemental awards will be made for the budget period to coincide with the actual budget period of the grant and are based on the availability of funds.

Continuation awards within an approved project period will be made on the basis of the availability of funds and the following criteria:

1. The accomplishments reflected in the progress report of the continuation application indicate that the applicant is meeting previously stated objectives or milestones contained in the project's annual work plan and satisfactory progress demonstrated through presentations at work-in-progress monitoring workshops.

2. The objectives for the new budget period are realistic, specific, and measurable.

3. The methods described will clearly lead to achievement of these objectives.

4. The evaluation plan will allow management to monitor whether the methods are effective.

5. The budget request is clearly explained, adequately justified, reasonable and consistent with the intended use of grant funds.

Use of Funds

Grant funds will not be made available to support the provision of direct care. Eligible applicants may enter into contracts, including consortia agreements, as necessary to meet the requirements of the program and strengthen the overall application.

Funding Priority

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed funding priority (see the "Program Requirements" section of this announcement). All comments received within 30 days after publication in the Federal Register will be considered before the final funding priority is established. If the funding priority changes because of comments received, a revised announcement will be

published in the Federal Register, and revised applications will be accepted before the final selections are made. Address comments to the grants management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

Recipient Financial Participation

Matching funds are not required for this program.

E. Program Requirements

NCIPC works to prevent non-occupational unintentional and violence-related injuries, and to minimize the consequences of injuries when they do occur. It's public health approach draws on biomechanics in seven topic areas:

1. Preventing Injuries at Home and in the Community.
2. Preventing Injuries in Sports, Recreation, and Exercise.
3. Preventing Transportation Injuries.
4. Preventing Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Child Maltreatment.
5. Preventing Suicidal Behavior.
6. Preventing Youth Violence.
7. Acute Care, Disability, and Rehabilitation.

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose of this program, the recipient will be responsible for addressing priorities listed below:

High Priority

Higher priority will be given to research proposals that:

1. Use biomechanics research and the knowledge of injury tolerance and injury mechanisms to develop and/or evaluate interventions that address the following specific injury prevention and control problems:

- a. Falls that occur among older, community dwelling adults (*e.g.* hip pads).
- b. Injuries in mass trauma events.
- c. Severe and disabling falls among children.
- d. Sports, recreation, and exercise-related injuries (*e.g.*, playground and other play environments, safety gear.)
- e. Injuries associated with people initiating or increasing physical activity (*e.g.*, training programs or protective devices).
- f. Injuries related to outdoor recreation (*e.g.*, vehicle design).
- g. Motorcycling, bicycling and pedestrian injuries (*e.g.*, improved helmets or environments).
- h. Injuries to child occupants of motor vehicles (*e.g.*, universal fasteners and alternative restraint designs).
- i. Injuries to older drivers.

j. Injuries associated with the effects of emerging vehicle technologies.

2. Identify the biomechanics and specific injuries that would be highly predictive of diagnoses of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment, and improve case definitions.

Note: The scoring for applications addressing a high priority item will be weighted an additional 25 points in a scoring system of 100–500 points.

Lower Priority

In addition, lower priority will be given to research proposals that:

1. Advance the biomechanical understanding of traumatic injury (*e.g.*, injuries to the brain, spinal cord, thorax/abdomen, extremities and joints) including: development of biofidelic models to elucidate injury physiology as well as pharmacologic, surgical, rehabilitation, and other interventions; improvement of injury assessment technology; impact injury mechanisms research; and quantification of injury-related biomechanical responses for critical areas of the human body (*e.g.*, brain and vertebral injury with spinal cord involvement).

2. Define the human tolerance limits for injury, especially determining the differences in human tolerance by age, fitness level, and gender and the biomechanics and injury tolerances of tissue, bone, and other human structures as a prerequisite for developing interventions.

3. Identify the modifiable risk factors for and mechanisms of nonfatal neck, back and soft tissue ("whiplash-like") injuries.

F. Content

Letter of Intent (LOI)

A LOI is optional for this program. The program announcement title and number must appear in the LOI. The narrative should be no more than two single-spaced pages, printed on one side, with one-inch margins, and unreduced 12-point font. The letter should identify the name of the principal investigator, and briefly describe the scope and intent of the proposed research work. The letter of intent does not influence review or funding decisions, but the number of letters received will enable CDC to plan the review more effectively and efficiently.

Applications

The Program Announcement title and number must appear in the application. Use the information in the Program Requirements, Other Requirements, and

Evaluation Criteria sections to develop the application content. Your application will be evaluated on the criteria listed, so it is important to follow them in laying out your program plan. The narrative should be no more than 25 single-spaced pages, printed on one side, with one-inch margins, and unreduced 12-point font.

Applications should follow the PHS-398 (Rev. 5/2001) application and Errata sheet (See attachment 3 of this announcement as it is posted on the CDC web site). The narrative should include the following information:

1. The project's focus that justifies the research needs and describes the scientific basis for the research, the expected outcome, and the relevance of the findings to reduce injury morbidity, mortality, disability, and economic losses. This focus should be based on recommendations in "Healthy People 2010" and the "CDC Injury Research Agenda," and should seek creative approaches that will contribute to a national program for injury control.
2. Specific, measurable, and time-framed objectives.

3. A detailed plan describing the methods by which the objectives will be achieved, including their sequence. A comprehensive evaluation plan is an essential component of the application.

4. A description of the principal investigator's role and responsibilities.

5. A description of all the project staff regardless of their funding source. It should include their title, qualifications, experience, percentage of time each will devote to the project, as well as the portion of their salary to be paid by the grant.

6. A description of those activities related to, but not supported by the grant.

7. A description of the involvement of other entities that will relate to the proposed project, if applicable. It should include commitments of support and a clear statement of their roles.

8. A detailed first year's budget for the grant with future annual projections, if relevant.

9. An explanation of how the research findings will contribute to the national effort to reduce the morbidity, mortality and disability caused by injuries within three to five years from project start-up.

An applicant organization has the option of having specific salary and fringe benefit amounts for individuals omitted from the copies of the application which are made available to outside reviewing groups. To exercise this option: on the original and two copies of the application, the applicant must use asterisks to indicate those individuals for whom salaries and fringe

benefits are not shown; however, the subtotals must still be shown. In addition, the applicant must submit an additional copy of page four of Form PHS-398, completed in full, with the asterisks replaced by the salaries and fringe benefits. This budget page will be reserved for internal staff use only.

F. Submission and Deadline

Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

On or before March 10, 2003. Submit the LOI to the Grants Management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

Application Forms

Submit the signed original and two copies of PHS-398 (OMB Number 0925-0001). Forms are available at the following Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/forminfo.htm>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, or if you have difficulty accessing the forms on-line, you may contact the CDC Procurement and Grants Office Technical Information Management Section (PGO-TIM) at: 770-488-2700. Application forms can be mailed to you.

Submission Date, Time, and Address

The application must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, April 8, 2003. Submit the application to: Technical Information Management-PA#03028, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146.

Applications may not be submitted electronically.

Deadline

Letters of intent and applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are received before 4 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date. Applicants sending applications by the United States Postal Service or commercial delivery services must ensure that the carrier will be able to guarantee delivery of the application by the closing date and time. If an application is received after closing due to (1) carrier error, when the carrier accepted the package with a guarantee for delivery by the closing date and time, or (2) significant weather delays or natural disasters, CDC will upon receipt of proper documentation, consider the application as having been received by the deadline.

Any application which does not meet the above criteria will not be eligible for competition and will be discarded. The applicant will be notified of their failure to meet the submission requirements.

CDC Acknowledgment of Application Receipt

A postcard will be mailed by PGO-TIM, notifying you that CDC has received your application.

H. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by CDC staff for completeness and responsiveness as outlined under the "Eligible Applicants" Section (Items 1-5). Incomplete applications and applications that are not responsive will be returned to the applicant without further consideration. It is especially important that the applicant's abstract reflects the project's focus, because the abstract will be used to help determine the responsiveness of the application.

Applications which are complete and responsive may be subjected to a preliminary evaluation (streamline review) by a peer review committee, the Injury Research Grant Review Committee (IRGRC), to determine if the application is of sufficient technical and scientific merit to warrant further review by the IRGRC. CDC will withdraw from further consideration applications judged to be noncompetitive and promptly notify the principal investigator/program director and the official signing for the applicant organization. Those applications judged to be competitive will be further evaluated by a dual review process.

Competing supplemental grant awards may be made, when funds are available, to support research work or activities not previously approved by the IRGRC. Applications should be clearly labeled to denote their status as requesting supplemental funding support. These applications will be reviewed by the IRGRC and the secondary review group.

All awards will be determined by the Director of the NCIPC based on priority scores assigned to applications by the primary review committee IRGRC, recommendations by the secondary review committee of the Science and Program Review Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Injury Prevention and Control (ACIPC), consultation with NCIPC senior staff, and the availability of funds.

1. The primary review will be a peer review conducted by the IRGRC. All applications will be reviewed for scientific merit using current National Institutes of Health (NIH) and CDC criteria (a scoring system of 100-500 points) to evaluate the methods and scientific quality of the application. All categories are of equal importance, however, the application does not need to be strong in all categories to be

judged likely to have a major scientific impact. Factors to be considered will include:

- a. *Significance.* Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- b. *Approach.* Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Does the project include plans to measure progress toward achieving the stated objectives? Is there an appropriate work plan included?
- c. *Innovation.* Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge or advance existing paradigms, or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- d. *Investigator.* Is the principal investigator appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out this work? Is the proposed work appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other significant investigator participants? Is there a prior history of conducting injury-related research?
- e. *Environment.* Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Does the proposed research take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support? Is there an appropriate degree of commitment and cooperation of other interested parties as evidenced by letters detailing the nature and extent of the involvement?
- f. *Ethical Issues.* What provisions have been made for the protection of human subjects and the safety of the research environments? How does the applicant plan to handle issues of confidentiality and compliance with mandated reporting requirements, e.g., suspected child abuse? Does the application adequately address the requirements of 45 CFR 46 for the protection of human subjects? (An application can be disapproved if the research risks are sufficiently serious and protection against risks is so inadequate as to make the entire application unacceptable.) The degree to which the applicant has met the CDC Policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic, and racial

groups in the proposed research (See Attachment 1, AR-2).

This includes:

- (1) The proposed plan for the inclusion of both sexes and racial and ethnic minority populations for appropriate representation.
 - (2) The proposed justification when representation is limited or absent.
 - (3) A statement as to whether the design of the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted.
 - (4) A statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits.
- g. *Study Samples.* Are the samples sufficiently rigorously defined to permit complete independent replication at another site? Have the referral sources been described, including the definitions and criteria? What plans have been made to include women and minorities and their subgroups as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research? How will the applicant deal with recruitment and retention of subjects?
- h. *Dissemination.* What plans have been articulated for disseminating findings?
- i. *Measures of Effectiveness.* The Peer Review Panel shall assure that measures set forth in the application are in accordance with CDC's performance plans. How adequately has the applicant addressed these measures?
- The IRGRC will also examine the appropriateness of the proposed project budget and duration in relation to the proposed research and the availability of data required for the project.
2. The secondary review will be conducted by the Science and Program Review Subcommittee (SPRS) of the ACIPC. The ACIPC Federal agency experts will be invited to attend the secondary review and will receive modified briefing books (i.e., abstracts, strengths and weaknesses from summary statements, and project officer's briefing materials). ACIPC Federal agency experts will be encouraged to participate in deliberations when applications address overlapping areas of research interest, so that unwarranted duplication in federally-funded research can be avoided and special subject area expertise can be shared. The NCIPC Division Associate Directors for Science (ADS) or their designees will attend the secondary review in a similar capacity as the ACIPC Federal agency experts to assure that research priorities of the announcement are understood and to provide background regarding current

research activities. Only SPRS members will vote on funding recommendations, and their recommendations will be carried to the entire ACIPC for voting by the ACIPC members in closed session. If any further review is needed by the ACIPC, regarding the recommendations of the SPRS, the factors considered will be the same as those considered by the SPRS.

The committee's responsibility is to develop funding recommendations for the NCIPC Director based on the results of the primary review, the relevance and balance of proposed research relative to the NCIPC programs and priorities, and to assure that unwarranted duplication of federally-funded research does not occur. The secondary review committee has the latitude to recommend to the NCIPC Director, to reach over better ranked proposals in order to assure maximal impact and balance of proposed research. The factors to be considered will include:

- a. The results of the primary review including the application's priority score as the primary factor in the selection process.
- b. The relevance and balance of proposed research relative to the NCIPC programs and priorities.
- c. The significance of the proposed activities in relation to the priorities and objectives stated in "Healthy People 2010," the Institute of Medicine report, "Reducing the Burden of Injury," and the "CDC Injury Research Agenda."
- d. Budgetary considerations.

I. Other Requirements

Technical Reporting Requirements

Provide CDC with an original plus two copies of:

1. *Annual progress report.* The progress report will include a data requirement that demonstrates measures of effectiveness.
2. A financial status report, no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period.
3. Final financial report and performance report, no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.
4. At the completion of the project, the grant recipient will submit a brief (2,500 to 4,000 words written in nonscientific [laymen's] terms) summary highlighting the findings and their implications for injury prevention programs, policies, environmental changes, etc. The grant recipient will also include a description of the dissemination plan for research findings. This plan will include publications in peer-reviewed journals and ways in which research findings will be made available to stakeholders

outside of academia, (e.g., state injury prevention program staff, community groups, public health injury prevention practitioners, and others). CDC will place the summary report and each grant recipient's final report with the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to further the agency's efforts to make the information more available and accessible to the public.

Send all reports to the Grants Management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

Additional Requirements

The following additional requirements are applicable to this program. For a complete description of each see Attachment 1 of this announcement as it appears on the CDC Web site.

- AR-1 Human Subjects Certification
- AR-2 Requirements for inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research
- AR-3 Animal Subjects Requirement
- AR-9 Paperwork Reduction Requirements
- AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirement
- AR-11 Healthy People 2010
- AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions
- AR-13 Prohibition on Use of CDC funds for Certain Gun Control Activities
- AR-21 Small, Minority, and Women-owned Business
- AR-22 Research Integrity

Executive Order 12372 does not apply to this program.

J. Where To Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements, the necessary applications, and associated forms can be found on the CDC Web site, Internet address: <http://www.cdc.gov> Click on "Funding," then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements."

For general questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For business management and budget assistance, contact: Steve Lester, Grants Management Specialist, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: (770) 488-1998, E-mail address: svl3@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Tom Voglesonger, Program Manager, Office of the Director, National

Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-02, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, Telephone: (770) 488-4823, E-mail address: TVoglesonger@cdc.gov.

Dated: February 1, 2003.

Sandra R. Manning,

Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 03027]

Grants for New Investigator Training Awards for Unintentional Injury, Violence Related Injury, Acute Care, Disability, and Rehabilitation-Related Research

Application Deadline: April 8, 2003.

A. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 301 (a) (42 U.S.C. 241(a)) of the Public Health Service Act, and section 391 (a) (42 U.S.C. 280b (a)) of the Public Service Health Act, as amended. The catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.136.

B. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2003 funds for grants for new investigator training awards in four research areas: unintentional injury prevention, violence-related injury prevention, injury-related acute care and disability research, and injury-related biomechanics research. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus areas of Injury and Violence Prevention.

The purposes of this program are to:

1. Solicit research applications that address the priorities reflected under the "Program Requirements" section.
2. Encourage professionals from a wide spectrum of disciplines of engineering, epidemiology, medicine, biostatistics, public health, law and criminal justice, and behavioral, and social sciences to perform research in order to prevent and control injuries more effectively.
3. Support injury research by recent doctoral-level graduates or researchers

who are redirecting their careers toward injury research.

4. Build the scientific base for the prevention and control of unintentional and violence-related injuries, disabilities, and deaths.

5. Encourage qualified applicants who are beginning or redirecting their career to focus on injury-related research. The career development objectives of this program are to encourage scientists to develop independent research skills and to gain experience in advanced methods and experimental approaches in injury-related research. This program is also intended to jump start the careers of researchers in injury prevention and control by providing support for pilot studies, enhancements to existing studies, or other studies that will serve as a foundation for a career in injury prevention and control. Applicants are required to seek mentoring or collaboration for their research with more senior-level injury researchers.

Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the performance goal for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC): Develop new or improved approaches for preventing and controlling death and disability due to injuries.

Background and Significance

1. Unintentional Injury Prevention Research

For the purposes of this RFA, unintentional injuries are defined as unintentional damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to thermal, mechanical, electrical, or chemical energy or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen. Unintentional injuries continue to be a major public health problem. In 1999, nearly 98,000 people died in the United States as a result of unintentional injuries. Someone dies in this country every six minutes from an injury that is within a category of injuries that includes: motor vehicle crashes, falls, poisonings, drowning, fires and burns, pedestrians struck by motor vehicles, bicycle crashes, or suffocation. In addition to deaths, injuries also constitute a significant cause of both permanent and temporary disability. In 2000, unintentional injuries resulted in nearly 30 million emergency department visits and millions more visits to physicians' offices. Although the greatest cost of injury is human pain and suffering, the financial costs also are staggering: over 200 billion dollars annually for medical care, wage and productivity losses and employer costs in 1998.