

Application to  
the WHO Collaboration Centre for Safety Promotion  
for designation of  
Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre  
as an  
Affiliated Safe Community Support Centre

Harstad, Norway  
July 2003



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## Introduction

This application is a joint product resulting from discussions among and work by all the members of the Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre. The organizations collaborating in the Centre are: Harstad municipality, Hålogaland hospitals, Harstad University College, Midtre Hålogaland State Road Administration, Harstad Research Foundation, and Harstad Development Company.

### Board:

Leif Arne Heløe. Chairman, Professor, Former Director of Norwegian Research Council.  
Halvar Hansen. Mayor, Harstad Municipality.  
Inger Aksberg Johansen Dean, Harstad University College.  
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Ola Karlsen Chairman, Harstad Research Foundation.

### The Centre Staff: -

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Yousif Rahim Coordinator  
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Børge Ytterstad. Ph. D, Surgeon, Research leader

### Advisory support group consists of:

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Johan Bjørness., Police Sergeant, Harstad Police Station

Harstad, 23.000 inhabitants is situated on the Norway's largest Island (Hinnøy) in Troms county. Harstad was designated as a safe community on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994. The WHO-Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion designated Harstad as the first Norwegian safe community and the 11<sup>th</sup> internationally. Background for the designation was eight years of active injury prevention work in the community.



The Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre is established to cover the activities and ambitions of all Safe Community partners; Harstad municipality, Hålogaland Hospital, Harstad University college, Harstad Police and Midtre Hålogaland State Road Administration. The areas of operation for this resource centre include the study and prevention of non-intentional injuries as well as those caused by violence. The work combines the principles of public health practices with research.

The programs and visions described below are intended as examples of this approach of linking praxis and theory. While some of staff members are employed permanently and others by respective partner organisations in the Safe Community, most of the members have a long experience in the field of injury prevention locally, regionally and internationally.

## History



The injury prevention work in Harstad started in the middle of eighties. Regular meetings were initially called by the municipal consumer's safety office. The Ottawa charter provides guidelines for community health promotion: Strengthening community action in setting priorities, making decisions, planning strategies and implementing them to achieve better health. At the heart of this process is the empowerment of communities, their ownership and control of their own endeavours and destinies. Accordingly, the Harstad study aimed at addressing the local injury problem with means defined or agreed upon by the community.

The community awareness of injury as a problem was enhanced by disseminating information from the Injury Data Base (IDB) prospectively recorded at Harstad hospital. Interventions started with the aim at preventing traffic injuries, burns in children, fractures in senior citizens and downhill skiing injuries. The Harstad based injury prevention program was expanded in the early 1990s after the financial support from the National Institute of Public Health for injury registration at the Harstad hospital.

During the early 1990s, injury prevention activities within the Harstad community were strengthened by the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the Harstad injury prevention project and later on as a secretariat for the Norwegian Safe Communities. This expansion of the injury prevention and safety promotion resulted in accreditation of Harstad as the first Safe Community in Norway in 1994. From formerly being a more operative and directly

intervening body in local municipality, the local organisation expanded into a wide engagement in supporting the Safe Communities movement nationally and internationally.

The Norwegian government through the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, has issued the national strategic plan for injury prevention and dissemination of the Safe Community program. The first and main aim was having at least 15 municipalities fulfilling the criteria approval equivalent to “Safe Communities”, and to be recognised by WHO by the year 2002. One of the other objectives was that 10 percent of 434 Norwegian municipalities should start having some kind of injury prevention and safety promotion priorities according to the Safe Community model and work towards having their future accreditation. These objectives were parts of the greater aim to decrease the number of injuries/accidents occurring in society today, and in this process the “Safe Community” model is seen by the Norwegian government as the preferred tool for implementing this.

The Harstad ‘Safe Community’ project was financed from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs through the National Institute of Public Health and The Norwegian Social and Health Agency. For promoting the dissemination of the Harstad experiences in injury prevention and safety promotion Harstad received a financial support during 1995-2002. These funds were used to employ the project leader who coordinated meetings of the Injury Prevention Group (IPG) and together with a dedicated public health nurse facilitated networking.

The project leader, together with the IPG have been the major driving force in the project. During a decade, Harstad has provided national leadership in promoting know-how on community based injury prevention. Increasingly, the focus has broadened to include international work. After the Norwegian Secretariat for Safe Communities moved to Oslo in 1998, Harstad has participated actively and co-operatively with the secretariat to promote injury prevention through the Safe Community model, both nationally and internationally.

Results from the injury prevention works were reported by Børge Ytterstad as follows:

- Burn injuries in children under 5 years resident in Harstad reduced with 53% in the period 1985-94
- Traffic injuries for all age groups are reduced with 27% in the same period.
- Fall fracture in elders over 65 years are reduced with 26% in the same period.
- Violence cases are reduced with more than 50% in the period 1990-95.(Strandskog T).
- Traffic injury rates in children under 15years of age were reduced by 59% during a decade from 1985.

Based on these experiences Harstad has had a ”workshop-function” for developing new and innovative elements in injury prevention and safety promotion.

We have launched a Safe Community website in Harstad in order to contribute and strengthen the injury prevention works in Norway. An English version of the same contributes to strengthening the safe community network both nationally and internationally.

The Safe Community Weekly News is an electronic weekly newsletter published in many languages (English, Chinese and Portuguese) This Newsletter accounts for a source and database for the injury prevention and Safe community activities globally. The newsletter plays the main role in connecting the safe communities to each other and facilitating an easier access to the information related to safe communities and their activities.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the centre can be described as a "Workshop-function". It includes method developing, that can give models for both organisation's structure and practical working methods:

- working methods and process tools in local society's injury prevention activities generally and for prioritised areas in collaboration with National health institutions and Agencies.
- methods for co-ordinating the local injury prevention efforts, including areas of traffic, work, home, school and leisure. If desired as part focussing on total local society's development.
- methods for implementing of criteria, injury prevention work must be deeply rooted in municipalities plan and decision making organisations.
- contribute to developing methods and tools to ensure a good injury data registration, including both primary health care, emergency rooms and hospitals.
- contribute in working with critic reviewing of criteria for safe community, and aiming to further developing the concept.

### **Norwegian safety Promotion Centre main Activities are:**

- 1- Supporting the injury prevention work in local community.
- 2- Supporting for further development of an injury surveillance system in all three Hålogaland hospitals and expanding the access to the database.
- 3- Encouraging neighbouring communities.
- 4- Influencing Norwegian communities and Counties.
- 5- Arranging courses, seminars, workshops and travelling Safe Community seminars.
- 6- Arranging site visits.
- 7- Finding support for national conferences.
- 8- Obtaining core funding for research and staffing
- 9- Dissemination information and disseminating reports on injury prevention successes and reasons for possible failures (accessible and user friendly)
- 10- Opportunities for regional and national support.
- 11- Assisting in expansion of safe communities movement nationally and internationally.
- 12- Sustaining a data base for safe communities and safety promotion initiatives
- 13- In collaboration with WHO CC sustaining the international Safe Communities Network.

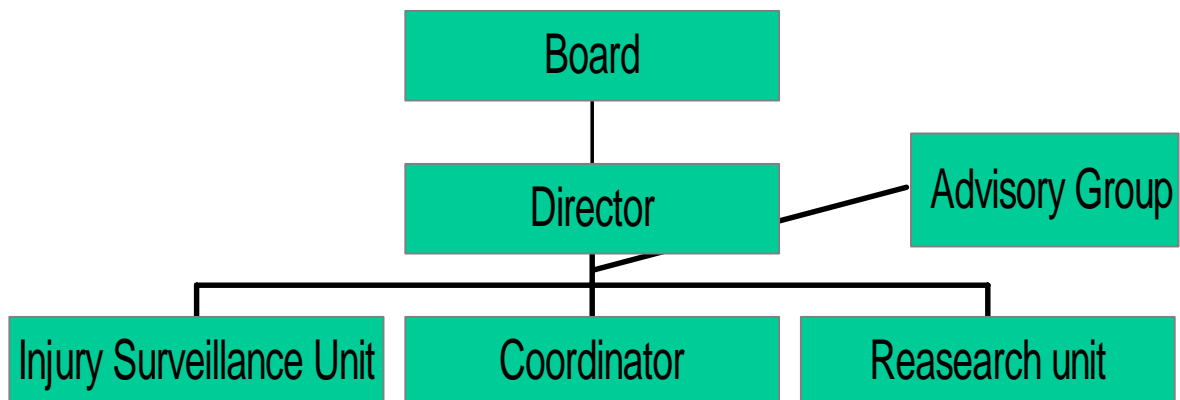
## Criteria

The following will endeavour to show compliance between the Harstad contribution to safe community movement and the WHO CC set of Criteria for Affiliated Safe Community Support Centres.

### 1. **The provision of Centre programs and services utilize multidisciplinary and cross sectoral approaches.**

Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre is a cross sectional centre involving relevant partners in preventing injuries and promoting safety: Harstad municipality, Hålogaland hospital, Harstad University College, The State Road Administration, Harstad Police, Harstad Development Company and Harstad Research Foundation.

## Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre



### 2. **The Centre provides a framework for promoting collective action which includes involvement with community networks.**

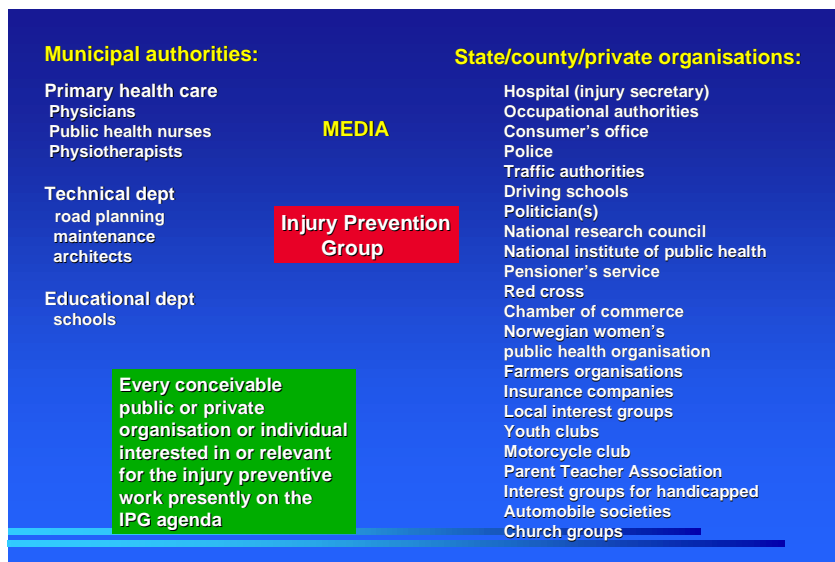
The inter-sectoral injury prevention work in Harstad started from the mid of eighties after establishment of The Injury Prevention Group. Data analysis revealed several obvious injury prevention target groups. Depending on the problem at hand, relevant Cooperation partners were recruited. Working towards the targeted goal was thus facilitated by the expertise at hand, using the competence of individuals and public and private institutions and organisations. This made possible both structural (passive) interventions and a diffusion of interventions to individuals (active). For pedagogic purposes and in order to involve the political establishment, the IPG was led by the deputy mayor of Harstad. This was considered essential in getting the municipal power structures onboard in the injury prevention coalition.

Since the establishment of Injury Prevention Action board in Harstad in 1986, the board has recruited the members interested in Injury prevention work in the local community.

Some of these are:

- Harstad municipality
- Harstad hospital
- State Road Authority
- Harstad Police
- Traffic schools in Harstad
- Bus companies
- Central Taxi Company.
- Crises Centre / Shelter institute for women and children.
- Norwegian Automobile Association
- Senior Unions
- Voluntary Organisations Centre
- Conflict Council
- Youth Council

The potential for co-operative assistance of the Injury Prevention Group may be illustrated by the following figure:



The main Health institutions, health and environment department in Harstad municipality and Harstad hospital are heavily engaged in Harstad program

The following organisations are engaged

- 1- Harstad Hospital.
- 2- Health Centres.
- 3- Health Centre for elderly.
- 4- Youth advisory services
- 5- Elderly activity Centres.

### **3. The Centre provides consultative support to communities in the establishment of Safe Community initiatives.**

The Harstad community has basic knowledge, experiences and good results from many years of working with injury prevention. Harstad municipality has had an important role in the dissemination to other municipalities a model for injury prevention within the framework of safe community.

Harstad has had a major influence on the development of safe community concept in Norway, particularly through arranging several national safe community conferences in Harstad, but also through lectures and participation by several key players in meetings and seminars arranged elsewhere, nationally and internationally.

Representatives from Harstad have thus presented experiences on Safe community practices and injury prevention at many conferences, seminars, workshops and courses. We have supported the Norwegian communities with the information needed in form of leaflets, reports, and guidance.

#### **Visiting and lecturing in Norwegian municipalities.**

- Tromsø. 1992, 1998 and 2001.
- Oslo. 1993, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2002
- Sundsvoll. 1994
- Lillehammer 1994
- Haugesund 1995
- Bergen 1996, 1998 and 2002
- North Trondelag. 1996
- Sirdal 1996
- Longyearbyen Svalbard 1997, 2000 and 2003
- Stavanger 1997
- Levanger 1997, 1998 and 1999
- Trondheim 1998
- Bodø 1998
- Fauske 1998.
- Svolvær 1998
- Mo i Rana 1999
- Oppegård 1999
- Røros 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- Kvam Herad 2001
- Hammerfest 2002
- Ski 2002
- Kristiansand 2002

### **Visiting and Lecturing internationally:**

- Århus, Denmark 1989
- Rovaniemi, Finland 1992
- Alberta, Canada. 1995.
- Fort McMurray, Canada 1995
- Melbourne, Australia 1996
- Anchorage, Alaska, USA 1996, 2001
- United Arab Emirates 1996
- Auckland, New Zealand. 1998
- Dunedin, New Zealand 1998
- Vienna, Austria 1999
- Praha, Czech 1999
- New Delhi, India 2000
- Jurmala, Latvia 2000
- El Paso, Texas, USA 2000
- Viborg, Denmark 2001
- Tartu, Estonia 2002
- Fort Frances, Canada 2002
- Montreal, Canada 2002
- Suwon, South Korea 2002
- Hong Kong SAR, China 2003

## **4. The Centre facilitates and supports community-based strategic planning processes.**

### **Information material, pamphlets, strategic plans and evaluation reports has been produced in Harstad in many languages:**

- Several pamphlets on Injury Prevention (in Norwegian).
- Harstad municipality: Application to become a "SAFE COMMUNITY"
- Astrid Berg: End report "Injury project", Project on injury prevention work. 1990-1994
- Tor Strandskog: VIOLENCE, an experience report on the violence prevention work done by the Senja Police district, Harstad 1991-1994
- Johan Weydahl: Harstad as Safe Community – a reality today? (in Norwegian)
- Harstad municipality, Road and Traffic section. Traffic Safety Plan for Harstad municipality 1999-20004.
- Harstad municipality: Prevention Activities (bullying, Violence and Drugs). 1997.
- Harstad municipality: Alcohol and Drug Policy in Harstad municipality 2000-2004.
- Harstad municipality and Sev. Dahl's Assurancekontor AS. A manual for injury prevention activity. 1998.
- Traffic Safety Report No: 1 – 39. (in Norwegian)
- Harstad a Safe Community, Poster (Norwegian and English)
- Take back the school road. (Norwegian)

## 5. The Centre demonstrates leadership and stewardship in addressing priority injury issues, high risk, and vulnerable groups.

Harstad safe community work in the local community is mainly based on an egalitarian principle: the injury prevention programme covers all ages, environments and situations in which the whole community's network is involved in planning and implementing the injury preventive efforts.

The Harstad Traffic Safety Report is distributed to all households in Harstad since 1989.

Locally relevant injury data are presented to senior interest groups, and in several parent/teacher meetings in the different school districts in Harstad.



Harstad Safe Community focuses particularly on the most vulnerable groups in our society. The elderly, Children and our new citizens coming from other countries and cultures, knowing from data recording that particularly the latter must be a main priorities area for safety promotion work.

Health Station for elderly is one of the successful establishments in the Harstad model for Safe Community. The health station was established in 1991 and served the 70+ elderly. Part of their services includes home visits and risk assessments by public health nurses.



## **6. The Centre provides expert services and knowledge in the area of injury data and injury surveillance issues.**

Harstad hospital has been among the pioneers regarding the injury registration in Norway. Starting 1 July 1985 injury data have been registered continually and prospectively during 18 years. All injuries treated outpatient and in-patient are recorded. Also injuries are recorded at the primary health care emergency room located at the hospital from 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1995.

The number of injuries registered in the unit is totally around 3400 and from Harstad population about 2300.

Data collection has been monitored by an injury secretary, her salary was provided by the National Institute of Public Health.

The cooperation between the National Institute of Public Health and Harstad started in 1984. As part of this partnership, the Harstad data has been sent to the National Institute of Public Health to be included in a data bank compiled from Harstad and three other Norwegian hospitals. Together, these data have been used to make national estimates for injury rates and describe the national injury panorama. The role of the injury secretary is to:

- ❖ Instruct emergency room personnel in extracting information on all injuries from patients or someone accompanying them. The information is written down on a form
- ❖ Collect the forms from the emergency department (outpatient and admitted cases) and compare patient lists with the number of collected forms in order to pick up patients on which information is absent or incomplete, particularly geographical information on traffic injuries
- ❖ Fill in the missing forms with information from the electronic medical records and if necessary call the patients for getting missed information.
- ❖ Coding information on the form and recording the data in the database
- ❖ Using “Epi info” software, the injury secretary has increasingly been able over years to present basic data to partners in the Safe Community program.

The data are analysed by the local injury epidemiology expertise disseminated in many different forms, through publications in national and international journals.

In Harstad we have collected injury data from Harstad Hospital, Police, Road administration, schools and kindergartens. These data are analysed and disseminated in many different forms, through media, internet and public meetings.

## **7. The Centre demonstrates a long term commitment to supporting Safe Communities and the Safe Community Network within their organizations strategic plan.**

Injury Prevention programmes have been going on in Harstad since the mid eighties. The targets for interventions are focused on different injury hazards. Preventive initiatives that were taken by different parties, the health centres having a leading role. Harstad hospital has been actively engaged in selecting target groups and interventions, because of the severity and impact on the treatment capacity posed by these particular injuries (traffic, burns and fractures in the elderly). Similarly the violence prevention program was launched by the Harstad police as a result of an analysis of the local violence panorama.

Efforts are presently made for the further development the Injury surveillance system to be more digitalized and more incorporated into the medical journal system in order to:

- Connect injury data to longitudinal medical data in order to measure the burden of injury in terms of sequelae both humanitarian and for society as a whole
- Use the database as a tool for policy making. Particularly will geographical data enable focussed interventions regarding traffic, falls on slippery streets and sidewalks, special areas with injury clustering
- Develop quality control methods for data registration and coding
- Develop systems for fast and easy access to data for more users of injury/accident data
- Present swift and relevant information on road safety for inhabitants
- Expand the Harstad model for injury data registration to other communities and regions.
- Evaluate injury prevention activities in terms of process and outcome

## **8. The Centre supports those responsible at the community level to utilize appropriate indicators to evaluate community processes, effects of change and injury rates.**

The Safety promotion program in Harstad has been evaluated in two levels. Internally through annual reporting and internal quality control system.

Externally the program has been evaluated by researchers and post graduate students:

Dr. Børge Ytterstad has published several articles in national and international scientific journals on the evaluation of different injury prevention interventions in Harstad.

Stein Mikkelsen has evaluated organisational aspects of the Harstad programme in 1998. The results from Mikkelsen's study were used to further development of Safe Community organisation.

Three of Harstad University College post graduate students have recently (2003) passed their exams and written another paper on Safe Community process. The theme: Evaluation of the Harstad Safe Community program.

## Publications:

- Graitcer P. L. Third International Safe Communities Conference, Harstad 6-8 June 1994. Conference report. Norwegian Safety Forum, report 4/1994
- Lund J. Third International Safe Communities Conference. Harstad 6-8 June 1994. Plenary proceedings. Norwegian Safety Forum, report 5/1994.
- Lund J. Third International Safe Communities Conference. Harstad 6-8 June 1994. Workshops proceedings. Norwegian Safety Forum, report 6/1994.
- Mikkelsen S. Safe Community – symbol and cooperation. A Study of intersectoral co-operation and development in Norwegian community. Harstad College, Publication series, 6/1998.
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad injury prevention study: Hospital-based injury recording and community-based intervention. PH.D. thesis. ISM skriftserie No.33, University of Troms, 1995.
- Ytterstad B, Wasmuth H. The Harstad injury prevention study: Evaluation of hospital-based injury-recording and community-based intervention for traffic injury prevention. *Accid Anal Prev* 1995;27:111-23.
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad injury prevention study: Hospital-based injury recording used for outcome evaluation of community-based bicyclist and pedestrian injury prevention. *Scand J of Primary Health Care*. 1995;13:141-9.
- Ytterstad B, Sjøgaard AJ. The Harstad injury prevention study: Prevention of burns in small children by community-based intervention. *Burns*. 1995;21:259-66.
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad injury prevention study: Community-based prevention of fall-fractures in the aged evaluated by means of a hospital-based injury recording system. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 1996;50:551-8.
- Ytterstad B. "Harstadmodellen" for skade- og ulykkesforebyggende arbeid. Sammendrag av avhandlingen The Harstad Injury Prevention Study. Hospital-based injury recording and community-based intervention. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1996;116: (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad injury prevention study: The epidemiology of sport injuries. An 8 year study. *Br J Sports Med*. 1996;30:64-68.
- Ytterstad B. Forebygging av frakturer hos eldre. Sandstrøing eller medikamenter? *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1997; 117:1810 (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B, Smith G, Coggan C. The Harstad Injury Prevention Study. Prevention of burns in young children by community-based intervention. *Injury Prevention* 1998; 4:176-80.
- Ytterstad B. Samfunn preget av flere kulturer. Leserbreve fra New Zealand. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1998; 118:2662-4. (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad injury prevention study: The characteristics and distribution of fractures amongst elders - an eight year study. *Intern J of Circumpolar Health* 1999; 58:84-95.
- Ytterstad B, Conway G. (Editorial) ICCH11 in Harstad Norway. The Millennium Congress. *Intern J of Circumpolar Health* 1999; 58:70-1.
- Ytterstad B. Strategiske veivalg for å forebygge skader. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1999; 119:783 (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B. Nullvisjonen for trafikkulykker i Norge. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1999; 119: 1633-4 (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B. Verdien av skadeforebygging i Norge etter "safe community"-modellen i Harstad. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 1999; 119: 68-70 (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B. Registration bias in evaluation of Safe Community Program by Kopjar B et al. *Injury Control and Safety Promotion* 2000; 7:37-9.
- Ytterstad B. Voldsskader. Epidemiologisk kartlegging må føre til effektiv forebygging. *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 2000; 120: 656. (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B, Lund J. Forebygging av barneulykker i Norge. "Vi har mange barn – men ingen å miste". *Tidsskr Nor Lægeforen* 2000; 120: 3375. (In Norwegian)
- Ytterstad B, Norheim AJ. The epidemiology of injuries in Svalbard compared with Harstad. *Intern J of Circumpolar Health* 2001; 60:184-95.
- Ytterstad B, Norheim AJ. Snowmobile injuries in Svalbard - a three year study. *Intern J of Circumpolar Health* 2001; 60,:685-95.
- Ytterstad B. The Harstad Injury Prevention Study. A decade of community based traffic injury prevention with emphasis on children. Postal dissemination of local injury data can be effective. *Intern J of Circumpolar Health* 2003; 62:61-74.

## **9. The Centre disseminates their experiences both at national and international levels.**

### **Arranging Conferences**

#### **International**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> International safe Community conference in 1994
- The 11<sup>th</sup> ICCH conference in Harstad in 2000 (International Congress Circumpolar Health).

#### **National**

- Norwegian Safe Communities Conference in 2000
- Norwegian Safe Communities conference in 2001
- Norwegian safety Forum meeting in 2001

### **Participation in Designations of Safe Communities.**

- **Skjövde**
- **McMurray**
- **Rotterdam**
- **Rakkestad**
- **Årdal**
- **Os**
- **Stovner**
- **Viborg**
- **Alvdal**
- **Suwon**
- **Rainy River District**
- **Vejle**
- **Fyn**
- **Larvik**
- **Fredrikstad**
- **Spydeberg**
- **Ski**
- **Klepp**
- **Tuem Mun**
- **Kwai Tsing**

### **Nordic Safe Community Conferences:**

Harstad has participated in all the Nordic Safe Community Conferences:

1. The First Nordic Conference on Safe Communities: SafeComm Nord 1, Skövde, Sweden, August 28-29, 1996.
2. The Second Nordic Conference on Safe Communities: SafeComm Nord 2, Fredrikstad, Norway. August 27-29, 1997.
3. The Third Nordic Safe Community Conference: SafeComm Nord 3: How can we improve equity in safety?, Reykjavik, Iceland, August 25-28, 1999.
4. The Fourth Nordic Safe Community Conference: SafeComm Nord 4: Building Bridges between Research and Practice. 21-24 August 2001, Vejle, Denmark

## **Participating in Courses and Conferences**

- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 1995, McMurray, Canada.
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 1996, Melbourne, Australia.
- ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 1998, Rotterdam. Netherlands.
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference. 1999, Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 2001, Alaska, USA
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 2002, Rainy River District, Ontario, Canada
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities Conference, 2003, Hong Kong, China
- ❖ The World 5<sup>th</sup> Congress on Injury Prevention and Control. 2000 New Delhi, India
- ❖ The World 6<sup>th</sup> Congress on Injury Prevention and Control. 2002 Montreal, Canada
- ❖ The Second National Conference on Injury Prevention and Control. 1998. Melbourne, Australia
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on cost calculation and cost effectiveness in Safe Communities, 2001, Viborg, Denmark.
- ❖ The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Measurement Burden of Injuries, 2002, Montreal, Canada
- ❖ Nordic Conference on Risk Assessment, 2002, Klepp, Norway.
- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> Baltic Nordic Advanced Course on Safety Promotion Research, 2000, Latvia
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Nordic Advanced Course on Safety Promotion Research, 2002, Estonia
- ❖ ICCH 10 (International Conference on Circumpolar Health): 1996. Alaska, USA.
- ❖ ICCH 11 (International Conference on Circumpolar Health): 2000. Harstad, Norway.

## **Participating in seminars**

- The International Seminar on Injury Registration, June 2001, Oslo, Norway.
- 5<sup>th</sup> International Safe Community Travelling Seminars, June 2002. Norway.
- From Black to White seminars in Røros, 2002. Norway.

## **Site visits**

- To Falkjøping , Sweden, 1994
- To Tartu, Estonia. 2002
- From Cheltenham, Glostershire, England, 2001.
- From Safe Community Council , Suwon city, South Korea. 2003.

## **10. The Centre reports on their safe community activities and research efforts.**

### **In National Media:**

- Harstad Safest in Norway. Veg og Vi, 6/2001. (In Norwegian)
- When fire spirit is burning- about promotion work in safety and health. 2001. (in Norwegian).
- Safe Community status for Norway. Crisis Call, December/January 2003.
- 60% reduction in injuries. Dagens Medisin. June 2003.
- Interviews and reports on Nation covering radio and newspapers, often sparked by publications in scientific journals

### **Websites**

[www.Harstad.kommune.no](http://www.Harstad.kommune.no)

[www.safecommunity.net](http://www.safecommunity.net)

[www.tryggelokalsamfunn.no](http://www.tryggelokalsamfunn.no)

### **Safe Community Weekly News**

11 issues in 2001

40 issues in 2002

23 issues in 2003 until now.

The Safe Community Weekly News is edited and distributed from Harstad. SCWN is translated in many languages; English, Portuguese, Chinese, and Spanish.

The Safe Community Weekly News effectively serves as a medium of communication for Safe Community Network members, and those whom are interested in injury prevention and Community safety promotion.

The newsletter contains a number of specific items:

- Information on new designated communities, affiliated centres and their activities;
- Announcement of conferences or seminars in Safe community, injury prevention and related subjects;
- Calls for papers by journals and book editors;
- Announcements of new appointments and promotions;
- Articles describing activities or new initiatives at your community, institution, Centre or firm (describing the departmental or university programs in safety promotion, discussing new practices, methods, and tools used in Injury prevention and community safety promotion, describing new governmental policy initiatives and programs).

## Conclusion

The operating principle of the work at Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre is that the surveillance, analysis, and prevention of injuries is of utmost importance in local, national, and international perspectives. Continuous efforts are aimed at attaining and sustaining the acknowledgement of injury as an important public health issue and a high priority on the agenda for public health agencies, policy makers, researchers, and the general public.

Further, full recognition is given to the significance of the mutual enrichment of practice and theory – that is, the interaction between the public health approach and theory building within epidemiology and social medicine.

For achieving goals of continuing and improving our efforts within the Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre to achieve these goals, we apply for this designation as WHO Safe Community Affiliated support Centre as a confirmation of the importance of the work and the central role to be played by our Centre.

Professor Leif Arne Heløe  
Chairman  
Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre

Yousif Rahim  
Coordinator  
Norwegian Safety Promotion Centre