

**Falköping applies for a continuation of the status
“A Safe Community”**

**WHO:s global network
“Safe Communities”**

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Municipality of Falköping

Falköping applies to continue to be a Safe Community in the rescue department and WHO:s global network in the future.

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in western Skaraborg

Municipality of Falköping

In 1991 Falköping was the third municipality to be a Safe Community and in autumn 2001, the municipality celebrated the 10-year anniversary.

The preventive work to avoid bad health started in the municipality of Falköping in the 1970:s on the initiation of the County councils health care unit and the present professor / damage researcher Leif Svanström. The work was after this done by the project leader Lothar Schelp (presently professor at the Karolinska institute and active at the rescue department.)

The work was successful from the beginning. After three years, accidents and doctor-visits was reduced with 28 percent. The best results were among the pre-school children where the accidents were reduced with 43 percent.

From the beginning the idea was that all sectors in the society would be involved in the preventive work. Municipality departments, health care and volunteer organizations should cooperate. The safe and preventive thinking would be involved in all decisions in the municipality and in the region.

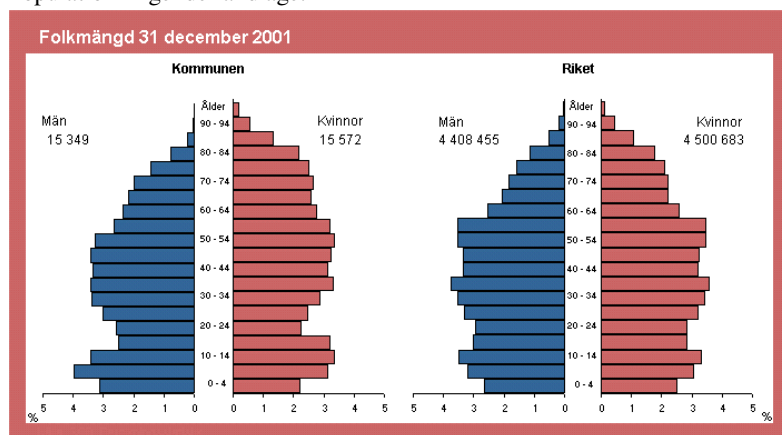
Eventually the involvement have increased, and the pilot education that the rescue department, the local authorities, the county councils and the university of Karlstad arranged in Falköping 2002 created even more involvement from the municipality departments which where all represented in the education.

Safe Community is a part of people Health Council that is lead by three municipality politicians (the Chairman of the Municipality board, the 1st vice chairman and the 2nd chairman), and also two politicians from the regional healthcare board. Politicians from social, culture, technical and children and education board are adjoined members. The council also includes the chief of rescue, personal, environment and also representatives from primary care, social insurance office, employment office and the police. The people health planner is responsible for the People Health Council and is employed by the region.

Municipality citizens

The Municipality of Falköping have 31 000 citizens and 50 percent live in Falköping city. In the Municipality, 2,6 percent of the citizens have citizenship in another country than Sweden which is less than the average in Skaraborg.

Population in gender and age.



Source: [SCB, Population statistic.](#)

Falköping is a small town that is creative and has an entrepreneurship that has shaped this unique part of Sweden for several thousand years. Falköping is located at the western main railroad and the communications are well developed.

Among the larger employer there is Kinnarps AB, Municipality of Falköping, Arkivator, Volvo, Gyllensvaans furniture and the Västra Götalands Region that have both somatic and physical care.

Because of the fact that Falköping is an agriculture community, there are several connections to agriculture. For example, Falköpings Cheese have 150 000 visitors each year.

Falköping is usually called the most cow-intensive municipality in Sweden. This is because there are more cows in every thousand citizens than any other municipality in the country.

Health Care

Falköpings hospital is a part of SKAS (Skaraborgs hospitals). In the newly built hospital at the Mösseberg slope, all medic care is collected, both somatic and psychiatric.

In the municipality there is four care centers that belong to the primary care. In these there are mother and children care centers. A nurse is responsible for the youth reception and to this, young people can turn to get advise, support and treatment in issues like sexuality, general living questions and health issues.

The primary care has medical open care rehabilitation.

The dental care have four receptions in the municipality where children and young people can get free dental care until they are 19 years old.

Injury unit in Skaraborg

Injury registration is being made in Falköping and in the rest of Skaraborg since 1998.

Registration of all injuries are made at doctor- and dental-visits at emergency centrals, care centers, hospitals and dental clinics.

People health work

Social and economical conditions, working environment and living habits have most likely had most impact on the development of people's health condition.

The focus of the people health have since the start of the injury prevention in the 1970s shifted from medical specialization to a social entirety and cross sector work, from living habits to living conditions, from risk groups to supportive environments.

The goal for the people health work in the municipality is that it shall be close to the citizens and be built on a wide participation and increased influence to develop supportive environments based on a big view on health and unhealthy conditions.

Indicators for international – “Safe communities”

A safe community should have:

1. An infrastructure based on the citizens participation and cooperation, led by a cross-sector group that is responsible for the safety work in their municipality.
2. Long term and sustainable program for both genders and all ages, environments and situations.
3. Program that is focused on high-risk groups, environments and programs that benefits safety for exposed groups.
4. Program that document the frequency and causes of injuries.
5. Evaluation of the programs and their effects on change.
6. Continuing participation in national and international “Safe Community” network.

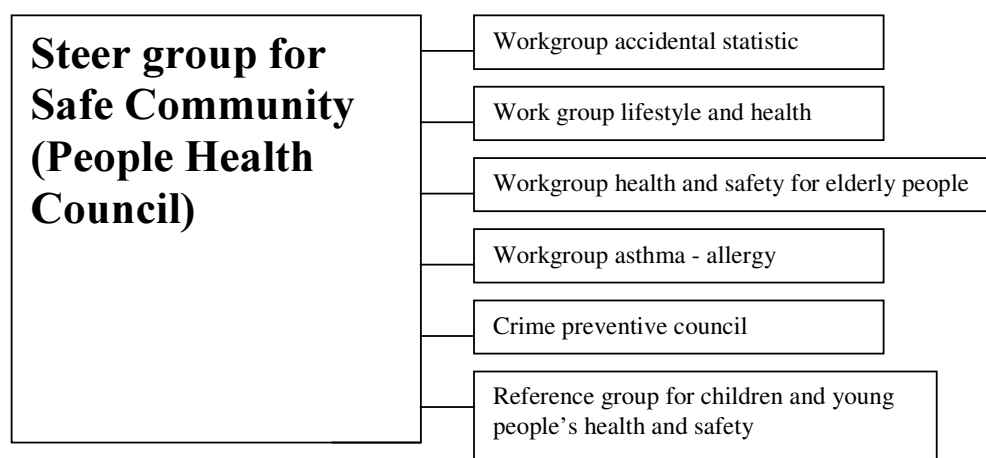
Falköpings work based on the indicators

An infrastructure based on participation and cooperation, led by a cross-sector group that is responsible for promotion of safety in their municipality.

The coordinating responsibility for the safety work in the municipality is held by the People Health Council which meet 9 times each year and is composed by:

- The chairman of the municipal administrative board.
- 1st vice chairman of the municipal administrative board.
- 2nd vice chairman of the municipal administrative board.
- 2 politicians from the health care committee.
- Chief of rescue service
- Chief of personal.
- Chief of environment
- Chief if care center as representative for the primary care.
- Chief of the social insurance office.
- Chief of the employment office.
- Local police
- Secretary from municipality administrative office.
- The people health planner.
- Politicians from the social-, children and education-, culture- and technical- committees.

The people health work includes crime preventive council and there is also cross sector workgroups / reference groups. See organization map.



Reference / workgroups

Workgroup accidental statistic

The workgroup meet to discuss traffic accidental statistic. Interesting questions came up in the council the 21st august 2003, which will be brought up for discussion in the group. Plans exist to start a traffic safety group. Representatives from the technical department, city architect, municipality administrative office, the police, rescue service and people health council are in the work group.

Workgroup lifestyle and health

The workgroup partly works with coordinated informative efforts regarding different themes, and partly to create forum where the citizens can meet and make their opinions heard in different subjects. Several lectures have been made and an example on subjects is the situation for children with parents that are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. Based on this lecture a study circle called "Dare to be adult" have started.

The base that the council has generated will be used for the planning of future efforts. The workgroup representation comes from educational associations, culture department and volunteer organizations.

Workgroup for the health and safety for elderly people

The workgroup for the health and safety for elderly people is very active. Last fall, five information meetings where held at five different locations in Falköpings kommun. The theme was to prevent falling accidents. 120 persons came to the meetings and they learnt how to make a checklist for possible dangers in their homes. One physiotherapist told them how to prevent fragile bones through physic training and during the afternoon, the visitors got the chance to try different fall protections for use indoor.

Under the next year the focus will still be on falling accidents, and also how you can prevent fire in your home. The group includes people from the rescue service, social department, the police, the municipality senior council and people health council.

Workgroup asthma - allergy

The workgroup for asthma / allergy have recently worked with an action plan for a municipality that is allergy adjusted. The plan will be given to the municipality council during the fall 2004 and after that the goals in the plan have to be fulfilled.

The workgroup involves representatives from healthcare, technical department, environmental department, the pharmacy, school health care and people health council.

Crime preventive council

The local crime preventive council has during the existence of the council worked with safety in living areas and in areas with industry and companies. Networks have been created in the form of neighbor cooperation in many parts of Falköping. Today it exist 22 well functional neighbor cooperation's in living areas and 3 in industrial areas in Falköping.

Safety information has been given to the elderly people in the municipality. It have mostly concerned how to secure expensive items, improve locks, efforts to increase chance to discover criminals and also how to report a crime. All senior organizations have received the information.

A network for night workers has been created to make their work situation safe. This group is also used in the crime preventive work because of the resource that this group is. The result is that police on the night shift get a lot of information that mostly are preventive, but that also have lead to solved crimes.

The crime preventive council has arranged educational days with themes like "Efforts to increase safety in urban areas"

A 2 year project " To solve problems without drugs and violence" at Kyrkerörskolan have been completed.

Crime preventive council has been working with supportive efforts to teenage parents in cooperation with People Health Council and educational associations. Information about graffiti has been made at the school. A survey about drugs has been made and it was followed up during 2003.

Reference group for children and young people's health and safety

The reference group is under construction and will be a workgroup that is connected to cooperation for children and youth-issues in Falköping. To prevent violence in this area, work have been, and are being done with different methods. At the gymnasium a lot of work are being done in different workgroups with students in them. One group is called NTD – No To Drugs and it works to prevent drugs. Another group is called "Mållgans friends" and work to prevent conflicts and abusing. "Canon-group" works with relations and sex.

Recently the “Stop smoking - group” started and they work to get their friends to stop using and to start to use cigarettes or snus. Several times every year events take place that are free from alcohol, drugs and cigarettes.

The results from the council meeting in august will be a guide for the future work. In the workgroup there will be representatives from children and youth department, social department, culture department and people health council.

Long term sustainable program for both genders, all ages, environments and situations.

The overall responsibility for the injury-preventive work are the steering group, but the work are integrated in the ordinary work that is done in the municipality, health care, police, organizations etc.

A long term plan for Safe Community will be done during 2003 and approved by the municipality council in Falköping and by the health care board in Västra Götaland – region.

The national goals for public health are the foundation for the plan. The crime preventive work is based on these goals and additional goals for the municipality are in the long-term program.

Among the local goals where work have already begun, it can be mentioned that a cooperation exist between companies and the crime preventive council to prevent shop lifting in stores.

Just outside Falköping is Stenstorp. During 2003 a project have been started that is called “Safer Stenstorp and surroundings.” The initiative comes from parental organizations in the Stenstorp-area and will include school, parents, living areas and companies.

After a visit to our gymnasium by Max L Vosskuhler, executive director of Peaceful Resources Center, Arizona, our interest to become a Safe School was raised.

To get a good base for the action plan, a council meeting was held in august and there where a high participation.

Except for the long-term plan, a one-year plan is drafted for a safe community every year. Previous programs that have been integrated in ordinary work have been “helm 5”, checklist at children care center, security checks at playgrounds, registration of accidents in the municipality elderly care, education for school bus drivers and personal in the social department and riskline.

Discount on used bicycle helmets to all children that is between 1 and 3 years old and also lending of car seats for all newborns started in Falköping in 1982.

Besides that we refer to the different studies made by Medicine Doctor Robert Ekman.

Programs that are aimed at high risk groups and environments and that promote safety for exposed groups.

The long-term program that was made in 2003 involves both genders, all ages, environments and situations, and has a focus on raised equality in health. The work groups will work with high-risk groups in their areas and will get help from the steering group. Example on programs that are aimed at high-risk groups and exposed groups are the accidental preventive work with elders, “From risk zone to healthy zone – a safer Stenstorp”

Program that document the cause and frequency of the damages

Documentation and survey on the structure today are necessary to make the preventive work successful. This is because right methods and strategies will be developed and efforts be aimed at those groups, environments, and situations that are most exposed.

For a long time, injuries and doctors visits based on accidents have been registered in Falköping. Between 1978 and 1989 the municipality participated in a project together with Lidköping. Between 1992 and 1997, Falköping had it's own damage registration in cooperation with the hospital in Skövde.

Several studies have been made with these damage registrations as base, and 6 Ph. D. thesis are based on the registrations. All of them have been made with the Karolinska institutes social medicine as a base.

Since 1998 there are registration of damages at doctor and dental visits, at emergency centers, care centers, hospitals and dental clinics in Skaraborg. The statistic is relayed to the accidental group and from there to concerned departments and work groups.

Evaluation methods to measure programs, processes and the effect of change.

Follow up on the work that is done within the Safe Community are documented in each department and the one who does it documents the work that is done within the usual work. The result of the follow up and the evaluation are necessary to make work plans for one year, and for long term periods.

Every 4th year, a people health profile is made that describe the health of the municipality citizens. The Mösseberg research station have been, and will be a good partner when it comes to evaluation and follow up of methods and goals.

In 2002, Mösseberg research station made a health and drug habit survey in 6 municipalities in Skaraborg and Falköping was one of these.

Since the restart of Falköpings crime preventive program in 1992, several research studies have been published in international science journals, yearly health programs, reports and summaries that have been presented for politicians, health workers and the research community. Several national and international seminars and conferences regarding safety work in municipalities have taken place. Many of the Falköping-program components have been developed to involve all of Skaraborg. The literature also includes five academic thesis about people health work and it's crime preventive program in Falköping, in the Karolinska institutes institution for people health and it's social medical department. (1-22)

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Continuing participation in national and international "Safe Community" networks

Falköping participates in the actiongroup for a safe community in the municipality and in the Västra Götaland region.

During recent years Falköping have hosted many study visits both from Sweden and from countries like Australia, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Great Britain and USA. Falköping have also participated in Safe Communities conferences in Scotland, Norway and Canada.

The municipality was in 1991 host for the first international conference for Safe Communities. In connection to Falköpings 10-year anniversary as a Safe Community in 2001, the municipality hosted a conference about safety for children and young people.

In 2002 Falköping arranged a seminar with the other 6 Safe Communities in Västra Götalands region. It was a travel seminar that took place in Lidköping and twin towns from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland attended. All participants and their interpreters stayed in Lidköping between 28/9 and 4/10 2002.

The purpose with the seminar was to start up cooperation's about Safe Communities with the twin towns. A document regarding future cooperation exist between Falköping and the twin town Sigulda and the work started in 2003.

During 2003 Falköping had visits from Tucson, USA. The visitor was interested about the municipality's work with prevention of abuse and conflicts in schools.