

Welcome

Safer
—CALGARY



Name of the Community: Calgary, Alberta

Country: Canada

Number of inhabitants: 1,020,000

Programme started year: 1999

International Safe Communities Network Membership: Designation year: 2003.
Re-Designation: 2009.

Info address on www for the Programme: www.safercalgary.ca

WHO Community Number: 74

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In April 2003, the *World Health Organization* (WHO) & *Safe Communities Canada* (SCC) designated Calgary as a Safe Community

The Safer City for Calgary program was established in 1999 as a long term initiative, supported by the City of Calgary (including the Police, Fire Dept, EMS and Community and Protective Services), the Calgary Regional Health Authority, the Calgary Public School Board and other local organizations such as Block Watch, Alberta Motor Association, the Brain Injury Awareness Society etc. It has a vision to be instrumental in effecting a change in culture, attitudes and behaviours towards injury prevention and safety promotion. Funding to establish the Safer City initiative has been provided by the City of Calgary, while individual projects are funded through corporate and other sponsorships.

Safer Calgary provides a network for hundreds of organizations who represent a cross-section of the local community networks and all parts of the social structure within Calgary. Guided by a mission to "foster community action towards the creation of a safer Calgary", this initiative has streamlined its focus into three issue streams:

- (1) Injury Prevention
- (2) Violence Prevention
- (3) Natural and built environment.

Program areas:

Safer Calgary is designed to be a sustainable, long-term process, with outcomes being measured and reported at regular intervals. It builds on the work of the *Calgary Injury Prevention Network* (CIPC) and the *Alliance to End Violence* (AEV) that already spans more than ten years. There is recognition that the process will take many more years to evolve, and that it will take a shift in cultural and community values to make injuries and violence unacceptable parts of community life.

The structure of the CIPC includes action groups that have a particular age stream focus to include:

- Childhood injuries (0 – 12)
- Adolescent injuries (12 – 24)
- Adult injuries (18 – 65)
- Older Adult injuries (65+)

“To educate tomorrow’s citizens by teaching responsible citizenship through safe decision making.”



These groups work together through the CIPC to coordinate their efforts in gathering data and planning/implementing specific strategies aimed at particular injury types. In addition, data review is carried out to determine specific environments or situations that require a focused approach involving one or more of the age stream groups. For example, recreational activities such as skiing, tobogganing and snowmobiling have recently been identified as high-risk environments requiring a focused approach covering different age groups.

The Alliance to End Violence (AEV) has also taken a similar age stream approach as well as combining resources to tackle specific violence related issues. The programs of AEV include work dedicated to the safety of women, children, youth, diverse cultures, and persons with disabilities. In addition, the Calgary Police Service has an advisory committee, consisting of a wide range of representatives from different disability sectors. The People with Disabilities Police Advisory Committee is the only one of its kind in Canada, established to ensure effective communication and training between people with disabilities and the police.

In Calgary, as in many other Western, industrialized societies, there is a growing awareness that its population is aging. In 1989, 7.3% of Calgary's population was over age 65. This figure rose to 8.8% in 1996 and is expected to increase to 13.5% in 2016. Several Safer Calgary member agencies have taken a proactive approach to respond to this emerging demographic trend. For example, the Calgary Health Region has several elder-specific safety initiatives. These include:

- The development of a 10-year regional healthy aging strategic plan as part of provincial direction from Alberta Health and Wellness. The plan covers all aspects of healthy aging and falls prevention as a fundamental priority. Traffic safety and suicide prevention have also been identified within the healthy aging plan.
- The Calgary Health Region and the Alberta Mental Health Board are implementing a suicide response framework for the region and the issues of older adults and suicide are included in this work.
- The Calgary Health Region Chief Executive Officer has identified reduction of fall related injuries in older adults as a key performance measure for the region

- The Calgary Health Region will be working with Health Canada as a study site for a multi-phase research project exploring the attitudes and behaviours of older adults around the use of assistive devices such as canes, bathtub grab bars, etc.
- The Calgary Health Region has a Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force (internal) which is working on domestic violence awareness, screening, identification and referral of individuals using Calgary Health Region programs and services. The Task Force is also mandated to look at the unique needs of older adults as they relate to domestic violence.

Many of *Safer Calgary's* members are also participating in the formation of a Seniors Home Safety Program, known as the Gatekeeper Program (modelled after a similar program in Washington State, USA). This program establishes an essential link between at-risk older adults and community support services. The program is preventative in its focus as it provides a way to identify and help older adults with unmet needs before a serious crisis occurs. The name 'Gatekeeper' refers to the program's function of opening a 'gate' to a wide variety of services for older adults. Gatekeepers are people who routinely work in the community and come into contact with seniors on a daily basis (e.g., postal workers, utility meter readers, grocery store clerks). The role of the Gatekeeper is to recognize signs, symptoms and behaviours indicative of a problem in the life of an older adult.

In addition to the age specific approach, *Safer Calgary* aims at addressing safety issues as they relate to the Natural & Built Environment. It is anticipated that this will build on the work that was initiated by the Safety Audit Task Force (SATF).

Safer Calgary has taken particular care to ensure that disadvantaged groups and those at high risk of injury are represented both on the Board and at the Issue Stream level. The membership of *Safer Calgary* ensures that the diverse safety needs of Calgarians are included in all its activities. The Committee on Race Relation & Cross-Cultural Understanding Committee as well as the Independent Living Resource Centre are two such members that represent the issues affecting vulnerable groups.

Data collection and evaluation strategies are used to monitor high-risk environments, age groups and circumstances as well as to determine strategies for mitigating the risks in these groups. Examples of specific programs aimed at high-risk groups and environments include:

- Bicycle helmet program
- Older Adult abuse prevention
- Playground Safety program
- Water Safety
- Child Passenger Restraints

The programme covers the following safety promotion activities:

Surveillance of injuries:

Safer Calgary enjoys the support and cooperation of the Calgary Health Region. It has direct access to their database of all hospital and emergency room visits in the Calgary region.

All hospitals in Calgary are administered by the same Health Authority. This allows for the documentation and tracking of the types and frequency of injuries with a high level of accuracy and consistency.

In addition to hospital/emergency room data, *Safer Calgary* is able to access data through the Calgary Police Service, the Calgary Fire Service and the Emergency Medical Services department that responds to all injury situations requiring ambulance and paramedic attention. Since there are no private ambulances in Calgary, the data received is highly accurate.

Safer Calgary has undertaken a project to determine what measurement indicators should be used to track and evaluate the impact of *Safer Calgary* over the next 10-20 years and beyond. A Task Group was established to coordinate this process and included representatives from the Calgary Health Region, the Calgary Police Service, The City of Calgary, The University of Calgary, The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre and Sustainable Calgary.

The focus of this Task Group was two-fold:

1. To establish indicators to measure safety
2. To establish baseline data for 2000 in each area to be measured

The four safety indicators adopted by *Safer Calgary* are:

1. Public Attitude, Beliefs and Behaviors

- Perception of safety survey

2. Injury Prevention Data

- Number of injury related emergency room visits per capita
- Number of injury related hospitalization per capita
- Number of injury related fatalities per capita
- Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) due to injury

3. Crime & Violence Data

- Personal crime rate
- Property crime rate
- Youth accused rate
- Adult accused rate
- Number of domestic-related offences reported by victims
- Number of offences motivated by hate/bias
- Number of child interventions
- Percentage of fatality involving alcohol

4. Natural & Built Environment

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Pesticide use
- Landfill waste

Future work in this area will ensure the data is gathered, analyzed and reported to City Council and the citizens of Calgary to provide progress reports on outcomes from *Safer Calgary* programs, safety promotion/injury prevention programs and to direct future work.

A preliminary "Baseline Report" has been published and is available on our web site, providing a snapshot of what Calgary looked like with respect to safety in the year 2000. This will be used as a benchmark against which to plot the progress of *Safer Calgary* over the next 20 years and beyond. Here are the navigation links

<http://www.safercalgary.com/pdf/safety%20in%20numbers.pdf>

http://www.safercalgary.com/pdf/Indicator%20Trend%20Summary%202005_version%20Jan06.pdf

An update to this publication was provided in 2005 and further updates are planned for 2010, 2015 and 2020.

Staff:

Safer Calgary currently has no paid staff members. All support is voluntary, with some “in kind” support through the City of Calgary and the Calgary Health Region.



SPECIFIC INTERSECTORAL LEADERSHIP GROUP: SAFER CALGARY MEMBERSHIP

COALITION MEMBER	PHONE	E-MAIL	AGENCY
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International commitments:

Study visits: Participation in Safe Community conferences:

Representatives from Safer Calgary have attended many national and international Safe Community conferences, including:

WHO Safe Community Conference in Viborg, Denmark, 2001

WHO Safe Community Conference in Vienna, Austria

WHO Safe Community on Larger Communities, Dallas, USA

Safe Communities Canada Conference, Winnipeg, 2008

Safe Communities Canada Conference, 2007
Safe Communities Canada Conference, 2006
Safe Communities Canada Conference, 2005

Hosting Safe Community Conferences: Hosted International Conference on Safe Communities, 2003 as a part of our WHO Designation process.
Hosting Travelling Seminars: None yet



Calgary's Children Thank You For
Making Safety Everybody's Business