



KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
Department of Public Health Sciences
Division of Social Medicine



WHO COLLABORATING
CENTRE
ON
COMMUNITY SAFETY PROMOTION

SAFE COMMUNITY WEEKLY NEWS

NO. 33

October 2002

***** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*****

Welcome to the thirty-third issue of Safe Community Weekly News, the electronic Safe Community Weekly News will be send from Harstad - Norway on behalf of Safe Communities Network.

WHAT IS NEW AT SAFE COMMUNITIES?

In this issue:

- **PROGRAM: Safe Community Promotion in Taiwan.**
- **BOOK: Reducing Injuries in Mackay, North Queensland, Australia.**

Safe Community Promotion in Taiwan

The General Description of the Geography of Taiwan

Off the eastern coast of Asia lie the mountainous island arcs of the Western Pacific. The island chain closest to the continent marks the edge of the Asiatic Continental Shelf. Taiwan, one of the islands of this chain, is the largest body of land between Japan and the Philippines.

The island of Taiwan is 394 km long and 144 km at its widest point, shaped like a tobacco leaf. It is located between 21 deg 3'50" and 25 deg 8'20" N latitude and between 120 deg 1'00" and 121 deg 9'15" E longitude. With a total area of nearly 36,000 sq. km, Taiwan is separated from the Chinese mainland by the Taiwan Strait, which is about 220 km at its widest point and 130 km at its narrowest. The island is almost equidistant from Shanghai and Hong Kong.¹



2

¹ The general description of the geography of Taiwan is adapted from [Government Information Office](#). Republic of China. October 28th, 2002.

² The map of Taiwan is adapted from www.Mapquest.com , October 28th, 2002.

The Safe Community Program

In the year of 2002, a program of Safe community was initiated by Dr. Pai of the National defense Medical Center, and sponsored by the Bureau of Health Promotion. The work on safety promotion has begun to activate in four featured communities, including Neihu - an urban community at the northern Taiwan, Dong-shi - a rural community at the central Taiwan, Alishan - an aboriginal community at the southern mountain area, and Feng-bin - an aboriginal community at the eastern littoral.



David Redhelm Weng, M.D.
Director General
Bureau of Health Promotion,
Department of Health



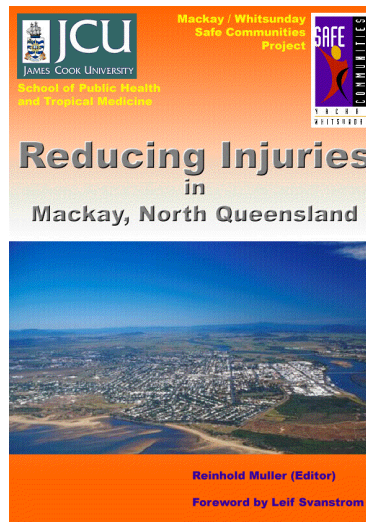
Lu Pai, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
School of Public Health
National Defense Medical center
Taipei, Taiwan
Chair of Taiwanese Injury Prevention and
Safety Promotion Association (TIPSPA)

The success of safe community promotion depends on supports from many ways. The progress of a safe community needs a thorough evaluation. It is especially important to learn from experienced communities in the world. Therefore, Dr. Leif Svanström and Dr. Joon Pil Cho were invited to join us from October 11th to 17th for Site Visit around four communities and took part in the “Symposium on Safe Community Promotion”. The participants of the symposium consisted of TIPSPA members (Taiwan Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Association), graduate students in medical college, staff and representatives of four communities and authorities. From two professors’ respective speech and the workshop holding in the afternoon, we learned much about the concept and the work of community safety promotion and furthermore discussed the six criteria of WHO Safe Community, which even brought all of the audience a deeper thought and inspiration on promoting community safety.

We will highlight four communities individually in the upcoming issues, and show that what particular safety problems contain in each community and how the local residents tackle them.

We are looking forward to applying for Safe Community membership in the near future.

Reducing Injuries in Mackay, North Queensland, Australia.



Reducing Injuries in Mackay, North Queensland is a joint publication of James Cook University and the Mackay Whitsunday Safe Community Project. It seeks to describe the establishment of a local surveillance network and the First Safe Community Project to be established in Queensland, Australia. The book edited by Reinhold V. Muller and foreword by Leif Svanström.

The text is published on the web and can be found at:

<http://www.wepi.org/rimnq/index.html>

This monograph outlines the design and implementation of the baseline needs assessment in the Mackay/Whitsunday community.

Components of this monograph

“Collection of NDS-IS Level 2 Injury Surveillance Data in Regional Queensland”

Describes the development and implementation of procedures to collect high quality local injury surveillance data to:

- Allow for the identification of the determinants and distribution of injury in the community;
- Enable the project to identify strategic areas for intervention; and
- Provide a baseline against which the impact of intervention programs could be measured.

“Safe Communities: An Ecological Approach to Safety Promotion”

Proposes a social ecological model as a unifying cognitive framework for developing a Safe Communities Project. It argues that ‘Safety’ is an ecological concept, determined by the relationship between individuals and their physical and social environments. The proposed model emphasises the dynamic interface between these three dimensions and identifies leverage points within the system for facilitating effective action.

“Becoming Queensland’s First Safe Community: Considering Sustainability from the Outset”

Describes the Mackay/Whitsunday Safe Communities Project as a community-based safety promotion project. The approach adopted to reduce injury rates required catalysing a sustainable, inter-sectoral, community-based safety promotion network from existing community resources and expertise.

“Practices, Knowledge and Perceptions Influencing Accident and Injury in the Mackay/Whitsunday Community”

Reports on a baseline survey amongst the Mackay/Whitsunday community to assess household injury prevention practices, knowledge and perceptions of injury risk factors and safety. It was found that household safety practices were independent of respondents knowledge of injury risk factors and their perception of safety. Thus a successful injury prevention strategy must encompass more than just increasing injury risk knowledge. It should rather focus on developing injury prevention skills while concurrently controlling predisposing, reinforcing and enabling social, and environmental forces that influence injury prevention behaviour.

“Non-Fatal Injury Presentations to the Mackay Base Hospital Emergency Department 1998-2000”

Uses of NDS-IS Level 2 data from Mackay Emergency Department to study patterns and causes of all non-fatal injury in the Mackay Region to allow development of targeted injury prevention programs and provide a baseline measurement of injury frequency for evaluation of the Safe Communities Project. High-risk age groups identified included 15 to 29 year old males and females over 55 years. Specific high-risk environments included the home for falls in children aged 0 to 4 years and women over 55 years, the workplace for injuries in 15 to 54 year old males, and the sporting and recreational environment for injuries in 5 to 29 year old males.

“Patterns and Causes of Injuries during Organised Sporting Activities in the Mackay Region (North Queensland) 1998-2000”

Is an example of a more specific analysis of NDS-IS Level 2 data from Mackay Emergency Department presentations. Data subset analysis provided a baseline of sporting injury patterns and causes in the Mackay Region. High-risk sports deserving of specific intervention were football for males, and netball and basketball for females.

Where to from here?

Provides a concise synopsis of the unique features of the Mackay/Whitsunday community and highlights selected future directions that are likely to provide tangible local benefits and serve as a reproducible model in other settings.

Please send your activities, programs and reports via post/ e-mail to the editor: Yousif Rahim yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no,

Yousif Rahim
project leader “Safe Community”
Phone: +47 770 27 138 / 971 44 182
Fax: +47 770 27 101
E-mail: yousif.rahim@harstad.kommune.no
<http://www.harstad.kommune.no/om-harstad/Safe-Com-eng.htm>
